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40TH SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General debate on ITEM 6- Universal Periodic Review

Statement on behalf of the OIC

(15 March 2019)

Mr. President,

Universal Periodic Review is one of the great successes of the Human Rights Council. It was established to promote the universality, interdependence, indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights and to ensure universal coverage and equal treatment of all states. The OIC Member States strongly support this mechanism.

2. UPR Mechanism has helped create a collaborative space among the States and a wide range of stakeholders, including the civil society and National Human Rights Institutions, to engage in a meaningful dialogue and work to achieve the shared goals. States have demonstrated sincere and dedicated efforts in focusing on the promotion and protection of all human rights and reporting on these efforts to the Council in their regular UPR reports. Many countries have voluntarily amended their domestic laws, and have supplemented these laws with policy and institutional measures.

Mr. President

3. OIC member states appreciate the valuable role of the civil society and National Human Rights Institutions in supporting member states. This collaboration has strengthened domestic institutions and mechanisms, as well as UPR. We believe that it has proven itself to be an effective peer review mechanism that warrants an opportunity for the exchange of best practices and sharing of experiences among member states on the basis of equality and non-discrimination.

4. The UPR builds upon the principles of open and constructive engagement, which is inclusive, transparent, objective, non-selective and non-confrontational. The OIC Member countries wish to emphasize that all initiatives related to the UPR must be based upon these principles and should be devoid of the practice of selectivity and naming and shaming, which is often used to serve narrow political interests.

Mr. President,

5. The OIC believes that the UPR Mechanism through its universal coverage and equal treatment by all States will greatly assist in meeting the common objectives we espouse in the Human Rights Council.

6. In conclusion, we would like to thank the OHCHR staff for their hard work and support, which helps ensure smooth proceedings of the UPR.

I thank you.