



**Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative during General Debate under agenda item No. 4 at the 51<sup>st</sup> Human Rights Council session 26 September 2022**

**Mr. President,**

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

Dialogue and engagement with the country concerned should remain the preferred vehicle in addressing a human rights situation. Due consideration must be given to local circumstances, development challenges and social, cultural and religious context. All basic rights should be treated on the same footing with equal emphasis.

We echo concerns over the increasing politicization of the Council's work and pursuit of selective approaches. Regrettably, these measures contravene the basic principles and purposes of the UN Charter, and should, therefore, be eschewed.

The Council's credibility rests on considering each situation on its human rights merit. We are deeply concerned that many situations, on the agenda of both the UN and the OIC, have become blind spots in deference to bilateral political and commercial interests. We call for revisiting of such partisan approaches.

**Mr. President,**

As the premier international human rights body, the Council has the duty to protect and promote basic rights, fundamental freedoms and dignity of Muslim minorities against the global surge in state-driven Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred.

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 must push back against these disturbing trends by taking meaningful actions.

**Mr. President,**

The OIC renews its call upon the Council to halt the systematic, and widely recorded human rights violations in situations of foreign occupation and protracted conflicts. The escalating violations, forced displacement and unlawful attempts to change the distinct religious, cultural and demographic identity of Muslims in these situations, with complete impunity, remain a matter of grave concern for the OIC.

We, therefore, urge the Council and its allied mechanisms to continue monitoring and reporting on the state of human rights in situations of foreign occupation, disputes and conflicts, which are on the agenda of the UN and the OIC, and on which both organizations have adopted numerous resolutions. Thank you.

**Allotted speaking time: 2 min 30 sec**



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