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41th Session of the Human Rights Council

General Debate on Agenda item 5: “Human Rights bodies and mechanism”

Statement by Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

3 July 2019

Mr. President,

The OIC considers that equitable distribution of financial and human resources for all human rights including right to development is critical for effective realization of the human rights agenda. We believe that the human rights bodies and mechanisms must respect relevant matters associated with historical, cultural, social and religious sensitivities while exercising their mandates, especially when these matters have no foundation in International Human Rights Law.

2. We would urge the human rights mechanisms to look into contemporary human rights issues that are being faced by the Muslims around the world especially xenophobia, media bias, hate crimes, stereotyping, and anti-Muslim discourse especially in the context of migrants and Muslim minorities. The anti hijab legislation and discrimination against Muslims women and girls in a number of countries is of serious concern for us.

3. OIC has taken note of the report of the Working Group on the issues of human rights and transnational corporations and other enterprises and the seventh Forum on Business and Human Rights. We believe that Forum on Business and Human rights is an important platform to discuss trends and challenges in the field of business and human rights and to identify good practices. The report has rightly highlighted the issue of businesses that exploit women and girls and play role in trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation including for production of pornography. Sadly, this is a source of revenue for many governments. This is a matter of serious concern for OIC. The human rights bodies and mechanisms are requested to remain seized of the matter.

4. We consider that sustainable development, in which the rights of everyone are protected, would remain an elusive dream without removing the bottlenecks to development, the negative impact of globalization on vulnerable economies, inequalities in the trading regime, and uneven distribution of profits

related to intellectual property rights. The Working Group and the Forum on Business and Human Rights can look into these issues of importance for the developing countries in its future work.

I thank you, Mr. President.