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Remarks by OIC in General Debate on Agenda item 3
(42nd Session of the Human Rights Council)
13 September 2019

Mr. President,

The OIC strongly supports the realization of the universal human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as well as in international human rights covenants. All human rights and regions should be treated on equal footing with equal attention. We firmly believe in the universality, interdependence, indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights and therefore, believe that the Council cannot remain quiet when the basic right to life and human dignity is threatened by occupation forces.

2. The OIC also reiterates its call for consolidating international efforts to combat terrorism, extremism, xenophobia, intolerance, stigmatization, stereotyping and hate speech etc. We must unite in our condemnation of Islamophobia, since it is taking more and more violent forms with attacks on women, cow vigilantism, anti migration policies and twisted media campaigns. We need to guard against the espousal of racist sentiments, hatred towards specific communities, and demagogic pronouncements. Even if there is no outright incitement to violence, free speech can be abused to create an environment wherein violence is but a logical consequence.

Mr. President,

3. The OIC believes in non-politicization of the Council and that discussions should take place in a constructive, non- confrontational, objective and non-selective manner. These desirable objectives cannot be fulfilled without equal representation of all regions in decision making positions in the OHCHR and the Secretariat. We encourage the High Commissioner to ensure that her office has equal representation from all geographical regions, including at senior management positions.

4. The OIC also reiterates its unequivocal support for the Right to Development, which is crucial for the realization of basic human rights of all peoples. Attainment of the SDGs would have a direct impact on the promotion and protection of human rights globally, in particular in developing countries.

Therefore, we urge the OHCHR to prioritize the Right to Development in its annual program of work and all its activities.

5. Grave human rights violations can only be stopped by promoting peace and stability and ensuring that fundamental human rights are enjoyed by all peoples. We have already witnessed countless loss of lives during this century, due to conflicts. It is high time that we sit together for peaceful resolution of all conflicts, thus, paving the way for the promotion and protection of all human rights.

I thank you Mr. President.