



Statement, delivered on behalf of the OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative to the UN, during the General Debate under Agenda Item 6 at the 48th session of Human Rights Council

01 October 2021

Madam President,

The OIC highly values the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as one of the key mechanisms of the Human Rights Council to promote human rights.

The UPR process provides an opportunity to highlight national efforts and achievements; share best-practices; offer constructive feedback and indicate specific human rights challenges including issues related to resource constraints.

Largely insulated from politicization, UPR mechanism's contribution is indeed manifest in the steady growth of legislative, policy and administrative measures taken by States to advance human rights.

Through positive interactions in the entirety of a UPR cycle, States have demonstrated tangible progress in the promotion and protection of all human rights including through voluntary policy and institutional reforms.

The UPR process has also helped improve and strengthen human rights framework in several countries across the globe. Utilizing this mechanism as a source of technical cooperation and capacity building would be useful.

Madam President,

As we approach completion of the third UPR cycle, the OIC group acknowledges its pivotal role in advancing the human rights agenda. We also reiterate upholding UPR's founding principles of universality, impartiality, transparency, and equality.

As an effective and unique peer review mechanism, the UPR also represents a useful platform to engage in meaningful dialogue with member states, civil society and National Human Rights Institutions. We appreciate the role of civil society organizations and national human rights institutions including their constructive critique and important suggestions aimed at promoting enjoyment of human rights.

This spirit of constructive dialogue and engagement should continue to guide the future work of the UPR mechanism.

We commend the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its support and efficient conduct of proceedings of this process. I thank you.