



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN

Geneva

Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate Agenda item 2 at the 45th session of Human Rights Council

(15 September 2020)

Madame President,

The OIC thanks the High Commissioner for her oral update.

The OIC reaffirms that the principles of universality, impartiality, non-selectivity and transparency should continue to guide the Council in discharging its mandate.

The OIC calls for mitigating the human rights implications and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by paying special attention to the needs of the most vulnerable groups including migrants, refugees, displaced persons and those living under illegal occupation.

The implementation of global human rights agenda would remain elusive without this Council's sustained efforts to effectively address systematic and continued violations of human rights of people suffering from long-running conflicts and disputes on the UN and OIC agenda namely, Palestine, Myanmar, Jammu and Kashmir, and Nagorno-Karabakh.

The OIC urges the OHCHR to continue work on publication of data on business enterprises involved in activities related to Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestine. We urge all UN bodies, especially the Council, to earnestly follow up on the implementation of resolutions on the Palestine dispute and hold accountable those responsible for violations of the rights of the Palestinian people.

The OIC views the provisional order by the International Court of Justice on Myanmar as a positive development and calls upon this Council to work towards securing justice and accountability for the Rohingya people, including through their safe, dignified and voluntary return to their homes in Myanmar. The OIC reiterates full solidarity with the Government and people of Bangladesh in addressing the Rohingya crisis and urges the international community to provide full assistance to Bangladesh and actively remain seized of the matter until a durable solution is achieved.

The OIC remains concerned about the human rights situation in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and calls on all concerned to ensure the protection of their basic rights and fundamental freedoms. We also urge the Council to implement the recommendations contained in the OHCHR's two reports on Jammu & Kashmir. The OIC also reminds the international community of its obligations to ensure the implementation of UN Security



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Council resolutions on Kashmir and fulfill the promises made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The OIC is deeply distressed over the plight of more than one million Azerbaijani displaced persons and refugees resulting from the Armenian aggression, and calls upon the High Commissioner to take a principled position to ensuring restoration of violated human rights of Azerbaijani IDPs and refugees in line with the relevant resolutions of UNSC on the conflict.

On Afghanistan, the OIC welcomes the launch of historic talks between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban and supports peace and reconciliation efforts for reaching lasting peace and stability in the country and the region and urges all stakeholders to uphold and preserve the human rights of all Afghan citizens, especially Afghan women in this process.

Madame President,

The OIC remains deeply concerned on the growing incidents of xenophobia, Islamophobia and religious intolerance, resulting in denigration of venerated religious personalities and symbols. Recent incidents like burning of the religious text and ridiculing religious personalities constitute grave incitement to violence. There can be no justification for such premeditated acts, invoking the right to freedom of expression. The OIC calls upon all stakeholders to speak out against these deliberate acts of provocation that have no basis under international human rights law. Culprits behind such acts must be held to account and brought to justice.

The frequent recurrence of such acts warrants that the Council and the UN human rights machinery play their role in combating hate speech, both offline and online, on the basis of religion or belief.

I thank you.