



Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, during General Debate on Agenda item 3 at the 46th Session of Human Rights Council

(8 March 2021)

Madam President,

The OIC supports the realization of all human rights, as laid down in the UN Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and international human rights covenants.

We reaffirm the equality, universality, interdependence, indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights

In line with the Preamble and Article 1 (3) of the UN Charter, the OIC advocates respect for and promotion and protection of all human rights without discrimination.

Selective approaches, double standards and undue politicization erode the credibility of global human rights agenda and undermine the legitimacy of the Human Rights Council.

Madam President,

The OIC reiterates its call for renewed commitment to combat xenophobia, intolerance, stigmatization and stereotyping, driven by prejudices of religion, race, sex and language.

The OIC condemns *Islamophobia*, in all its forms and manifestations, either directed through online or offline hate speech or populist rhetoric, and anti-migration policies that deny migrants their fundamental human rights, including the right to life, and twisted media narratives.

Respect for religious sensibilities of individuals and communities is an essential component of upholding their respective human rights.

Deliberate denigration of personalities and symbols belonging to any religion constitutes incitement to violence. It cannot and must not be justified under any pretext.

This Council must unite against the espousal of racial discrimination, hate speech, bigotry and demagoguery. Espoused by populist policies for parochial electoral objectives, such attitude disrupts societal, cultural and interfaith harmony, leading to systematic violations of a wide variety of human rights.

Madam President,

The OIC draws this Council's attention to the plight of people under illegal occupation who face forced destruction of their national institutions, culture and identity, and denial of their rights to self-determination. 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 equated with terrorism. Peaceful settlement of



internationally recognized disputes is essential for realization of the human rights of the affected populations.

The OIC views the Right to Development (R2D) as an important enabler for the realization of basic human rights. We urge the UN system to mainstream and prioritize the R2D in all relevant programs, and activities.

The ongoing COVID pandemic has revalidated the salience of the R2D to achieve SDGs and remove inequalities.

The COVID pandemic has also underscored the importance of the right to health. The OIC urges all countries to strengthen international collaboration for equitable and affordable availability of COVID-19 diagnostic, therapeutic and vaccines, as global public goods, to all countries and communities.

Thank you.