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**39th SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Item-7 – Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Occupied Palestinian Territory**

Remarks by Pakistan

24 September 2018

Mr. President,

Pakistan welcomes the members of the Commission on Inquiry to investigate in the events occurred in the context of mass protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territories since 30 March and thanks them for their oral update.

Pakistan condemns the arbitrary killing of more than 100 Palestinians including women and children by the Occupation Forces. Use of tear gas shells and live ammunition against innocent civilians, who were protesting decades of oppression and occupation, is deplorable. However, this disproportionate use of force by the Occupying Power is not something new. This is a tool in the hands of the Occupying Power, which it applies at its will, without any conscience and with absolute impunity.

Mr. President,

The world has witnessed these atrocities, being perpetrated against Palestinian civilians, while the Occupying Power has always been able to walk free. It is time for all of us to join our forces to put an immediate end to these atrocities and crimes against humanity. Holding the perpetrators of such heinous crimes to account is essential to ensure that the Occupying Power refrains from such practices. For this an impartial international investigation, in compliance with international standards, is a pre-requisite.

Mr. President,

We urge the COI to give due regard to the underlying reasons of this prolonged conflict with a view to suggest concrete measures for ensuring accountability and ending impunity. We call on the occupying power to cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry to ensure that justice is upheld and perpetrators of these crimes are brought to task. We also urge the international community to play its long due role in bringing lasting peace to the region, including by extending support to the COI and its investigations.

I thank you.