Madam President,

For decades, Israel has sought to alter the character, status, and demographic composition of Palestine, including the city of Jerusalem, in violation of the prohibitions on acquisition of territory by force, annexation, and colonialism. Through its discriminatory urban planning laws and regulations, Israel expropriates Palestinian property, denies Palestinians building permits, and carries out house demolitions while maintaining and expanding its settlement enterprise.

Sheikh Jarrah, Lifta, Batn Al-Hawa, and al-Bustan are merely a reflection of Israel’s domination and dispossession of Palestinians, which takes various forms - all at the expense of the Palestinian people and all facilitated and designed by Israel’s discriminatory laws and policies, which are embedded in its settler-colonial and apartheid system.

73 years of ongoing displacement and dispossession.

73 years of systematic oppression and domination.

73 years of the international community’s failure to address the Question of Palestine.

It is time that this Council and its Member States:

- Recognise that Israel has established an institutionalised regime of systematic oppression and domination over the Palestinian people as a whole, amounting to the crime of apartheid; and

- Pursue international justice and accountability for Israel’s widespread and systematic human rights violations, including by supporting a full, thorough, and comprehensive investigation by the International Criminal Court into the Situation in Palestine.

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1 MIFTAH, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), Kayan - Feminist Organization, and The Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)