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**Statement, delivered on behalf of the OIC, by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi,  
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, during the General Debate  
under Item 2 at 48<sup>th</sup> session of Human Rights Council**

**14 September 2021**

**Madam President,**

The OIC thanks the High Commissioner for her oral update.

The OIC remains committed to universal respect for human rights in the political, economic and social spheres. We endorse global calls including by the High Commissioner for concrete measures to meaningfully mitigate the socio-economic and health impacts of the COVID pandemic and to ensure vaccine equity particularly for developing countries.

For the credibility of the Human Rights Council, even handed implementation of the global human rights agenda is imperative. This Council must address systematic and continued violations of human rights of people suffering from long-running conflicts and disputes on the UN and OIC agenda, namely, Palestine, Myanmar and Jammu and Kashmir.

The OIC remains gravely concerned over the continuing violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws in the Occupied Palestine Territory (OPT) including East Jerusalem. We welcome appointment of the members of the Commission of Inquiry (COI) to ensure accountability for all violations of international law and to put an end to the culture of impunity. We also urge the OHCHR to continue publishing data on business enterprises involved in activities related to Israeli settlements in the OPT.

The OIC calls on this Council to work towards securing justice and accountability for the Rohingya people, including through their safe, dignified and voluntary return to their homes in Myanmar. The OIC reiterates its full solidarity with Bangladesh in addressing the Rohingya crisis; urges the international community to provide full assistance to Bangladesh and remain actively seized of the matter until a durable solution is achieved.

The human rights situation in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir remains a matter of serious concern to the OIC. We urge the Council to implement the recommendations addressed to it in the OHCHR's two Kashmir reports. In line with the resolution adopted at the 47th CFM in Niger, the OIC demands revocation of all illegal measures taken since 5 August 2019 including those designed to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territory and denial of rights of the Kashmiri people. We remind the international community of its obligations to ensure the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu & Kashmir in fulfillment of the rights of the Kashmiri people.

The OIC condemns the damage and loss of properties, including religious sites by Armenia in the territories of Azerbaijan recently liberated from occupation. The OIC reaffirms its full support to the Government and people of Azerbaijan in their efforts to rehabilitate and



rebuild the de-occupied territories. We call upon the international community to extend assistance to Azerbaijan for safe and dignified return of Azerbaijani IDPs.

The OIC reaffirms its call to uphold, promote and protect human rights of all in Afghanistan including of women, children, elderly and minorities. We express our solidarity with the people of Afghanistan and highlight the necessity for urgent humanitarian assistance. An inclusive political settlement is key to enduring peace, reconciliation, security and stability of Afghanistan. The OIC is concerned over the deteriorating economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and calls for international community's sustained engagement with Afghanistan on political, economic, human rights and humanitarian tracks. The OIC stresses the need for transparent and prompt investigations into reports of all violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law.

The OIC remains deeply concerned over the growing incidents of xenophobia, Islamophobia and religious intolerance, resulting in denigration of venerated religious personalities and symbols as well as restrictions on fundamental freedoms. The frequent recurrence of such acts warrants meaningful actions by this Council and the UN human rights machinery play their due role in preventing and combating religious intolerance and hate speech directed against individuals and groups because of their religion and belief, both offline and online.

I thank you.