



**Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Mr. Umair Khalid, Third Secretary,
during General Debate on Agenda item 5 at the 49th session of the Human Rights
Council
22 March 2022**

Mr. President,

The OIC considers Council's allied bodies and mechanisms an important pillar of the UN human rights machinery, and reaffirms its continued constructive engagement with them.

We take note of the three Reports presented about the 2021 Social, Minority and Democracy Forums.

We hope the discussions at the respective Forums would, inter alia, galvanize concrete measures to address structural inequalities, assist developing countries in building back better, and safeguard and advance fundamental rights and freedoms of minorities, especially Muslim minorities against the rising tide of Islamophobia.

Mr. President,

We reiterate our long-standing concerns about the lack of equitable geographic representation and representation of different legal systems within the UN Special Procedures system.

This structural problem has constrained integration of diverse views and perspectives into the SPMHs' work, and affected examination of human rights related matters in their proper national, cultural, historical and religious context.

As stipulated in the working methods of the Consultative Group, we reiterate our call for availability of the disaggregated data on geographic representation, gender balance and representation of different legal systems within the Special Procedures system. We also stress upon the need to use this information to meaningfully rectify the current geographical and legal imbalance within the system.

Mr. President,

We believe that mandate-holders' full adherence to the Code of Conduct and Manual of Operations is essential to maintain the independent status and integrity of the system.

We take note of the Coordination Committee's commitment to further improve Special Procedures' efficiency and working methods. We strongly urge the Committee to share more concrete information about steps taken to address States' legitimate concerns on wide-ranging issues such as authenticity of sources, use of UN-official terminologies, time given to States for feedback on advance copies of press releases, and late publication of mandated reports.

Concluding, the OIC reiterates its call on Special Procedures to closely monitor the global surge in Islamophobia within their respective mandates. We also urge them to continue their advocacy for addressing root causes of widespread and systematic human rights violations, such as in situations of foreign occupation, long-festering conflicts and disputes, and forced displacement. I thank you.