

41st SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

**Statement by Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
General Debate on Item 3
1 July, 2019**

Mr. President,

We deliver this statement on behalf of the OIC.

2. The OIC is gravely concerned on the rise in Islamophobia, xenophobia, racism and racial discrimination around the world. Islamophobia is not only a violation in itself but also paves the way to violation of all other human rights. It manifests in the forms of revocation of citizenship based on ethnicity, ridiculing religions and religious symbols, attacks on women wearing hijab, murder of Muslims by cow vigilantes and negative profiling of Muslims in official and private databases.

3. The OIC believes that hate speech and disinformation cannot be justified under the pretext of freedom of speech. There is an urgent need to address these issues and the interlinked challenges posed by them such as hate crimes and extremism. The international framework must be strengthened to fill in the gaps in respect of propagation of hate speech and disinformation on social media and online by addressing complex issues including inter alia anonymity, transnational-nature, involvement of private technology companies with origins beyond national borders as well as the overlapping domains of fundamental freedoms and genuine security concerns of the States.

4. The OIC considers that we cannot truly achieve the realization of all human rights unless we address the basic human needs. By providing necessary services such as education, health, food, housing etc. to the people, we can create an enabling environment for the promotion and protection of all human rights. In this regard, concerted efforts for the realization of right to development can help to build a bridge between basic rights and needs. Moreover, it provides a way to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.

5. The peaceful resolution of disputes and protection of rights of people under occupation remains a priority area for the OIC. We urge the OHCHR and the Special Procedures system to give priority and sustained focus on this matter, so that the voices of people under occupation are not suppressed.

I thank you, Mr. President.