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40th Session of the Human Rights Council
General Debate - Agenda Item 8 -Vienna Declaration and Program of
Action

OIC Statement delivered by Pakistan
(18March 2019)

Mr. President,

All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and must be accorded equal importance. The processes of promoting and protecting human rights should be conducted in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and international law.

2. The right to development is an inalienable part of the basic human rights since it addresses basic human needs necessary for the realization of human dignity and fulfilment of all the other rights in true letter and spirit. The Human Rights mechanisms must follow non selectivity and objectivity in addressing all instances of discrimination and rights abuse. The Special Procedure Mandate Holders must also prioritize right to development as a cross cutting theme in their work. The international community should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to right to development.

3. The closing of borders to the migrants and their negative stereotyping is of concern for the OIC group. The global refugee crisis has escalated many folds in the past decades. In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, relevant international instruments and international solidarity and in the spirit of burden-sharing, a comprehensive approach by the international community is needed in coordination and cooperation with the countries concerned.

4. Hate campaigns ridiculing religions and religious or cultural symbols are an affront to the spirit of VDPA and a potent incitement to violence. The speedy

and comprehensive elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance must be a priority task for the international community. The recent attacks on mosques in New Zealand were a manifestation of terrorism motivated by hate speech and false narrative demonizing Muslims around the world. We condemn these attacks and show solidarity with the families who lost their loved ones.

5. We must therefore reaffirm our commitment to the principles enshrined in VDPA. Together we must make a collective resolve to combat racial populist narrative, unresolved international conflicts, remnants of colonialism and worsening human rights and humanitarian crises which pose challenges to the universal realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

I thank you.