



**Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Human Rights Council Special Session on Afghanistan**

**24 August 2021**

**Madam President,**

The OIC call for convening of the Special Session was an effort to shape a Council response that takes into account serious human rights concerns amidst a rapidly evolving situation in the country. The OIC calls on all parties to exercise restraint, uphold rights of all Afghans, and honour their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian laws.

The OIC member states reaffirm their call to uphold, promote and protect human rights of all in Afghanistan including of women, children, elderly and minorities.

We appreciate the resilience and courage of our Afghan brothers and sisters over the last four decades. Protracted conflict has had a heavy toll on the lives of Afghan people, resulting in the security, social, economic and humanitarian challenges.

We reiterate OIC's commitment to supporting an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process to reach an inclusive political settlement. Wide-ranging dialogue among all parties and representatives of the people of Afghanistan is critical to lasting peace, stability and development. In this regard, the OIC underscores the imperative of active engagement of the international community including the United Nations, key international and regional actors on political, humanitarian, human rights and development tracks.

**Madam President,**

The OIC is also concerned over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and increased flow of IDPs and refugees. We call for full adherence to the principle of burden and responsibility sharing through immediate mobilization of necessary resources.

International assistance will be critical for creating conducive environment where all the people of Afghanistan can realize their aspirations for peace, security, stability and development with dignity. Well-being of the people of Afghanistan, as well as sustainable peace and development should lie at the core of international support.

The OIC member states and Islamic financial institutions are also stepping-up their efforts in meeting humanitarian needs in Afghanistan.

The OIC also underscores the need for supporting Afghanistan's neighboring states that are hosting Afghan refugees through provision of sustained support.



The OIC calls on this Council to unite and lend its support for peace, dignity, stability and sustainable development for everyone in Afghanistan.

The OIC stands with Afghanistan at this critical juncture. I thank you.