



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

43rd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Statement by Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights
March 3, 2020

Madam President,

On behalf of OIC, I thank the Special Rapporteur for her presentation.

Islam laid the architecture of human rights-based society where interests of the vulnerable and disadvantaged were secured through codification of rights and responsibilities. Teachings of Islam urge due care of children and grants them full rights and require that all children, girls and boys alike, have the right to live in dignity and thrive to reach their full potential¹.

The OIC countries believe that every child has the right to a full and productive life. It is essential that all States take steps to ensure that every child grows up in an environment that builds confidence, well-being, happiness and security².

Secretary-General António Guterres said to the Human Rights Council in 2019: “More people are speaking out about the indispensability of cultural rights for protecting the diversity of beliefs and practices on our planet, recognizing these rights as an essential tool for preserving diversity and our common heritage.”³

Madam President,

The OIC countries reaffirm their commitment to ensure protection of children, prevention of their exploitation and provision of an enabling environment for their physical and psychological wellbeing⁴.

We request the Special Rapporteur to elaborate how the situation of children living under foreign occupation makes them vulnerable to sale and sexual exploitation and what measures can the international community and the UN human rights machinery can undertake to alleviate their situation.

I thank you.

¹ Tripoli Declaration on Accelerating Early Childhood Development in the Islamic World (2011)

² OIC SESRIC publication - OIC Outlook Series June 2015 - The State of Children in OIC Member Countries

³ [un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2019-02-25/secretary-generals-remarks-the-human-rights-council-delivered-bilingual-scroll-down-for-all-english-version](https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2019-02-25/secretary-generals-remarks-the-human-rights-council-delivered-bilingual-scroll-down-for-all-english-version).

⁴ https://www.oic-iphrc.org/en/press_details.php?id=MDQwX0AjlUA=