

40th Session of the Human Rights Council

General Debate on Agenda item 4: “Human Rights situations that require Council’s attention”

Statement by Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

12 March 2019

Mr. President,

Rising xenophobia and intolerance on the basis of religion or belief especially against Muslims is a cause of serious concern for OIC member States. It has taken many dreadful forms including inter alia hate speech by some media groups and main stream political parties, attacks on women wearing hijab, murder of innocent by cow vigilantes, negative profiling of Muslims as well as of OIC countries. Moreover, the anti-migrant and refugee policies of some of the developed countries, discriminating against people having origin in OIC countries are against international human rights law. OIC believes in bridge building and living in harmony following the concept of diversity of civilizations.

2. OIC considers that right to development is important for the promotion of other human rights, since we cannot fully realize all human rights without addressing basic human needs. We would urge the OHCHR to address the theme of right to development as a cross cutting theme in various debates in the Council.

3. The Human Rights Council must remain seized of the human rights situations pertaining to disputes and conflicts on the agenda of the United Nations and the OIC, on which both these organizations have passed numerous resolutions and communiqués. The OHCHR should continue its work on these situations, in line with its mandate and with the spirit of objectivity and transparency.

Mr. President,

4. OIC expresses its serious concern on the plight of Rohingya Muslims. We have observed the persecution and systematic deprivation of rights especially citizenship, restriction of movement and forceful eviction from their homes in enormous numbers since decades. More than one million Rohingya refugees are now facing an uncertain future. Without addressing the root causes and changing national narrative in Myanmar about Rohingya Muslims, we are afraid that lasting peace in Rakhine State, when all communities could live in harmony, will remain distant dream. The perpetrators of violence against Rohingya Muslims must be brought to justice. Myanmar government must work with the international community to create favorable conditions for the sustainable return of Rohingya refugees from different countries to their homes.

I thank you.