**Item 7 – Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories**39th Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

**Joint Oral Intervention by**
Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man and
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
*Non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with ECOSOC*

24 September 2018

Thank you, Mr. President.

For 70 years, Israel has implemented an aggressive colonial enterprise in Palestine, denying Palestinians their right to return, appropriating Palestinian private and public lands, and applying discriminatory planning and zoning to prevent Palestinian development.

Since 1967, Israel has created more than 230 illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Businesses operating in Israel’s settlements incentivise the unlawful transfer in of Israeli settlers and exploit natural resources over which Palestinians retain the right to self-determination and permanent sovereignty.

Recognising the role corporations play in facilitating Israel’s confiscation of Palestinian land, this Council adopted Resolution 31/36, creating a database listing those operating in or affiliated with Israeli settlements,

Mr. President,

Al-Haq and Cairo Institute are deeply concerned over the unnecessary and continuing delays in releasing the list of businesses publicly. As Israel prepares to raze the Palestinian village of Khan Al-Ahmar to allow for further settlement construction, it is a matter of urgency that businesses do not benefit from Israel’s illegal settlements.

Accordingly, our organisations call for the immediate release of the database and an end to corporate complicity in Israel’s occupation.

Thank you.