



**Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi,
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, during the High-Level
Mainstreaming Panel on the 20th Anniversary of DDPA at the 46th session of
Human Rights Council**

(22 February 2021)

Madam President,

On behalf of the OIC member states, we wish to acknowledge the relevance and significance of today's panel discussion and complement all distinguished panelists for their views.

Twenty years ago, DDPA provided a complete action plan to combat racism through measures aimed at prohibiting racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including on the basis of race or religion.

Despite efforts spanning two decades, challenges persist and racism is still alive through its different manifestations.

Extreme poverty, widening disparities, populism and hyper nationalism particularly on social media platform exacerbate inherent discrimination in the system.

The recent wave of COVID-19 pandemic has exposed structural and systemic discrimination that is prevalent not only in societies but also in global financial and health systems.

The OIC member states are deeply concerned that certain segments of societies especially on the basis of their economic status, race, colour or religion, have suffered the most not only due to COVID related health impacts but also the socio-economic consequences arising from pandemic-driven lockdowns.

The OIC calls for:

- One, ending systematic targeting of individuals, groups and communities on the basis of race, religion or ethnicity by using COVID as a cover.
- Two, promoting international cooperation and support mechanism especially for countries with limited resources to mitigate the socio-economic effect of the COVID pandemic.
- Three, providing requisite fiscal space and liquidity to developing countries to achieve national development needs and SDGs.
- Four, ensuring equal, affordable and timely access to COVID vaccine by everyone, everywhere.

I thank you.