

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS OF THE
UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

Mr. President,

The two consecutive Special Sessions of the Human Rights Council, held immediately after its inception, speak for themselves about the gravity of the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Middle East.

At this time of our meeting, further deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in OPT remains a source of great concern to the international community.

Gross violations of human rights persist; the Wall continues to be constructed despite the ruling of the International Court of Justice and Israeli settlements are increasing.

Israeli military actions result in further casualties of Palestinian civilians, mostly women and children, and hundreds of thousands of people are living in precarious conditions under constant threat of death and destruction and with agony and uncertainties.

Right to life is a pressing issue in the human rights area, without which any discussion on human rights is meaningless. This is the reason why paramount importance has to be attached to the issue of OPT.

The issue of OPT was one of those that were talked about much in the Commission and the Council but perhaps may be the one on which less action has been taken thus far.

This is attributable to the arrogance of the Israelis resisting to the repeated calls of the international community.

This is attributable, even more, to the United States and its western allies that have been objecting all international actions on Israel, while pursuing the policy of supporting and protecting Israel.

These countries have always been taking the lead in proliferating country-specific mandates but tenaciously opposed to the appointment of the Special Rapporteur on Palestine and are still hindering his mission in one way or another. In addition, while talking so much about human rights of others, they are reluctant to refer to the systematic and consistent pattern of gross human rights violations committed by Israel.

If the problem of OPT is to be resolved in an impartial manner, such obstacles as behaviors of these countries should be removed once and for all.

Mr. President,

Illegal occupation by Israel of Arab territories including Palestine and Syrian Golan constitute a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and international laws. A great number of resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly and Security Council denouncing these breaches are a testimony to this.

The DPRK, which was under the Japanese colonization for half a century and has now been suffering from the national division imposed by the United States for another half a century, is aware, more than anybody, of the misery and trauma experienced by the peoples of Arab countries including Palestine and Syria.

The DPRK has also keenly felt the vitality of the right to self-determination for a country and nation.

It is in this perspective, that the DPRK has always been extending its support for and solidarity with the efforts of Arab countries including Palestine and Syria to

regain their legitimate territories and further ensure fair solution to the Middle East problem.

It is in this spirit, that the DPRK has always been co-sponsoring the resolutions on Palestine and Syrian Golan.

This position of the DPRK will remain invariable.

Thank you.