



Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate on Agenda item 5: “Human Rights bodies and mechanisms” at the 46th session of the Human Rights Council

17 March 2021

Madam President,

The OIC recognizes the valuable work done by the Council’s allied bodies and mechanisms.

The OIC delegations actively contributed to the proceedings of the 2020 Social Forum and the Forum on Minorities.

We hope that the discussions at the respective Forums galvanize concrete actions at all levels to alleviate poverty in developing countries, and protect and promote basic rights of minorities, especially Muslim minorities, from the raging ‘hate pandemic’.

The OIC considers recent adoption of the working methods of the Consultative Group as a positive development.

The Consultative Group, with the OHCHR and the Bureau, must follow procedural guidelines on equitable geographical representation, gender balance and appropriate representation of legal systems in the selection process for vacant seats.

We stress the need for deploying the working methods meaningfully to rectify the current geographical imbalance among mandate-holders, in compliance with the IB package.

Madam President,

The OIC re-emphasizes that mandate-holders should strictly adhere to the Code of Conduct and Manual of Operations in discharging their responsibilities.

The OIC urges them to exercise due caution in the use of social media platforms, particularly on issues outside their mandates.

Special Procedures should send communications to States after fact-checking, and avoid pre-judging allegations through hasty public pronouncements. They should only join communications relevant to their mandates.

Moreover, adequate time should be given to States to share feedback on advance copies of the Press Releases. Mandate-holders should refrain from unsubstantiated assertions and legally imprecise terminologies in their press releases. Such an approach undermines the very spirit of constructive engagement and dialogue.



The OIC notes with disappointment that in certain cases, country visit reports have not been presented before the Council in a timely manner. We call for building necessary safeguards and procedures to address such cases and to ensure credibility and integrity of the entire Special Procedures system.

The OIC reiterates its call on Special Procedures to closely monitor the global surge in Islamophobia within their respective mandates. We also urge them to continue their advocacy for addressing root causes of widespread and systematic human rights violations, such as in situations of foreign occupation, long-festering conflicts and disputes, and forced displacement.

I thank you.