



Statement on behalf of OIC, delivered by Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary, during Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief
52nd Session

13 March 2023

Mr. President,

On behalf of OIC, we take note of Special Rapporteur's first report.

We view the three-dimensional framework used by the SR as a non-exhaustive framework requiring further discussion.

We agree with the SR in her comment that abuse of religion or belief as a tool of discrimination, hostility, and violence should be condemned by all actors at every level of society.

We believe that SR's comment fully applies to the acts, based on any belief or thought, that entail targeting minority communities for their faith and values and by denigrating their most revered personalities and religious symbols. Accordingly, we expected the SR to condemn recent Islamophobic acts of burning the Holy Quran.

We consider Islamophobia as a contemporary form of racism. We agree with the SR that international law rejects such acts. It also enshrines the responsibilities and duties in exercising free speech.

We reiterate our strong condemnation of recent incidents of the burning of the Quran. We call on the SR to also denounce and condemn such incidents in line with her mandate and urge states to hold the perpetrators accountable

We request SR for her views regarding the ongoing discussions to bridge the existing gaps either through negotiating an additional protocol to ICERD or alternatively enacting a separate instrument to counter religious discrimination in line with UNGA decision 1962.

I thank you.