



**34<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council**

**General Debate - Item 7  
Geneva, 20 March 2017**

**Intervention by Slovenia**

Mr. President,

While recalling the EU's principled position on the Human Rights Council Agenda Item 7, we note that the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, remains a cause for grave concern.

Slovenia is deeply concerned over the trend of continued construction and expansion of the settlements on occupied Palestinian territories and over the Regularization Act, which attempts to legalize what are clearly illegal settlements. Such actions undermine the possibility of a two-state solution, which we see as the only way to the lasting and peaceful co-existence of Israel and Palestine and for peace and security in the region. We also note that a viable two-state solution requires a single, legitimate and democratic Palestinian authority.

A wave of violence and administrative detentions, punitive demolitions, including of EU funded projects, together with high unemployment, especially among the Palestinian youth, creates an atmosphere that is not conducive to a peaceful settlement.

We urge both parties to refrain from violence and to promote confidence and trust-building measures. Slovenia will strive to continue to facilitate local and national capacity building programs in rehabilitation and psychosocial well-being of children.

We reiterate that Israel, as the Occupying Power, has a responsibility to ensure the respect for and protection of the rights of Palestinians within its control. At the same time, we deplore human rights violations and abuses by any State or non-state actor.

We strongly condemn terrorism, and all acts of violence against civilians, including incitement and destruction.

Slovenia calls on Israel to uphold the relevant UN resolutions, including UN Security Council resolution 2334, and to allow the various Special Procedures mandate holders to enter the country.

Slovenia as an advocate for a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict emphasizes the responsibility of both sides to find a solution for lasting peace based on respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Thank you.