



Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate under agenda item No. 4 at the 48th Human Rights Council session

24 September 2021

Madam President,

The OIC reiterates that the Council's work under this agenda item should be carried out in full compliance with the principles of universality, objectivity, and impartiality, as enshrined in the UNGA resolution 60/251.

Accordingly, the Council should foster genuine dialogue and constructive engagement with the concerned country in order to better understand local context, challenges and peculiarities. In consideration of human rights situations, all basic rights should be treated on the same footing with same emphasis.

We share concerns over the increasing politicization of the Council's work and interference into the internal affairs of sovereign States. Such approaches contravene the cardinal principles and purposes of the UN Charter, and should, therefore, be eschewed.

Similarly, the Council must maintain its credibility by considering each situation on its human rights merit. We are deeply disturbed to see that many situations, which are on the agenda of both the UN and the OIC, have become blind-spots for many members and observers of this Council in deference to their bilateral interests.

Madam President,

The OIC urges the Council, as the premier international body, to ensure protection of the rights, freedoms and dignity of Muslims minorities vis-à-vis the rising tide of State-sponsored Islamophobia.

The OIC reiterates its strong condemnation of the widely documented organized violence against Muslims, burqa ban, curbs on religious education, vandalization of mosques, deliberate ridicule of revered religious personalities and symbols under the garb of free speech, and denial of right to naturalization on discriminatory basis. The Council has a duty to push back against these disturbing trends through taking meaningful actions.

Madam President,

The OIC also calls upon the Council to take credible steps to put an end to the systematic, sustained and widely recorded human rights violations and entrenched impunity in situations of foreign occupation and protracted conflicts. The escalating violence, forced displacement and illegal attempts to obliterate distinct religious, cultural and demographic identity of Muslims in these situations are a matter of grave concern for the OIC.



We, therefore, urge the Council to actively monitor and report on the human rights conditions in situations of foreign occupation, disputes and conflicts, which are on the agenda of the United Nations and the OIC, and on which both organizations have adopted numerous resolutions. I thank you.