



**Statement on behalf of the OIC by Mr. Umair Khalid, Third Secretary during
General Debate Item 6**

**49th Human Rights Council Session
24 March 2022**

Mr. President,

The OIC values the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process as a useful and unique mechanism of the Human Rights Council.

As a platform for dialogue and cooperation, UPR represents a success story of the Human Rights Council. Universal participation, higher level of engagement, steady growth of legislative and administrative steps and voluntary commitments to advance human rights demonstrate the success and effectiveness of the UPR process

As we would be commencing the 4th UPR cycle this year, the OIC acknowledges its pivotal role in advancing the human rights agenda. This process has led to the improvement of human rights situations and strengthening of human rights framework in several countries. It would be prudent to utilize this mechanism as a source of providing technical cooperation and capacity building to member states.

The OIC reiterates that the principles of universality, equal treatment, voluntary and peer review nature of the process must remain sacrosanct.

Commencing with the preparation of national reports and compilations of civil society and UN contributions, the process provides a unique opportunity to share best-practices, highlight national achievements and offer constructive feedback.

Mr. President,

As an effective and unique peer review mechanism, it provides an opportunity for engaging in a meaningful dialogue among range of stakeholders, including the civil society and National Human Rights Institutions. We appreciate the role of civil society organization and national human rights institutions during the UPR process

The OIC strongly believes that the spirit of constructive engagement should continue to guide the future work of the UPR mechanism.

The OIC also commends the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for their role in smooth and efficient proceedings of the UPR process. I thank you.