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**41<sup>st</sup> SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Statement by Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)  
General Debate on Item 8  
Vienna Declaration and Program of Action  
8 July, 2019**

Mr. President,

We deliver this statement on behalf of the OIC.

2. VDPA identifies foundation principles of human rights mechanisms and approaches. These principles include, inter alia, first, the respect for human dignity making human person as the centre of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Second, all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated; therefore, all human rights should be given equal importance. Third, the right to development is an inalienable part and parcel of basic human rights. Without creating conducive environment for the fulfillment of this right, all the other rights cannot be achieved in true letter and spirit.

3. The world is going through tumultuous times, where we are witnessing economic meltdowns, racial populist narrative, unresolved international conflicts, remnants of colonialism, and worsening human rights and humanitarian crises. Setting aside our political divides and differences and working on commonalities is needed more than ever. Together, we can beat the hate mongers and pave the way for better future for all of us on the basis of principles of equality, justice, inclusivity and transparency.

4. 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 relevant international instruments and principles of international solidarity and burden-sharing, a comprehensive approach by the international community is needed in coordination and cooperation with the countries concerned to cope up with these challenges.

5. We believe that significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds should be borne in mind while making strategies and plans for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms instead of following “one size fits all policy”.

I thank you Mr. President.