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**40<sup>TH</sup>SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**General Debate on Agenda item 5: “Human Rights bodies and mechanism”**

Statement on behalf of the OIC

(13 March 2019)

Mr. President,

The OIC Member States actively participated in the Forum on Minorities and shared best practices and steps taken for the promotion and protection of all human rights of minorities. OIC considers this Forum as an important platform for highlighting the concerns of minorities. States should ensure that necessary checks and balances are in place against instances of discrimination, stigmatization, stereotyping, hate crimes, violence, abuse and persecution of people based on religion or belief.

2. The OIC reiterates that all human rights must be treated equally in the work of the Special Procedures. The Special Procedures should conduct their work in accordance with the relevant Code of Conduct. The reports of the Special Procedures should be balanced and must take into account the perspectives of governments, national circumstances and existing challenges. Sweeping Statements and broad generalizations should, as a rule, be avoided.

3. We are also concerned that a number of Special Procedures while reporting to the Council and Treaty bodies embark upon introduction and imposition of controversial notions outside the internationally agreed human rights legal framework. Such an approach contradicts the fundamentals of universality, and weakens the Human Rights framework, and creates polarization. We believe that the mandate holders and treaty bodies must respect

historical, cultural, social and religious sensitivities while exercising their Mandates, especially when this subject has no foundation in International Human Rights Law.

4. We urge the Special Procedures Mandate Holders to put emphasis on the pernicious impact of anti-Muslim discourse on the rights of the vulnerable segments of society especially women, children and people with disabilities in their mandates.

I thank you Mr. President.