



**Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Mr. Junaid Suleman, First Secretary,  
during General Debate under Agenda Item 8 at the 48<sup>th</sup> session of Human Rights  
Council**

**04 October 2021**

Madam President,

The OIC reaffirms its commitment to the full and effective implementation of VDPA.

Since its adoption 28 years ago, VDPA's forward-looking orientation continues to guide our collective efforts in advancing the global human rights agenda.

In fact, VDPA's strong call to treat all human rights equally is prescient given the complex social and economic challenges of our time. The COVID pandemic has laid bare that creating hierarchies among basic human rights is fundamentally a flawed approach, and should be discarded.

So far, global responses to mitigate the human rights consequences of the COVID pandemic falls short of the 'Vienna Spirit' and level of international cooperation, needed to secure the basic rights of everyone everywhere.

The OIC is gravely concerned at the growing 'vaccine nationalism' and considers it incompatible with the universal principles and collective human rights commitments and obligations.

Similarly, the quantum of international financing, made available to developing countries to recover from the devastating effects of the pandemic, is not commensurate with the enormity of the economic and social challenges. The OIC, therefore, calls for a well-resourced economic recovery response, including through easing of debt burden, poverty alleviation and removing global obstacles to equitable development.

Madam President,

The OIC is alarmed at the dangerous growth and spread of State-sponsored Islamophobia. Regrettably, populist leaders continue to willfully incite hatred, hostility and violence, both offline and online, against Muslim minorities, and their sacred religious personalities, and symbols for electoral gains. The COVID pandemic has further brought to the surface the deep-rooted nature of this contemporary problem.

We, therefore, call on the members and observers of this Council to unite in efforts to combat the unfounded hatred, hostility and bigotry against Islam and its adherents in our collective enlightened interest.



Madam President,

VDPA considers the denial of the right to self-determination as a violation of human rights and recognizes the right of the peoples, living under foreign occupation, to take any legitimate action, in accordance with the UN Charter, to realize this inalienable right.

As endorsed by VDPA, effective international measures should be taken to guarantee and monitor the implementation of human rights in respect of people under foreign occupation. Furthermore, effective legal protection should be provided to such people against human rights violations, in accordance with human rights norms and international law. Thank you.