



**Statement on behalf of the OIC, delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, during Presentation of  
Amendment on HRC Resolution, A/HRC/53/L.25-Rev 1  
53<sup>rd</sup> HRC Session  
13<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**Mr. President,**

On behalf of the OIC member states, we have tabled an oral amendment on draft resolution L.25-Rev 1.

Let me at the outset express our solidarity with the government of Colombia in its endeavors to achieve peace, reconciliation, stability and well as ensuring the realization and enjoyment of fundamental rights. We recognize the important contribution of technical assistance from the OHCHR aimed at strengthening capacity of Columbia in implementing the provisions of peace agreement. It has been OIC's consistent position that the technical assistance should always be with the consent and cooperation of state concerned which is visible in the form of L.25-Rev 1.

Notwithstanding our support to Colombia and the objectives of the draft text, we express our serious reservation over the inclusion of reference to "Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity" in Preambular Paragraph 16 of L25.Rev1 as it is neither agreed universally nor does it carry acceptance under the existing international human rights law. We have always opposed the efforts to integrate SOGI into UN documents and resolutions as these concepts also run contrary to social, cultural and religious peculiarities of majority of UN member states as reflected in VDPA.

The OIC has always advocated for the promotion and protection of universally agreed human rights norms and principles. While OIC countries adhere to the principle of zero tolerance against violence, discrimination, xenophobia on any ground, they do not support creating new set of categories of rights based on personal choices of certain individuals.

Normalization of controversial concepts through technical assistance resolution is not acceptable.

As a compromise and in a spirit of cooperation, we suggested the core-group to replace SOGI with "persons in other vulnerable situations". The detail of cooperation can be worked out between Colombia and the OHCHR.

Unfortunately, our proposal has not been accommodated.

The oral amendment will not undermine the spirit of the text but would strengthen the ongoing work in Colombia to deal with issues of violence and discrimination on all grounds. Consistent with the international human rights law.

We trust that the members of the Council can vote in favour of the amendment.

I thank you!