



**Statement on behalf of the OIC, delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, DPR, during the
General Debate under Item 2
54th HRC Session
12 September 2023**

Mr. President,

We thank the High Commissioner for his oral update at a time when the global human rights landscape presents a mixed picture.

Economic rights of billions are at risk from widening global economic inequalities, impacts of climate change and geopolitical contestations. Similarly, social rights are being undermined by an increase in incidents of religious discrimination, intolerance and hatred.

While welcoming adoption of HRC resolution 53/1, we reiterate our strong condemnation of acts of religious hatred manifested in the desecration of the Holy Quran and places of worship. We take note of the law enforcement and legislative proposals in some cases and call upon remaining states to emulate these steps in line with their human rights obligations.

We are concerned over the increasing human rights violations of migrants and refugees at various European borders, as documented by UNHCR and others.

Mr. President,

The OIC reiterates its longstanding call for upholding respect for human rights and international humanitarian law in the OPT including in East Jerusalem. We reaffirm our support to the COI's work including their request to seek access for their work. Those responsible for committing war crimes and grave human rights violations against Palestinian people in the occupied territory must be held accountable. All measures aimed at institutionalizing illegal occupation and settlement enterprise are illegal and must be reversed.

The human rights situation in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir remains a matter of deep anguish for OIC countries. We urge India to comply with the applicable UN Security Council resolutions as well as heed recommendations addressed to it in the two Kashmir reports by OHCHR, which needs to be updated. Recent observations made by special procedure mandate holders on the draconian laws in this occupied territory require close attention by this Council.

The OIC calls on this Council to work towards securing justice and accountability for the Rohingya people, including through their safe, dignified, and voluntary return to their homes in Myanmar. The OIC reiterates its full solidarity with Bangladesh and supports calls for assistance to Bangladesh in efforts to achieving a durable solution.

The OIC condemns the damage and loss of properties inflicted by Armenia including cultural heritage and religious sites in the territories of Azerbaijan liberated from the occupation. The OIC reaffirms its full support to the Government and people of Azerbaijan in their efforts to rehabilitate and rebuild the liberated territories. We call upon the international community to extend assistance to Azerbaijan for safe and dignified return of Azerbaijani IDPs.

I thank you!