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40TH SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General Debate on Agenda item 3: “Protection and Promotion of all Human Rights, Civil Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the Right to Development”

Statement by Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

7 March 2019

Mr. President,

OIC Member States reiterate that all human rights are equal and should be treated with similar focus and attention.

2. The OIC advocates non-politicization of the Human Rights Council for promotion and protection of all human rights. Selectivity and double standards delegitimize the global human rights agenda and tarnish the lofty ideals that we all stand for in this Council.

3. In the context of indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights, the OIC wishes to underscore the importance of the Right to Development (R2D) in ensuring basic human needs, poverty reduction and right to health, food and quality education. Implementing the R2D will help facilitate attainment of the SDGs and guarantee human dignity, which is a common theme of all human rights.

4. Peaceful settlement of internationally recognized disputes is essential for realization of the human rights of the affected populations. As the occupation forces abuse rights through the use of force and high-handed coercive measures, the legitimate political struggle against this onslaught cannot be subsumed as terrorism.

5. The OIC expresses its serious concerns at rising levels of populism, and chauvinistic nationalism, practised by mainstream political parties and their followers. This behaviour breeds racism, xenophobia and anti-Islamic

sentiments. It manifests in the forms of revocation of citizenship based on ethnicity, ridiculing religions and religious symbols, attacks on women wearing *hijab*, murder of Muslims by cow vigilantes and negative profiling of Muslims in official and private databases. This racially inspired and hate motivated behaviour provoked a world war in the last century. The OIC therefore, urges respective governments and this Council to address these worrying trends not just to promote and protect all human rights but also to preserve international peace and security.

I thank you.