



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, during the General Debate on Agenda item 3 at the 45th Session of Human Rights Council

(22 September 2020)

Madam President,

The OIC supports the realization of all human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as well as in international human rights covenants.

The OIC reiterates the equality, universality, interdependence, indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights.

The OIC continues to advocate respect, promotion and protection of all human rights without discrimination.

Selective approaches and double standards erode the credibility of the global human rights agenda and undermine the legitimacy of the HRC.

The OIC reiterates its call for consolidating international efforts to combat xenophobia, intolerance, stigmatization and stereotyping.

The OIC condemns *Islamophobia*, in all its forms and manifestations, whether directed through online or offline hate speech or populist rhetoric, anti migration policies and twisted media narratives.

Deliberate denigration of religious personalities and religious symbols is a clear incitement to violence and cannot be justified under any pretext.

This Council must unite against the espousal of racial discrimination, hate speech, bigotry and demagoguery, often tied to electoral objectives as they disrupt societal, cultural and interfaith harmony.

Madam President,

We draw this Council's attention to the plight of colonized people under illegal occupation who face forced destruction of their national institutions, culture and identity, and denial of their rights to self-determination. Peaceful settlement of internationally recognized disputes is essential for realization of the human rights of the affected populations. As the occupation forces abuse rights through the use of force, displacements and demographic changes including illegal settlements, the legitimate political struggle against this onslaught cannot be equalled with terrorism.



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The OIC views the Right to Development as a key enabler for the realization of basic human rights of all peoples. The COVID pandemic has revalidated the centrality and relevance of this right to achieve SDGs in ways that no one is left behind.

The OIC urges the entire UN system to prioritize the Right to Development in all relevant programs, and activities. In the face of the pandemic, OIC urges all countries to strengthen international collaboration for the development and production of safe, effective and affordable COVID-19 diagnostic, therapeutics, and vaccines, and ensure its equitable access and distribution globally through international mechanism such as ACT.

Thank you