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42nd Session of the Human Rights Council
General Debate under Agenda Item 8: Follow-up to and
implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of
Action

OIC Statement
(23 September 2019)

Mr. President,

Since its adoption 26 years ago, the historical Vienna Declaration continues to remain an important reference point in guiding and galvanizing our collective efforts to protect and promote basic human rights.

VDPA's elaboration of the fundamental principles, which should underpin multilateral cooperation in this domain, remains very much relevant today. Given their importance, OIC would like to reiterate these principles:

First, the human person is the central subject of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and consequently should be its principal beneficiary;

Second, all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and inter-related and must be treated on the same footing with same emphasis; and

Third, international cooperation should be in conformity with the UN Charter and international law.

Mr. President,

In the hindsight, the Declaration's particular focus on economic, cultural and social rights was seminal in nature when seen in context of today's accelerated efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Declaration rightly asserts that development facilitates enjoyment of all human rights and thus, international community should constructively engage with one another in removing structural obstacles to realization of this inalienable right.

However, it is regrettable that when we should be working together to create favourable economic environment at the global level, some countries are closing borders and giving life to populist and ethno-nationalist narratives. Migrant workers-the agents of socio-economic progress- are being discriminated on basis of their religion, faith or belief.

OIC is seriously concerned at the rising incidents of Islamophobia, xenophobia, racial discrimination, defamation and ridicule of religions, and religious symbols, and hate crimes against Muslim communities across the globe. In particular, Muslim minorities have been the subject of brutal and inhumane persecution. They are being violently stopped from exercising their right to enjoy their culture, and to profess and practice religion.

Mr. President,

OIC strongly feels that in order to effectively implement VDPA, the international community needs to redouble its efforts to combat discrimination, intolerance and violence on basis of religion or belief, resolve long-festering international conflicts and disputes, and address human rights and humanitarian crises around the world.

In this regard, OIC stands ready to work with the Human Rights Council and the international community.

Thank you.