



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

43rd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General Debate Agenda Item-9- Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the DDPA

Remarks on behalf of the OIC
June 16, 2020

Mr. President,

The OIC Member States strongly believe in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all peoples without any discrimination on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, colour or socio-economic status.

The OIC emphasizes on the need for effectively combating defamation of religions and incitement to religious hatred, hostility, violence and discrimination against Islam and Muslims¹. The OIC resolution 16/18 on "Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief" was an important step to combat violence on the basis of religion. This resolution indeed provides an Action Plan to combat the ever-increasing instances of Islamophobia, intolerance, negative stereo-typing, stigmatization and discrimination and violence all over the world.

Madam President,

The OIC Member States are concerned over increased incidents of anti-Muslim attacks and sentiments and the increasing level of Islamophobia, xenophobia, racism, religious prejudice, and ethnic hatred in societies that had long felt secure and immune to their toxic effects. We are gravely concerned on the rise of populist politics and rightwing extremist ideologies fanning hatred and religious intolerance particularly against Muslim populations in many countries around the world. We reiterate that States have the obligation to prohibit by law any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence² and must discharge their responsibilities effectively.

Muslims across the world have been the victims of the incidents of hate crime, violence and mob-lynching. The OIC calls for effective promotion and adequate protection against acts of hate crimes, hate speech, discrimination, intimidation and coercion resulting from defamation and negative stereotyping of religions, and incitement to religious hatred, as well as denigration of venerated personalities.

Madam President,

Recognition and respect for cultural diversity is an asset for advancement and welfare of humanity. Interreligious, inter-cultural and inter-civilizations dialogue is very important for

¹Resolution No. 34/46-POL

²Resolution No. 34/46-POL



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promotion of tolerance and peaceful coexistence. We urge the international community to take preventive measures against those elements that are detrimental to the promotion of tolerance and respect and ensure that no human person is discriminated on the basis of religion or belief, race or colour.

I thank you.