



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

43rd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL **General Debate on Agenda Item 4: “Human Rights Situations that require Council’s attention”**

Statement by the OIC
10 March 2020

Madam President,

The OIC re-emphasizes the significance of ensuring objectivity, non-selectivity and a balanced approach in the consideration of human rights issues at the Council, and the elimination of double standards and politicization in this regard.

All human rights are equally important and thus, must be treated on the same footing and with the same emphasis, especially the right to development.

Madam President,

The OIC is seriously concerned over the rising incidents of xenophobia, Islamophobia, discrimination, intolerance, and violence against Muslims around the world.

The world has seen organized communal violence against Muslim minorities, attacks on women wearing hijabs, denigration of venerated religious personalities and symbols, vandalism of mosques, and denial of right to naturalization on the basis of religious, ethnic or racial grounds.

Social media platforms have also been employed to spread and amplify hate speech leading to terrorist attacks against Muslim communities.

Unfortunately, these serious human rights violations have been, in many cases, instigated by ethno-nationalist, far-right wing leaders for narrow political interests. This acquiescence at the highest level has further compounded the plight of the victims.

Madam President,

New and long-running conflicts and disputes and foreign occupation lie at the root cause of many human rights situations of concern. A number of crises like protracted refugee situations and forcible displacement around the world are the direct consequences of persecution, apartheid, discrimination, armed conflicts and violence, causing unimaginable suffering to the people especially the vulnerable segments of the society.

The Council must remain seized of these situations pertaining to disputes and conflicts, which are on the agenda of the United Nations and the OIC and on which both these organizations have passed numerous resolutions and communiqués.

We urge the Council and its allied mechanisms and bodies to continue its work on these disputed territories, in line with their mandates and with the spirit of objectivity and transparency.

I thank you.