



## Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

### Statement

#### 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of Human Rights Council

#### Agenda Item-3 - Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

04 March 2020

#### Statement by the OIC

Madam President,

The OIC Member States thank the Special Rapporteur for detailed presentation of his report.

The OIC recognizes the right and responsibility of individuals, groups, and organs of society in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Defending human rights and fundamental freedoms entails shared aspirations, goals and targets. In this regard, the role of government officials, civil servants, or members of the private sector must also be duly acknowledged and strengthened.

The OIC is fully committed to providing a safe and an enabling environment to individuals and groups to carry out their legitimate and peaceful work, in line with the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Madam President,

As highlighted by the Report, we fully acknowledge the significant and multiple roles, which human rights defenders are playing in various conflict and post-conflict situations across the globe.

In cases of Occupied Palestinian Territory, Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, and Myanmar, we have witnessed inspiring examples of journalists, lawyers, and human rights activists, who have exposed, documented and reported widespread, systemic and systematic human rights abuses in conflict areas.

In doing so, they have courageously risked their lives and faced intimidation, harassment and reprisals at the hands of occupation powers and abusers.

Madam President,

OIC would like to hear the Rapporteur's further views about legal measures available, several of which have been highlighted in the report, with the international community, including the UN, under international human rights and humanitarian laws, for ensuring safety and protection of human rights defenders, working in occupied territories, and conflict areas.

I thank you.