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*Ambassador*

## STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA

### Agenda Item 7: General Debate

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 1 – 26 March 2010

Malaysia takes the floor to express its continuing concern on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian and other Arab Territories resulting from the longstanding occupation by Israel. My delegation wishes to reaffirm the significance of this agenda item which allows the international community to continue monitoring, assessing and for it to act on the developments in the concerned areas.

Mr. President,

2. Recent events in the OPT including announcements to demolish Palestinian homes and simultaneously expand Israeli settlements have yet again demonstrated the callous disregard of the Occupying Power not only for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Palestinians but also of international opinion. Such heavy-handedness on the part of the Occupying Power stands in stark contrast to the role of suffering victim which it constantly seeks to portray to the international community.

3. My delegation recalls that when the delegation of Israel participated in the UPR exercise a little over a year ago, no reference was made in the delegation's submissions to the UPR Working Group to the Palestinian and other territories which it occupies. Such approach was ostensibly on the grounds that it considered those territories to be beyond its effective control. However, events since then, including Operation Cast Lead as well as the continuing construction of the separation wall among others, resoundingly proves otherwise and underscores the need for urgent international consensus and action to address the continuing grave and systematic violations of human rights and the growing culture of impunity in the Palestinian and other occupied territories.

Mr. President,

4. In concluding, my delegation wishes to reiterate its support for proposals calling for the reconvening of the 2001 Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. In the meantime, my delegation reiterates the call upon Israel to abide by its responsibilities and obligations under the said convention to which it is a party. My delegation stands ready to contribute constructively towards achieving consensus outcome on the Palestine related initiatives at this session of the Council. Finally Mr. President, my delegations fully aligns itself with the statements delivered by Pakistan and Egypt on behalf of the OIC and NAM, respectively.

I thank you Mr. President.

**GENEVA  
22 MARCH 2010**