



Statement delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan on behalf of OIC during the High-Level Event on the Occasion of 50th Session of the Human Rights Council: Achievements and Lessons Learned

15 June 2022

Mr. President,

Thank you for arranging this high-level event.

We thank the GA President for his presence and remarks. We appreciate the UN Secretary-General, the High Commissioner and panelists for their insightful thoughts.

The OIC attaches great importance to the Council's mandate of promoting universal respect for human rights. We have always endeavored to engage constructively with the Council and its allied mechanisms with a view to advancing our shared objective.

The 50th session milestone indeed presents an opportunity to reflect on the progress made and take stock of challenges faced during the last 16 years.

Our journey has been difficult but we can cherish a number of achievements. The UPR has been the Council's crowning success. This peer-driven process with universal participation has fostered dialogue among States and galvanized domestic progress in the human rights domain. Similarly, the Council's technical assistance mandate has enabled developing countries to implement their national human rights priorities. We also recognize the important work done by the UN Special Procedures.

The OIC has played its role in promoting and protecting fundamental rights, freedoms and dignity of people in vulnerable situations. This is evident from the fact that OIC countries are hosting more than two-third of the world refugee population.

Additionally, we have been drawing the Council's attention towards the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, Jammu and Kashmir and Rohingya Muslims, among others, and would continue to do so. We reiterate our strong support for Agenda Item-7 of the Council, and reject any effort to undermine this item.

The OIC's landmark resolution 16/18 has driven concrete action at all levels to counter the growing plague of intolerance, discrimination and violence against individuals and communities because of their religious beliefs.

We are also pleased to note the progressive development of human rights norms. Its key example is the continuing work to codify the right to development in order to enable its operationalization at all levels.

Alongside these positives, we note with concern the unabated politicization of the Council's work and the ensuing polarization and selectivity in approaches. This has shrunk space for productive dialogue and constructive engagement. It has led to creation of a hierarchy among human rights. Regrettably, many situations of concern remain a blind spot.



We are also disappointed over efforts to promote controversial notions and concepts which are oblivious to the social, cultural and religious sensitivities of states.

The global surge in violence, stigmatization and discrimination against Muslims and Islam remains a matter of grave concern. We reiterate our call for concrete actions to address the drivers of these troubling developments, and hold the perpetrators to account.

On its part, the OIC reaffirms its strong support to the Council's mandate and will remain a steady partner in advancing the cause of peace, human rights, and development. Thank you.