



## Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

### Statement

#### 43<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

#### General Debate on Agenda item 3: "Protection and Promotion of all Human Rights, Civil Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the Right to Development"

#### Statement by Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

March 5, 2020

Madam President,

The OIC Member States reiterate that all human rights are equal and should be treated with similar focus and attention.

The OIC continues to advocate for the non-politicization of the Human Rights Council to ensure respect, promotion and protection of all human rights without discrimination. Selectivity and double standards delegitimize the global human rights agenda and tarnish the lofty ideals that we all stand for in this Council.

The OIC reaffirms that all human rights are indivisible and interrelated and wishes to underscore the importance of the Right to Development (R2D) in ensuring most basic human needs, poverty reduction and right to health, food and quality education. Realization of this right will create an enabling environment for the attainment of the SDGs and guarantee human dignity.

Madam President,

Due consideration must be given to the deep impact and legacy of historical injustices done to colonized peoples or those under occupation, their sufferings and the forced destruction of their national institutions, culture and identity, and the denial of their rights to self-determination<sup>1</sup> in our work. Peaceful settlement of internationally recognized disputes is essential for realization of the human rights of the affected populations. As the occupation forces abuse rights through the use of force and high-handed coercive measures, the legitimate political struggle against this onslaught cannot be subsumed as terrorism.

The OIC expresses its serious concerns at rising levels of populism, and chauvinistic nationalism, practised by mainstream political parties and their followers. Such behaviour breeds racism, xenophobia, discrimination, and anti-Islamic sentiments. It manifests in the forms of revocation of citizenship based on ethnicity, ridiculing religions and religious symbols, attacks on women wearing *hijab*, murder of Muslims and negative profiling of Muslims in official and private databases.

Madam President,

We would like to remind this Council that such hate motivated and supremacist behaviour provoked a world war in the last century. The OIC therefore, urges respective governments and this Council to address these worrying trends. The OIC countries stand ready to support efforts in this regard, in order not just to promote and protect all human rights but also to preserve international peace and security.

I thank you.

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<sup>1</sup>OIC Resolution No. 44/46-POL