



**Statement delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative during Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on human rights situation of women and girls in Afghanistan**

**12 September 2022**

**Mr. President,**

The OIC has consistently called for full respect of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Afghans, especially women and girls. We therefore urge the de facto authorities to allow Afghans of all ages, especially girls to continue their education. In this regard we hope the defacto authorities will revisit their decision to suspend secondary education for girls.

Meaningful participation of Afghan women and girls in public life is imperative for their individual well-being, as well as for the socio-economic development of the country, ravaged by decades of conflict and instability.

The OIC is mindful of Afghanistan's peculiar social, cultural and religious context. We recognize the central role that religious scholars can play in continuing dialogue and exchange of best practices with the de facto authorities on women and girls' rights. We therefore encourage the international community to support all such efforts.

**Mr. President,**

Afghanistan remains seriously underdeveloped and remains vulnerable to economic collapse, financial and natural disasters.

The cumulative effects of conflict, violence and natural disasters have exacerbated the dire humanitarian, social, economic and human rights conditions of Afghan people, including women and girls.

The OIC therefore re-emphasizes the importance of sustained international engagement with people of Afghanistan in the areas of recovery, reconstruction, development and financial assistance.

On its part, the OIC reaffirms its full support to our Afghan brothers and sisters in their quest for durable peace, stability, and development. **Thank you.**

*Speaking time: 1 minute 30 sec*

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