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**Introduction by Ambassador Zamir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan of the draft resolution L.30 on the "Follow up to the report of the United Nations Independent International Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict" during the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC, 25 March 2011 (A/HRC/16/L.31)**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the sponsors, I have the honor to introduce orally revised a draft resolution on the "Follow up to the report of the United Nations Independent International Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict" contained in document A/HRC/16/L.31

The Human Rights Council strongly condemned the aggression launched by the Occupying Power Israel in 2009 in the Occupied Gaza Strip. Human Rights Council held two Special sessions on the subject and fully endorsed the report and recommendations contained in the report of the UN international fact finding Mission (IIFFM) on the Gaza conflict. IIFFM report asked for a series of actions which need serious and consistent follow up by the UN system. This resolution seeks to address this important purpose.

In the preambular part the resolution recalls relevant rules and principles of international law including international human rights and humanitarian laws that are applicable to the OPT including East Jerusalem as well as reaffirm the obligation of all parties to respect these under all circumstances. Reiterates the importance of safety and well being of all civilians in particular the obligation to ensure their protection in armed conflict as well as stresses the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian and human rights law to prevent impunity, promote justice, lasting peace and avoid further violations.

In the operative part the draft resolution

- Takes note of the reports of the Secretary General on the implementation of GA and HRC resolutions,
- Welcomes the reports of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the relevant Council resolutions and endorses the recommendations contained therein,
- Also Welcomes the report of the Committee of Independent Experts in international humanitarian and human rights laws to monitor and assess any domestic, legal or other proceedings undertaken by both the Government of Israel and the Palestinian side, in light of General Assembly resolution 64/254 and calls for the implementation of its conclusions;

- Reiterates its call upon all concerned parties including UN bodies, to ensure their implementation of the recommendations contained in the IIFFM report
- Condemns the non cooperation by the occupying power, Israel, with the members of the United Nations Committee of Independent Experts
- Welcomes the efforts by the Government of Switzerland, in its capacity as depositary of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, to reconvene, as soon as possible, a Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention
- Calls upon the High Commissioner for Human Rights to follow up on the determination of the appropriate modalities for the establishment of an escrow fund for the provision of reparations to Palestinians who suffered loss and damage as a result of unlawful acts attributable to the State of Israel during the December 2008- January 2009 military operations.
- Recommends also the General Assembly to reconsider the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza conflict at its main session of 2011, and urges the General Assembly to submit the above mentioned report to the Security Council for its consideration and appropriate action, including consideration of referral of the situation in the occupied Palestinian Territory to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court pursuant to article 13(b) of the Rome statute
- Requests the UN Secretary General and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit the follow-up reports,

Based on the very balanced and widely recognized recommendations made by the IIFFM to address the follow up of the Gaza conflict, we hope that member states would be willing in joining the consensus on this resolution.

There are a number of amendments in the draft resolution. I will not go in detail of these revisions, which have been circulated in the room.

We believe that attainment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace and stability in the Middle East is possible only through ensuring accountability, preventing impunity and ensuring justice. This resolution precisely addresses this question.

I thank you Mr. President.