



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

43rd Session of Human Rights Council

Agenda Item-3 - Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Minority issues

Statement by the OIC

11 March 2020

Madam President,

The OIC thanks the Special Rapporteur for his detailed presentation.

We have taken note of the working definition of minority put forward by the Rapporteur in his recent report. We would examine it legally in light of applicable international human rights law.
Madam President,

Islamic teachings enjoin the equality of all human beings before law and safeguarding their basic rights and freedoms, without discrimination on any ground. Islam, in fact, aims to promote a culture of tolerance, peaceful co-existence, social harmony and cohesion.

In line with this Islamic vision, the OIC countries remain fully committed to protecting and promoting rights of persons belonging to minorities.

Madam President,

The OIC is seriously concerned over the systematic and consistent violations of human rights of Muslim minorities living in different parts of the world.

Under ethno-nationalist and populist regimes, the space for Muslims and other minorities is shrinking with questions being raised on the citizenship.

The OIC expresses its deep concerns over the closing of borders to migrants and refugees in the name of national security; people being made stateless through discriminatory legislative measures; communal violence being incited as part of a well-planned ethnic cleansing campaign; and hate speech being used to stir popular sentiments against minorities.

The OIC remains disturbed over State-sponsored attacks on cultural and religious identity of Muslim minorities through imposition of bans on Muslim women wearing hijabs, ridicule of religious personalities and symbols and wanton destruction of religious sites.

Madam President,

The OIC, therefore, requests the Rapporteur to sharpen his focus on these troubling developments, and play his role in shaping the Council and its allied mechanisms' responses to them, in accordance with his mandate.

I thank you.