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

**Agenda Item 10 “Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building”**

Statement on behalf of the OIC

(20 March 2019)

Mr. President,

OIC believes that human rights agenda can be best served through cooperation and mutual assistance. Rather than naming and shaming and political point scoring, the Council’s mechanisms must adopt a cooperative framework for the promotion and protection of all human rights. In this regard, OIC considers that Technical cooperation and capacity building mandate of the Council provides an effective, non-politicized, and objective tool to enhance capabilities of the States, considering that they have the primary responsibility to promote and protect all human rights.

2. OIC believes that technical cooperation and capacity building must be provided at the request of and with the consent of states in accordance with UNGA resolution 60/251. The focus should be on strengthening national mechanisms and institutions rather than on interference in the internal affairs of a State or naming and shaming.

3. OIC believes that human rights agenda of the Council will be better served by following a transparent, credible and non-politicized program for technical cooperation so that we can actually succeed beyond slogans. In the recent years, we have seen an unacceptable practice of arm twisting through presentation of hostile resolutions of countries pushing them to request for technical cooperation from the OHCHR. This practice must be discouraged.

4. OIC believes that every State, has its human rights challenges regardless of varying degrees of development. The issue of rising xenophobia, hate speech, racism and racial discrimination is of serious concerns especially against the

Muslims. The hate speech and related crimes have hit a record high. We urge OHCHR to provide technical cooperation, capacity building services through specially designed programs all the States where fascist rhetoric against Muslims prevails or is encouraged.

5. OIC supports sharing of best practices, modern techniques and technology, promotion of scientific research. Finally, the technical assistance and capacity building program of the OHCHR should help in the operationalization of the right to development.

I thank you Mr. President.