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43rd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
General Debate on Agenda Item 7 -Human rights situation in Palestine and
other occupied Arab territories
Statement by Organization of Islamic Cooperation
(15 June 2020)

Madam President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the OIC.

Once again, we regret that some member states continue to boycott item 7, with the pretext that this agenda item is singling out Israel. The boycott of this agenda item only encourages Israel, the occupying power to continue its relentless acts with complete impunity. Item 7 is a long-standing item on the council's agenda as set out in IB package provides a forum wherein states are meant to identify means to ensure that Israel is held accountable for its violations.

Today the situation has been dramatically worsened, even more during the Covid-19 Pandemic where Israel the occupying power has exploited the crisis locally and Globally to go ahead with its annexationist plans with the support of the US administration that has provided a total protection for Israel to continue violating the human rights of the Palestinian people. For this, the OIC rejects the so called peace vision announced on 28 January 2020, this vision outrageously dismisses the right of Palestinian to exercise their right to self determination in a sovereign contiguous state with East Jerusalem as the capital, the vision furthermore calls for annexation of land in clear violations of international law. The US support for annexation has emboldened Israeli impunity and provided the Israeli government with a green light to annex all West Bank settlements and the Jordan Valley and maintain its occupation making a sovereign, independent and contiguous Palestinian state impossible.

The OIC strongly deplores the announcements made by Israel of annexation plans of areas in the west bank, particularly Hebron, the Jordan valley and the northern portion of the dead sea.

Madam President,

The OIC is concerned that the illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continue to expand and the advancement of plans for

settlement construction continues at a higher rate than last year, in particular in Occupied East Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. It is in this context we welcome the release of the database of companies operating in the Illegal Israeli Settlements and we look forward to the annual update by the the OHCHR of the database of companies as mandated in HRC resolution 31/36.

The OIC deplores the violent arrests and detentions by the occupying power throughout the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The OIC strongly condemns the systematic attacks and aggressions against Al-Aqsa Mosque and all worshipers by the occupying power, and we call upon the international community to abide by their legal obligations to to thwart any plans aimed at controlling and deviding it

Madam President,

The situation on the ground further confirms that Israel is more interested in colonizing Palestinian land, rather that achieving a just peace and security. For that, we urge the international community to urgently uphold its legal and moral obligations to force Israel to end its illegal occupation accordance with international law, to achieve a just solutions bases on the two states solution on the borders of June 4, 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital. And end the illegal occupation of All occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan and the Lebanese territories, and the continuing violations of the human rights of its people.

I thank you.