



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

43rd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Statement by Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities

(Article 8 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on awareness raising)

Friday March 6, 2020

Madam President,

On behalf of OIC, I thank the panelists for elaborating on the complementarity of awareness raising to the implementation of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD).

Islam regards disability to be a natural part of being a human and establishes a communal obligation on the greater community to assist those who are in need. The OIC Member States, cognizant of the importance of promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities including as part of their religious obligation, have greatly increased attention to the rights of persons with disabilities in their policies and programs. OIC's revised Charter and Ten-Year Program of Action 2025 place special emphasis on promoting and protecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms including the rights of people with special needs.

The OIC Member States continue to undertake numerous measures, including through awareness raising campaigns, media promotions and guidelines for the respect, promotion and protection of rights of all persons with disabilities.

Madam President,

The OIC Member States encourage all States to ensure the elimination of all barriers to the full participation of persons with disabilities, in particular children and women, in the socio-economic and developmental plans and progress of their respective societies¹ through effective public awareness campaigns designed to nurture positive perceptions and greater social awareness towards persons with disabilities.

I thank you.

¹https://www.oic-iphr.org/en/press_details.php?id=aW50MTIzMjE4X0AjlUA=