



Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate under agenda item no.4 at the 46th Human Rights Council session

12 March 2021

Madam President,

The OIC reiterates that the principles of universality, objectivity, and impartiality, as enshrined in the founding UNGA resolution 60/251, should direct the Council's work under this agenda item.

In consideration of human rights situations, all basic civil, political, socio-economic and cultural rights, especially the right to development, should be treated equally. We are concerned over the increasing tendency to prioritize some human rights over others in considering such situations.

The Council's actions should be geared towards promoting constructive engagement, cooperation and genuine dialogue with concerned States. Interference into affairs that fall exclusively within the sovereign jurisdiction of States contravenes basic principles and purposes of the UN Charter, and international law. This approach should be avoided.

The OIC remains deeply concerned over the selective application of agenda item 4. Each situation should be dealt on its human rights merit and not on the basis of political calculations.

Madam President,

The OIC calls on the Council to pay closer attention towards the dire situation of Muslims minorities in different parts of the world.

The OIC reminds the Council about the uptick in State-sponsored Islamophobia, and the systemic assault on fundamental rights of Muslims minorities as a result of discriminatory laws, policies and State practices.

The populist formula of 'divide people to multiply votes' has resulted in wilful provocation to hatred, discrimination and violence against Muslim communities and individuals.

Organized violence against Muslims, banning the wearing of hijabs, vandalism of mosques, deliberate ridicule of revered religious personalities under the garb of freedom of expression, and denial of right to naturalization on the basis of religious, ethnic or racial grounds are disturbing trends that call for action by the Council.

Madam President,

The OIC also invites the Council's attention toward systematic and persistent human rights violations and the well-established pattern of impunity in situations of foreign occupation, unresolved conflicts and simmering disputes. The escalating violence, forced displacement and illegal attempts to obliterate distinct religious, cultural and demographic identity of Muslims in these situations are a matter of grave concern for the OIC.



We, therefore, urge the Council to actively monitor human rights conditions in situations of foreign occupation, disputes and conflicts, which are on the agenda of the United Nations and the OIC and on which both organizations have passed numerous resolutions and communiqués.

I thank you.