

**42<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Statement by Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)<sup>1</sup>  
General Debate on the Report of the High Commissioner**

10 September 2019

Mr. President,

On behalf of the OIC, I thank the High Commissioner for her report and the oral update.

2. OIC believes that inclusive and constructive engagement between all stakeholders is necessary to ensure promotion and protection of all human rights. Setting aside our political divides and differences and working on commonalities is needed more than ever.

3. The group agrees with the High Commissioner that “the impact of human rights violations in one part of the world can have serious regional and international repercussions on another”. Therefore, human rights violations of the people suffering longstanding disputes and conflicts like Palestine, Myanmar, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagorno-Karabakh warrant focused attention. The OIC urges the High Commissioner to continue to pay due attention to these situations as well as other human rights violations of the people suffering islamophobia, xenophobia and incitement to hatred and violence based on religion or belief.

4. OIC reiterates its call to the High Commissioner to fulfill the mandate given by the Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/31/36 to produce a database of all business enterprises involved with Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), directly or indirectly. The reasons for the unprecedented delay may be elaborated. OIC calls on all states and relevant UN bodies to take concrete and decisive actions to ensure the implementation of the recommendations made in the 2018 COI report on Gaza and hold those responsible accountable for the violations.

5. On Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the OIC expresses deep concern at atrocious and human rights violations being committed by the Indian occupation forces in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IoK) which has

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resulted in the martyrdom of more than 100,000 innocent Kashmiris<sup>2</sup>. The OIC Secretariat has also reiterated solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and called for the immediate lifting of the curfew, restoration of communication and the respect for the fundamental rights of Kashmiris<sup>3</sup>. The OIC also reminds the international community of its obligations to ensure the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir and fulfill the promises made by it with the people of Jammu and Kashmir<sup>4</sup>. The Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of OIC has called for immediate restoration of civil liberties in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The IPHRC has noted that “the entire Indian Occupied Kashmir (IoK) is turned into the world’s largest prison with severe human rights and humanitarian repercussions on the innocent Kashmiri population”.

6. The OIC thanks the Independent Mechanism on Myanmar for its report and reiterates the important work of the mechanism for preventing human rights violations against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and hold their perpetrators accountable. The OIC remains ready to work with different stake holders to ensure the sustainable, safe, dignified, peaceful and voluntary return of the Rohingya Muslims and rehabilitation to their ancestral homes in Myanmar.

7. The OIC is deeply distressed over the plight of more than one million Azerbaijani displaced persons and refugees resulting from the Armenian aggression, and calls upon the High Commissioner to take a principled position to ensuring restoration of violated human rights of Azerbaijani IDPs and refugees in line with the relevant resolutions of UNSC on the conflict.

8. On Afghanistan, the OIC is alarmed by the rise of indiscriminate attacks and deliberate targeting of civilians by the armed opposition groups and supports an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned Peace and Reconciliation efforts for reaching lasting peace and stability and urges the Member States to continue their vigorous support to the government of Afghanistan in its struggle against terrorism. The OIC calls upon the Taliban group to respond positively to the ceasefire and undertake measures aiming at the reduction of violence and saving innocent lives.

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<sup>2</sup>Resolution No. 10/46-POL on The Jammu and Kashmir Dispute

<sup>3</sup>[https://www.oic-oci.org/topic/?t\\_id=22086&ref=12901&lan=en](https://www.oic-oci.org/topic/?t_id=22086&ref=12901&lan=en)

<sup>4</sup>Resolution No. 10/46-POL on The Jammu and Kashmir Dispute

9. Racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia has reached alarming levels resulting in stigmatization, stereotyping, attacks on hijab wearing girls, denigration of venerated personalities, lynching by cow vigilantes, hate crimes against Muslim migrants. Populist leaders and parties must be denounced for their Islamophobic narrative. Such a venomous rhetoric is a precursor to hate crimes and extremism which is rejected by all.

I thankyou Mr. President.