



**Statement by Sri Lanka
22nd Session of the Human Rights Council
Agenda Item 7 – General Debate**

Mr. President,

My delegation, at the outset aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Sri Lanka congratulates the State of Palestine on having gained observer status of the United Nations on 29 November 2012, and continues to support its request for full membership.

My delegation takes note of the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of HRC resolutions S-9/1 & S-12/1.

Sri Lanka remains concerned about the humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian Territory, and encourages for the blockade of Gaza to be lifted, in line with Security Council resolution 1860.

The continuing settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are a crucial factor in the escalation of suspicion and the growing lack of trust between the parties to this conflict.

The escalation of hostilities in November last year resulted in many civilian casualties within the span of a few days. Sri Lanka is confident that both parties would exercise restraint to secure the right to life, liberty and security in the interest of peace in the entire region.

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka remains constant in its support for the State of Palestine and its people for their struggle to achieve the right to statehood, within the framework of a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine, co-existing peacefully alongside Israel.

Thank you Mr. President.