



## **Item 7: General Debate**

### **Madam President,**

For more than 13 years the Gaza Strip has been blockaded by Israel and the people are denied the right to access the roads and use their own economic resources. As a result of the prolonged blockade, Gaza's two million residents endure a collapsing healthcare system, undrinkable and unaffordable water, inadequate and sporadic power supplies, an economy on its back, deep poverty and one of the world's highest unemployment rates with children bearing the most brunt. The children thousands of whom have been killed, injured or detained in the OPT, demonstrating the reality of Israel policies toward human rights.

### **Madam President,**

Since the current dire conditions in Gaza is the result of predetermined policies, the declared annexation of vast chunks of the West Bank couple with the economic and human effects of the spread of COVID-19 has increased the severity of the crisis and the vulnerability of children. Therefore, ODVV:

- Calls upon the occupation power to immediately end the occupation of Gaza Strip to prevent a human catastrophe and facilitate the Palestinians access to necessary medical items to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Calls upon international organizations to prosecute those responsible for human rights violations in the OPT instead of just condemning these inhuman acts, in response to Israel's indifference to all UN resolutions issued in the past seventy years` and also articles such as 52 and 55 of the 1907 Hague Convention, articles 33 and 49 of the Geneva Four Convention and paragraph 2 of article 8 of the Rome Statute.