**50th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the COI on the OPT, including EJ, and Israel**

**13 June 2022**

Thank you.

Our organizations welcome the Commission’s report stating that Israel’s ‘continued occupation’, 'discrimination against Palestinians' and ‘culture of impunity’ are the key root causes of the current situation in Israel and Palestine and. We invite the Commission to further pursue their mandate by investigating the settler-colonial nature of the Israeli occupation and Israel’s system of racial discrimination, domination, and oppression against the Palestinian people, which meets the definition of apartheid under international law.

The creation of this Commission is a necessary step to ensure accountability and justice for Israeli violations against Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line. The temporal and geographic mandate of this Commission reflects the reality on the ground, which is that since 1948 Palestinians have been subjected to the systematic oppression and domination by Israel in violation of their basic human rights.

Just now, some members have attempted to undermine this Council and the important Commission it has established while avoiding any mention of the double standards adopted by some States when it comes to the rights of the Palestinian people. Palestinians have a right to accountability and justice as do all other victims of human rights violations Yet, Israel's chronic impunity for its gross violation of international law, some of which amounting to war crimes and the crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution, shows that Palestinians are treated as second-class victims.

This Council and other member of the international community can and must discharge their duty vis-à-vis the Palestinian people, including by supporting this new important accountability mechanism, engaging in good faith with the Commission and its report, and ensuring the allocation of sufficient resources and funding to fully discharge its mandate.

Thank you.