Statement by
The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Under the Agenda Item 61, entitled:
Permanent Sovereignty of the Palestinian People
in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,
and of the Arab population in the Occupied Syrian Golan
over their Natural Resources
Second Committee of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly
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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you so much for giving me the floor to express the position of my delegation under this Agenda Item.

Mr. Chairman,

The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continues to witness a severe deterioration as a result of Israel’s prolonged military occupation, and its illegal policies and practices.

The SG report issued as A/68/77 in last May under this agenda item is extremely alarming. As it is clearly raised in that report, my delegation is also seriously concerned about the mass imprisonment of Palestinians and administrative detention, routine demolition of homes and resultant displacement of Palestinians, intensification of illegal Israel’s settlement activities, blockade on Gaza, widespread violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians, and lack of effort to prevent or hold settlers accountable for such violence, all of which are impeding the Palestinian people under occupation to enjoy a decent life, in line with their inalienable human rights.

“Feeling of security” is the basic enabler and indicator for development by any dimension. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the illegal Israeli practices aimed at the displacement or transfer of the Palestinian civilian population from strategic areas in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which include the
continuing aggressive settlement campaign, the construction of the Wall, forced evictions, home demolitions, and the revocation of Palestinian residency rights.

This kind of brutal and brazen acts are in gross violation of any norms and regulations, be it human, moral or categorized.

Mr. Chairman,

The blockade of Gaza continues to have a devastating impact on the people of Gaza Strip, prevents its population to even provide their basic daily needs. In this connection, my delegation reiterates its condemnation of blockade of the Gaza Strip by Israel and considers it as collective punishment of the Palestinian civilian population there, particularly by the continued obstruction of the freedom of movement of persons and goods and obstruction of the reconstruction and recovery of the Gaza Strip.

We underline that, in addition to violating countless provisions of human rights law, such collective punishment measures by Israel are tantamount to grave breaches of international humanitarian law, constitutes a crime against humanity and poses a serious threat to international peace and security as well as to regional stability.

With the same disposition, we consider the Golan as an integral part of the Syrian Arab Republic's territory and condemn all measures taken by the illegitimate occupying power to undermine the territorial integrity of Syria and express our deep concern over the grave deterioration of the human rights situation.

The ongoing settlement campaign throughout the Occupied Territory is another grave breach of the 4th Geneva Convention and additional Protocol I, in violation of United Nations resolutions and in total disrespect of the 2004 International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion.

Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the blockade is unconditionally prohibited by Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention dealing with the rights and obligations of belligerent obligation.

Mr. Chairman,

The issue of occupation lies at the heart of the protracted crisis situation in the Middle East. Any solution to this crisis requires the termination of the occupation and restoration of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their independent and viable State of Palestine with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate my Government's unwavering and continuing support for the Palestinian people in their rightful and legitimate struggle against the occupation and for their just quest for exercise of their right of self-determination.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman