



Statement on behalf of OIC by Mr. Umair Khalil, Third Secretary during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing as a Component of the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living, and on the Right to Non-Discrimination in this Context

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Mr. President,

The OIC thanks the Special Rapporteur (SR) for his report.

The OIC rejects discrimination on any ground in all spheres of life. We condemn racial segregation and apartheid in line with article 3 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination.

The OIC agrees with the SR that the housing segregation on the basis of race, nationality, religion, descent or any other ground with the view to changing the residential demography is incompatible with the international human rights law. It also undermines the principles of equality and justice, while abetting socio-economic exclusion of individuals and societies.

The SR has rightly underscored the need for examining and addressing underlying drivers of spatial segregation including by private companies. Often these drivers serve as the basis of institutional and systematic discrimination to alter the ground realities and to achieve political objectives. In recent years, we have witnessed spatial segregation, illegal settlements, forced evictions, demolitions and demographic changes as drivers to consolidate foreign occupation in the UN recognized disputed territories, including in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The OIC shares SR's concerns and emphasizes the need to respect the rights of Muslim communities and minorities; alarmed by the problems they face, and condemns the policies that fuel violence, stigmatization and discrimination, resulting in human rights violations and abuses. We echo SR's call on states to prevent, prohibit and eradicate all practices amounting to spatial segregation and apartheid, as required by international law.

I thank you.