



**Statement on behalf of OIC by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary during
General Debate on Item 9
51st Human Rights Council Session
03 October 2022**

Mr. President,

The OIC reaffirms the importance of combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all its forms and manifestations.

We thank the Chair-Rapporteur of the Adhoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards, Ambassador Kadra Hassan for her briefing and presentation of 11 and 12th Sessions reports.

The OIC accords high importance to the Committee's mandate and renews its support for elaborating complementary standards to further strengthen the international human rights framework against racism, xenophobia and related intolerance.

We regret to note that even after 15 years since the establishment of this Committee, meaningful progress remains elusive.

Yet, the challenges in this thematic area have aggravated.

Rise of right-wing ideologies, systemic racism, racial profiling, discriminations and violence including on the basis of religion pose a serious threat to social fabric of societies and undermine the principle of peaceful coexistence.

The OIC is gravely concerned over systematic targeting of individuals on the basis of their religion or belief, especially against Muslim individuals and communities. We deplore actions, threatening sanctity of religious places including centuries old mosques.

We unequivocally condemn the practice of insulting Islam, Christianity, Judaism and any other religion.

Publishing caricatures in France, burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden, ban on facial veils in some European countries, rise of Islamophobic trends including in Netherlands, Denmark and Norway and hateful remarks by spokespersons of India's ruling party are ugly manifestations of this condemnable trend.

Such provocative Islamophobic incidents serve no purpose other than hurting the sensitivities of over 1.5 billion Muslims and could not be justified under the guise of free speech.

The OIC reaffirms its support for the right to freedom of expression and opinion in line with articles 19 and 20 of the ICCPR.



We call on the High Commissioner and Special Procedures to speak out against such troubling incidents and demand accountability for incitement to hatred and increasingly violent behaviors.

We trust that declaring March 15 as International Day to combat Islamophobia would provide impetus to our efforts to meaningfully combat discrimination on the basis of religion or belief.

The OIC remains committed to finalizing an additional protocol to ICERD. This protocol would be a critical tool to help bridge the existing legal and regulatory gaps in combating all forms of contemporary racism, including Islamophobia.

We reiterate our call on the international community to take meaningful legislative and administrative steps to prevent the growing plague of racism in all its contemporary forms and manifestations.