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Human Rights Council

24th session

Agenda item 7, General Debate

**Statement by the International Organization for the Elimination of all Forms of Racial
Discrimination**

(EAFORD)

Delivered by: Hanine Hassan

Thank you Mr President

This is a joint statement with Geneva International Centre for Justice and the EuromMid Observer for Human rights.

65 years have passed since more than 6 million Palestinians were displaced to make way for the state of Israel and another 800,000 displaced following the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Warnings about the destruction of the Palestinian land, economy and people have accelerated to a crescendo, each year raising the same alarms. Still, action is slow.

Until this day uncountable reports have been issued by various affiliates of the UN and the European Parliament, as well as human rights organizations, deploring Israeli war crimes and violations regarding legalized discrimination against Palestinians, Israeli abuse of water resources, expansion of settlements, the illegality of the siege on Gaza, the demolitions of Palestinian homes and internal displacement, the restrictions of freedoms, and the deplorable conditions of prisoners including the arbitrary arrests of minors.

The overwhelming majority of the UN General Assembly supports the creation of a Palestinian state defined by pre-1967 borders. Additionally the UN's September 2011 report concluded that a fundamental rolling back of the occupation is now essential. Yet disturbing developments in the Naqab, make it clear that the problem is not only the occupation; it's the ideology behind, which is the hegemony over Palestine along with a systematic policy of discrimination.

Until this day Israel extracts 86% of the water from the sole source of water for West Bank and thus decides whether it's enough for Palestinians to drink once a day or shower once a week.

Despite its awareness of the ongoing Human rights violations the European Union has so far served to fund the occupation. Article 2 of the EU-Israel agreement states that both sides must respect human rights as a pre-condition for cooperation. It is time the European Union and all members of this Council turn words into action, and sends a clear sign to Israel that it can no longer violate human rights with impunity.

Finally, Mr President, the number of UN resolutions and statistics that condemned, deplored and rejected the Israeli violations over the past decades have been uncountable. It is time for the UN to practice what it preaches. It is past time to progress beyond words to action. The timing is ripe for international and European governing bodies to play the role of enforcer and to sanction Israel. Only then Israel's impunity will end and an opportunity for a just peace be created.

Thank you for your attention