



SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STATEMENT

GENERAL DEBATE ON ITEM 7

43rd SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

15-16 JUNE 2020

Check against delivery

President,

South Africa aligns itself with the statement of the African Group. My delegation condemns in the strongest terms the ongoing serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the use of live ammunition against protesters in the absence of any imminent threat, which amounts to arbitrary deprivation of life, as well as the exposure of children to unacceptable levels of violence.

My delegation expressed concern last year that the annexation of Palestinian territory was highly likely. The CERD found in its December 2019 observations that the strategic fragmentation of the Palestinian people formed part of a policy and practice of segregation and *apartheid*. Annexations would be yet another example of complete impunity that makes a mockery of this Council and would gravely breach international law.

President,

South Africa welcomed the publication in February this year of the data base of businesses involved in the OPT pursuant to Resolution 31/36. However, the mandate in its entirety has not been fully complied with, as the Resolution requires that the data base be updated annually. We request the High Commissioner to provide an indication as to when we can expect the annual update.

I thank you.