



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 right to privacy

Statement by OIC

04 March 2019

Madam President,

The OIC calls for safeguarding and advancing the right to privacy of everyone, without discrimination on any ground, in line with applicable international human rights law.

In fact, Islamic teachings strongly advocate protection of private space of an individual. The Holy Quran, in Chapter-49 (Al-Hujurat) verse 12 says, “Avoid suspicion as much (as possible): for suspicion in some case is a sin: And spy not on each other”*.

Madam President,

OIC is seriously concerned that the report under discussion reflects a new unfortunate pattern, under which the UN mandate-holders are preparing reports on controversial concepts, which lack consensus among UN Member States and do not have any legality under international human rights law.

This lop-sided focus, we believe, undermines the inclusive character of the Council. Such an approach risks fomenting divisions and shrinking space for genuine dialogue and cooperation. In many ways, it is at variance with cherished family values upheld by many states and societies. In the broader picture, it will only serve to detract our collective efforts in advancing the global human rights agenda.

Madam President,

The OIC urges the UN mandate-holders to fully take into consideration diverse perspectives of all Member States, and avoid selectivity in carrying out their mandated work. Promoting controversial themes, which are favored by some countries at the cost of others, will only erode credibility and objectivity of the UN mandate holders.

OIC, therefore, calls upon all the mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, to focus on thematic areas, which are legally well-defined under international human rights law.

On its part, the OIC reaffirms its constructive engagement with the Special Rapporteur and other mandate holders.

I thank you.