



## 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  
rights of persons with disabilities

*Remarks on behalf of the OIC*

28 February 2020

Madam President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her work and her reports.

The OIC Member countries realize that people with disabilities face persistent inequalities in social, economic, cultural, environmental, and political spheres. In particular, the economic, legislative, physical, and social environment may create or maintain barriers to the participation of people with disabilities in economic, civic, and social life. 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.

In line with Islamic principles, the OIC Member countries have identified people with special needs as an important area of cooperation under the OIC-2025 Programme of Action. Recognizing these persistent and common challenges faced by them, the OIC Member countries have decided to include this topic as part of the biennial Ministerial Conference on Social Development.

Madam President,

Being conscious of the importance of welfare and social security for PWDs, and in implementation of relevant Islamic Ministerial resolutions, the OIC is also working on a draft plan for the persons with special needs<sup>1</sup>.

The OIC Member states will continue efforts to address challenges faced by people with disabilities in areas such as education, health, economic integration, governance, supportive environment, and culture and increase their participation in the development of their societies.

I thank you.

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<sup>1</sup>Draft plan was discussed at the first Islamic Ministerial conference on Social Development in December 2019 in Istanbul