



Statement on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, during Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

28 June 2021

Madam President,

The OIC takes note of the report by the Special Rapporteur (SR).

Islam accords great value to the protection and promotion of rights of women. It prohibits violence including sexual assault against women or rape under any circumstances. In Islam, rape is considered to be a serious sexual crime with severe punishment.

The SR's reflections on the evolution of international human rights law in terms of "framing rape" as human rights violation exclude Islamic perspective. The Quranic injunctions against rape, laid down 14 hundred years ago have protected women through ages and across regions by criminalizing the act. In doing so, the Quran ingrained revulsion against rape and sympathy for the victim in the human psyche. Such sentiments are the basis of contemporary international human rights law on rape.

The SR's report contains lopsided analysis on the legal interpretation of rape, consenting sexual relations, adultery and zina, contrary to universally accepted principles. It also ignores the socio-cultural and religious diversity. Projecting a certain perspective that lacks universal acceptance, creates unnecessary controversies and acrimony in the multilateral human rights domain.

The OIC encourages the SR to avoid skewed interpretation of international law and use universally agreed language as reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), CEDAW and other inter-governmentally negotiated documents.

I thank you.