



**Statement on behalf of OIC delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, DPR, during
Enhanced Interactive Dialogue with UN Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan and the Working Group
on Discrimination against Women
53rd HRC Session
19 June 2023**

Mr. President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur and the Working Group for their joint report.

We share their concerns and disappointment over the suspension of female education at secondary level and restriction on women access to employment and public life.

We reiterate that right of women and girls to access all levels of education as well as right to work are fundamental rights in keeping with international human rights law and Islamic injunctions.

We urge the interim Afghan authorities to revisit their actions and take urgent steps for resumption of female education at secondary level and creation of conditions conducive for their work in line with Afghanistan's international human rights obligations.

We suggest the SR to also reflect on the impact of assets freeze, absence of banking channels and other conditionalities on the realization of fundamental rights and freedoms in Afghanistan, including that of women.

The international community must continue to engage with Afghanistan inter alia through provision of humanitarian assistance, help to revitalize the economy and assist in realization of all rights by everyone.

The OIC stands in solidarity with the Afghan people and reaffirms its commitment to support durable peace, stability, and development in the country.

I thank you!