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42nd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General Debate Item-9 - Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Remarks by OIC

24 September 2019

Mr. President,

The OIC Member States strongly believe in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all peoples, without any discrimination.

We are concerned at the increasing level of Islamophobia, xenophobia, racism, religious prejudice, and ethnic hatred in modern societies. Rise of populist politics and rightwing extremist ideologies fanning hatred and religious intolerance particularly against Muslim populations in many countries around the world, remains a cause of great concern for the OIC. We are also concerned at the increased negative stereotyping of individuals on the basis of religion or belief around the world.

Mr. President,

The OIC also stresses the need to prevent the abuse of freedom of expression and the media, including printed, digital, online and social media, for insulting Islam, other divine religions, and any race or ethnicity, that contributes to the prejudices, hatred and discrimination. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to ensure that the right to freedom of expression is exercised by all, with responsibility and in accordance with the law.

Human Rights Council Resolution (16/18) on "Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief" provides an Action Plan for the States to combat the ever increasing instances of xenophobia, Islamophobia, intolerance, negative stereo-typing, stigmatization, discrimination and violence all over the world.

Mr. President

The OIC also emphasizes the importance of interfaith and intercultural dialogue, as an effective mechanism to combat all forms of racism, discrimination, Xenophobia, Islamophobia, extremism intolerance, and incitement to hatred based on religion. Moderation is an important value and a common approach to countering these trends for promoting dialogue, mutual respect, understanding, tolerance, and acceptance.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, the OIC reiterates that a successful fight against all forms and manifestations of discrimination and intolerance requires concerted efforts of the international community. We must endeavour to bring an end to acts of hate crimes, hate speech, discrimination, intimidation and coercion.

I thank you.