



**Statement on behalf of the OIC Group, delivered by Mr. Junaid Suleman, Director
(HR&HA), during General Debate Item 5
54th HRC Session
29th September 2023**

Mr. President,

This Council's allied mechanisms and bodies carry an important responsibility in advancing universal respect for human rights.

We wish to underline that in discharging their respective mandates, they must adhere to the principles enshrined in the Institution Building (IB) package and the Code of Conduct.

The OIC reiterates its call on the need to review the appointment process of mandate holders in a way that reflects the diversity of various legal systems and equitable geographical balance.

The IB package and respective international human rights covenants have established mechanisms to strengthen the implementation of the core human rights norms.

These human rights norms represent inter-governmental consensus reflecting outcomes of rigorous negotiations spanning many years.

Human Rights bodies and mechanisms are therefore intended to advance implementation of these human rights norms. Their purpose is not to create new rights or promote such concepts that are neither inter-governmentally agreed upon nor are universal, and remain very contentious.

In this context, we reiterate that there is no legal basis for the concept of SOGI, and experts in human rights treaty bodies have no mandate to question member states on this matter during state review.

Mr. President,

The Code of Conduct clearly stipulates that the UN Special Procedure Mandate-Holders must uphold the highest standards of professionalism, objectivity and non-selectivity in the execution of their mission.

In this regard, we register our deep disappointment that on contemporary issues of concern for the OIC Group, the relevant mandate-holders have chosen to pursue a selective and partisan approach.



A special mandate holder has even refrained from responding to a number of communications sent by the OIC Group on issues, which clearly fall within purview of the mandate. Such unprofessional attitude and aversion to constructive engagement carries the risk of eroding independent status and credibility of the UN Special Procedures system.

We therefore reiterate that experts who have willingly assumed human rights-related mandates must adhere to duties and responsibilities enshrined in the respective HRC Resolutions.

Thank you!