



Statement on behalf of the OIC Group, delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, First Secretary, during General Debate Item 5
55th HRC Session
21st March 2024

Mr. President,

The OIC group reaffirms its support to the mandate of the Council and to the human rights bodies and mechanisms.

This Council's allied mechanisms carry an important responsibility in advancing universal respect for human rights. They are obliged to do so while adhering to the principles of universality, objectivity, impartiality, transparency and non-selectivity, as enshrined in the Institution Building (IB) package.

Increasing polarization and selectivity in the work of the Council can be seen in the case of 36 special sessions of the Council, whereby only two dealt with thematic issues, while the rest were all dedicated to situations in the developing countries.

The same stands true for over three dozen investigative mechanisms instituted by the Council, most of which focus on Asia and Africa; increasing selectivity and politicization also remains evident in the work of certain UN Special Procedures and Mandate Holders.

Mr. President,

We underscore that Special Procedure Mandate Holders and Treaty Bodies cannot create new rights which are not intergovernmentally agreed; nor should the member states be judged on these so called 'rights'.

We reiterate that in discharging their respective mandates, all Special Procedures ought to adhere to the Code of Conduct. This should be ensured particularly in the case of public communications issued by the SPMHs.

We underline the need for judicious use of social media and other platforms, in this regard. The Group would also like to highlight the importance of timely publication of Special Procedures and Mandate Holders' reports. This remains important for a comprehensive exchange of ideas during the respective interactive dialogues.

The OIC also reaffirms its call for equitable reflection of the diversity of various legal systems and equitable geographical balance during the selection process of the mandate holders.

Mr. President,

We appreciate that several SPMHs and a few treaty bodies have clearly raised concerns on the human rights situation in Occupied Gaza.



The group also reiterates the need for relevant SPMHs to speak out on instances of religious hatred such as Islamophobia.

Thank you!