



**Statement on behalf of OIC by Mr. Junaid Suleman, First Secretary during Panel Discussion on Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

**28 March 2022**

**Mr. President,**

The OIC thanks all the panelists for their insightful views.

The OIC shares global concerns over the growing manifestations of systemic racism and reiterates its call for meaningful actions to combat racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in all its forms and manifestations.

In recent years, we have witnessed unfortunate incidents, targeting individuals and communities, including migrants and refugees, on the basis of their race, sex, colour or religion. Racial profiling, police violence, hate crimes, extrajudicial killings and restrictions on freedom of religion and cultural values, even in some of the so-called progressive and developed societies, represent a sad reality and indeed an awakening call.

The international community cannot afford such an approach as silence and inaction breed impunity. We need to respond to victims' voices with both affirmative as well as preventive measures.

After two decades since the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, we need to reaffirm our commitment to combat racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestation. Coupled-with rampant poverty and inequalities, Racist ideologies and polices are depriving certain communities from equal participation and socio-economic development.

**Mr. President,**

The OIC also reiterates its support to the People of African descent for their long struggle spanning over decades against systemic and structural discrimination.

We call for:

- bridging the gaps in international and national discourse related to racial discrimination including through criminalizing hate speech, racial profiling and violence.



- Eliminating systemic discrimination, preventing effective participation of marginalized communities in the decision-making processes;
- Providing equal opportunities and access to livelihood, education, health and employment to the people of African descent.

I thank you