

**Item 7: Explanation of vote on the draft resolution 'Human rights violations emanating from Israeli military attacks and incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly the recent ones in the occupied Gaza Strip'**

Mr. President,

The **European Union** wishes to make the following explanation of vote with regard to the draft resolution 'Human rights violations emanating from Israeli military attacks and incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly the recent ones in the occupied Gaza Strip' submitted under item 7 of the 7th session of the HRC.

Mr. President,

The European Union has already made its position clear on the grave situation in Gaza and southern Israel during this morning's debate.

In keeping with the EU's commitment to forge consensus in this Council wherever possible, the EU engaged constructively in talks with the authors of the draft resolution. We wish to acknowledge our deep appreciation to the ambassador of Palestine and other relevant parties for their availability in this process.

The EU could support some of the elements contained in the draft that stands before us. However the EU is not in a position to support the text as a whole as it contains a number of unacceptable paragraphs and concepts, including in OP3. The EU, while acknowledging the inclusion of a reference to rocket attacks in the draft, believes that the draft resolution is not sufficiently balanced in the way that it deals with the situation on the ground.

For these reasons the EU will call for a vote on draft resolution L.1 and will abstain.

This explanation of vote has been agreed by the European Union as a whole.

Thank you Mr. President.