



Statement on behalf of OIC Group, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Second Secretary, during Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Afghanistan

55th HRC Session
29 February 2024

Mr. Vice President,

The OIC Group takes note of the Special Rapporteur's report.

We remain deeply concerned over the humanitarian, human rights and socioeconomic conditions in Afghanistan.

We are equally concerned about the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan.

We urge the de-facto Afghan authorities to lift restrictions on female education and to enable women and girls to contribute to Afghanistan's society. We also emphasise that rights and freedoms of all Afghans, especially women, children, and persons belonging to ethnic, religious and cultural minorities must be respected in line with the teachings of Islam and the international obligations.

We reiterate the importance of assessing the complex situation in Afghanistan objectively without missing its historical, security, political, economic and humanitarian contexts.

Realizing the human rights of the people of Afghanistan also requires addressing poverty, creating employment opportunities, and provision of essential services to its citizens, including health care and education.

Reaffirming our solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, we call on the international community – including states, humanitarian actors and development agencies – to continue their support. Underfunding these efforts risks the lives and well-being of millions of Afghans.

We¹ regret that parts of the report dwelt on the divisive and controversial theme of "SOGI" (*sexual orientation and gender identity*). Such references are both unwarranted and unhelpful.

Thank you!

¹ Except Albania