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Mr. President, Distinguished Members of the Council,

We would like to first and foremost express our sincere gratitude for the exceptional work carried out by Special Rapporteur Falk throughout the duration of his mandate. We thank the Special Rapporteur for his commitment despite the obstacles that were placed before him by Israel. We also thank him for continuing to highlight the ongoing violations of human rights that are carried out by Israel against the Palestinian people as they are happening on the ground.

Throughout his mandate, the Special Rapporteur continued to call on members of the Human Rights Council to hold accountable the Israeli government for violations of international law.

We would like to point the Council's attention to one of Special Rapporteur Falk's findings, which indicates that some private entities have enabled, facilitated, and profited from the construction and the growth of settlements.

Access to legal remedy for human rights abuses linked to settlement activity is denied to Palestinians. The UN Mission's report states that the Israeli High Court of Justice has rendered the issue of settlements non-justiciable. Furthermore, the Israeli judiciary consistently disregards international legal standards in its determinations, thus precluding access to effective legal remedy through the Israeli system. Recourse to legal mechanisms in Third States is therefore essential if justice is to be obtained.

The Special Rapporteur has highlighted positive cases, in a few member states, where domestic legislation has led to private entities being held accountable for violations of international law.

We call on all States to adopt and implement domestic legislation aimed to prevent and punish companies involved in violations of international law. We call on the Working Group on Business and Human Rights and the future Special Rapporteur to explore avenues to address the gap in situations of conflict and encourage greater coherence and alignment among relevant standards relating to situations of conflict and the Guiding Principles, including by reporting on the State duty to protect the Palestinian people from the detrimental impact of business activities related to settlements.