



**Statement, delivered on behalf of the OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate under Agenda Item 3 at the 48<sup>th</sup> session of Human Rights Council**

**21 September 2021**

**Madam President,**

The OIC attaches great value to the protection, promotion and enjoyment of human rights.

In line with the spirit of IB package, we reaffirm OIC's support for cooperation and dialogue to advance global human rights agenda based on principles of universality, impartiality, transparency and non-selectivity. Selective approaches, double standards and undue politicization undermine the legitimacy of this Council.

As all human rights are indivisible, interrelated and interdependent, we underscore the importance of treating all human rights including civil, political, economic, social and cultural right including the right to development, in a fair manner and with the same emphasis.

The OIC remains committed to the realization of the right to development and achieving SDGs. Due to pre-existing structural impediments and COVID induced socio-economic and health impacts, operationalizing the right to development has however become even more challenging. Many of the development gains achieved over decades, have been lost.

As a result of the pandemic, developing countries are faced with reduced fiscal space and growing liquidity crisis. Consequently, their debt burdens have increased, impeding their efforts to counter the effects of public health and climate emergencies. These developments are accentuating inequalities within and among countries and societies. The OIC calls for redoubling of collective efforts especially towards mobilization of development financing, technology transfer, capacity building, and reforming the global financial architecture.

We also echo global calls for ensuring vaccine equity including through removal of undue patent and export restrictions.

Madam President,

Equality of human kind is the bedrock of our faith. We reject racism based on colour, creed, religion, language and ethnicity. With this backdrop, the OIC has always supported implementation of Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) and reiterates its call for renewed commitment to combat xenophobia, intolerance, stigmatization, stereotyping and violence targeted against persons based on their religion or belief.

The OIC condemns Islamophobia, in all its forms and manifestations, ether directed through online or offline hate speech, populist rhetoric and anti-migration policies. We deplore recent Islamophobic trends including state-sponsored marginalization of Muslim communities in certain countries. Respect for religious sensibilities of individuals and communities is an essential component of upholding their respective human rights.



The OIC draws this Council's attention to the plight of people under illegal occupation who face growing attacks against their culture and identity, and denial of their inalienable right to self-determination, often under the bogey of terrorism. The OIC deplors attempts to equate the legitimate pursuit of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights by people under occupation with terrorism. Peaceful settlement of internationally recognized disputes, in accordance with international law, is essential for realization of the human rights of the affected populations.

I thank you.