



**Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Mr. Junaid Suleman, First Secretary, during General Debate on Agenda item 5 at the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

**30 September 2021**

**Madam President,**

The OIC considers the Council's allied bodies and mechanisms an important constituent of the UN human right machinery.

We value their contribution in advancing respect for and promoting human rights globally, and reassure them of our continued support and constructive engagement.

**Madam President,**

The OIC reiterates its long-standing concerns over the lack of equitable geographic representation as well as representation of different legal systems within the UN Special Procedures system.

This structural deficiency has constrained SPMHs' ability to examine human rights-related matter in their proper national, cultural, historical and religious context. As a result, we unfortunately see the application of one-size-fits-all approach by the mandate-holders.

As stipulated in the working methods of the Consultative Group, we, therefore, call for availability of disaggregated data on geographic representation, gender balance and legal representation of different legal systems within the UN Special Procedures system. We further stress upon the need to use this information for meaningfully rectifying the current geographical and legal imbalance within the system, in compliance with the IB package.

**Madam President,**

The OIC members have been closely following informal conversations with the Coordination Committee on ways and means to further improve efficiency and working methods of the Special Procedures system.

We take note of the efforts being made by the Committee. Nonetheless, we strongly urge them to share more information about concrete steps taken to address States' legitimate concerns on wide-range of issues such as authenticity of sources, co-signature of joint communications by mandate-holders not primarily related to their work, time given to States for feedback on advance copies of press releases, and publication of mandated reports for IDs.

We are also of the view that key findings and outcomes of the informal conversations with the Coordination Committee should be fed into wider discussions under this Agenda Item of the Council.



**Madam President,**

The OIC reiterates its call on Special Procedures to closely monitor and report on human rights dimensions of the global surge in Islamophobia within their respective mandates. We also urge them to continue their advocacy for addressing root causes of widespread, blatant and systematic human rights violations, such as OIC and UN-recognized situations of foreign occupation, long-festering conflicts and disputes.

I thank you.