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40TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Resolution A/HRC/40/L.3 - “Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping and Stigmatization of, and Discrimination, Incitement to Violence, and Violence against Persons based on Religion or Belief”

Introduction by Pakistan on behalf of OIC

22 March 2019

Mr. President

On behalf of 65 co-sponsors, the draft resolution entitled “Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping and Stigmatization of, and Discrimination, Incitement to Violence, and Violence against Persons based on Religion or Belief” contained in document No.A/HRC/40/L3 is being introduced by OIC.

2. Resolution 16/18, as it came to be known, was adopted by consensus by the Human Rights Council on 24 March 2011. This resolution exemplifies the spirit of constructive engagement and mutual collaboration within the Council. We specially want to thank the delegations of EU and UK for their close coordination and efforts in maintaining the consensus and balance on this important initiative. The good cooperation between OIC and EU for both the resolutions 16/18 and Freedom of Religion or Belief helps in coordinating global efforts on the issue of combating intolerance and violence against persons based on religion or belief.

3. The importance of this initiative cannot be overstated especially under contemporary times where we are witnessing rising xenophobia, Islamophobia and populism. There is an urgent need to strengthen international architecture to combat intolerance and incitement to violence on basis of religion or belief. Resolution 16/18 provides us with such framework.

4. The resolution addresses the ways and means to address the rising trend of religious intolerance, hate speech, disinformation, racial hatred, discrimination and racial profiling in different parts of the world in a consensual manner.

5. At the heart of the resolution are a series of practical steps, outlined in an Action Plan, which need to be effectively implemented by states in a non-selective manner to combat the ever increasing instances of intolerance, negative stereo-typing, stigmatization, discrimination and incitement to violence.

5. It expresses concern at the growing manifestation of intolerance based on religion or belief that may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels. In this regard, the resolution emphasizes the importance of respect for religious and cultural diversity and interfaith and intercultural dialogue aimed at promoting a culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations.

6. The resolution stresses on fostering religious freedom and pluralism by promoting the ability of members of all religious communities to manifest their religion and to contribute openly and on an equal footing to society. It calls for respect for human rights and diversity of religions and beliefs.

7. It recognizes that an open, constructive and respectful debate of ideas, and interfaith and intercultural dialogue at all level can play a positive role in strengthening democracy and combating religious hatred.

Mr. President,

8. We sincerely believe that irrespective of our diversity in religions and beliefs, there is a shared interest for all of us to show respect for each other's religions, avoid denigration of religious symbols and personalities as well as to prevent any advocacy of religious hatred. It is shared objective of all UN member States that the wave of racism, xenophobia, disinformation, hate crimes and intolerance around the world is pushed back. We earnestly hope that the draft text's adoption by consensus will bring us closer to these mutual interests and objectives.

I thank you.