

**Mr. Khoshroo (Islamic Republic of Iran):**

The full version of my statement will be made available. I would like to express my appreciation to you, Sir, and the Russian presidency. I align myself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. The systematic violations of Palestinian rights and international law, including the demolition of homes, the forced displacement of Palestinian civilians, the **S/PV.7792** The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question **19/10/2016 36/64** 16-33267 arrest and detention of Palestinians, including children, and the incessant violence, terror and provocations by Israeli settlers and extremists, including at sensitive religious sites, particularly at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem, have persisted unabated. Over the years, the Israeli regime has continuously intensified its illegal, oppressive measures against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population, including, *inter alia*, the use of excessive force against children and women, causing more death and injury and depriving them of their right to protection. The increasing number of illegal settlements in Palestinian territory, which constitute not only grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention, but war crimes, as defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, have long demonstrated that the Israeli regime has never had any interest in peace with the Palestinians and that its participation in the peace process has been just a cover to hide its policy of aggression. At the same time, the illegal blockade on the Gaza Strip is causing massive deprivation, hopelessness and a grave humanitarian crisis. The destructive impact of such Israeli violations is immense as reflected in the rising tensions, deteriorating socioeconomic conditions and deepening despair among the Palestinian civilian population living under the nearly half-century Israeli occupation. While these crimes and policies are worsening, the extremely fragile situation on the ground must be addressed seriously to avert further destabilization. It is unfortunate that they are being perpetrated with impunity and that the international community has yet to take any measure to address them. Regrettably, the Security Council continues to be paralysed, failing to uphold its obligations despite the clear global consensus on both the illegality of Israeli policies and practices on Palestinian territory. The Security Council should uphold the Charter of the United Nations, international law and its obligations to respect and ensure respect of the latter, including through necessary measures to compel the Israeli regime to end its war crimes and human rights

violations against the Palestinian people, its illegal foreign occupation of another people's land and the plight of the Palestinian refugees. The other crises in our region, such as those in Libya, Iraq, Syria and Yemen, are all examples of crises being stoked through invasion, illegal foreign intervention, terror, extremism and violence. Those problems have persisted and deepened because the international community has failed to do its part in dealing with root causes and the erroneous actions of outsiders and naive trans-regional actors. The unjustified invasion by the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen has been ongoing for over 500 days. The tragic and horrific air strikes by Saudi jet fighters on a funeral hall packed with thousands of mourners in Sana'a, on 8 October, was another single incident out of thousands over the past 18 months, which have killed or permanently maimed thousands of civilians, including women and children, displaced more than 3 million persons and turned the situation in Yemen from one of deprivation into one of devastation. All those horrendous and heinous attacks, which display a total disregard for human life and international and international humanitarian law are occurring under the watch of Security Council, which is failing to take any action to stop them.