



**Statement delivered on behalf of OIC by Amb. Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative, during the Introduction of Draft Resolution on the Draft Resolution on “Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping and Stigmatization of, and Discrimination, Incitement to Violence, and Violence against Persons based on Religion or Belief” A/HRC/52/L.30**  
**52<sup>nd</sup> HRC Session**  
**4<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Mr. President,**

Pakistan, on behalf of the OIC, has the honour to introduce the annual draft resolution on “Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief”, as contained in document L.30.

The continued consensual adoption of this resolution by the Council demonstrates our common resolve to combat intolerance, discrimination and violence against persons based on religion or belief.

**Mr. President,**

L.30 reiterates Council’s deep concerns over the rising instances of intolerance, discrimination, xenophobia, and violence against individuals and communities because of their religious beliefs. To address this issue frontally and effectively, the draft continues to call upon States to implement the eight-point Action Plan, commonly known as 16/18 Action Plan.

As part of this Action Plan, L.30 urges States to inter alia publicly speak out against any advocacy of religious hatred; criminalize hate speech; stamp out discrimination in fields of education, health, employment, and media; and foster inter-faith dialogue and harmony.

Furthermore, L.30 also welcomes the various meetings held within the framework of Istanbul Process to advance implementation of 16/18 Action Plan. *The Istanbul Process has indeed served us a useful platform, enabling exchange of views, perspectives, and best practices among States, civil society, faith community, private sector and other relevant stakeholders.*

**Mr. President,**



While the political consensus on this contemporary issue has endured, we are seriously concerned about the steady surge in religious intolerance, discrimination, negative stereotyping, and Islamophobia worldwide.

The highly offensive public desecration of Holy Quran in some countries, committed to implementation of 16/18 Action Plan, speaks to the growing gap between rhetoric and reality. The Istanbul process should not be left to annual ritualistic statements that now evidently lack credibility.

Such avoidable incidents, which continue to recur, demonstrate that effective and balanced implementation of all parts of the Action Plan, including building legal deterrence against all forms and manifestations of religious intolerance, is much needed.

The apologist tendency to pitch one fundamental freedom against another one as a pretext for silence and inaction must be stopped henceforth. It is time for States to walk the talk and fulfill their obligations and commitments in rooting out this scourge.

**Mr. President,**

The OIC underscores that respecting each other's religions, revered personalities and holy scriptures is essential for promoting peace and harmony among and within societies.

We, therefore, sincerely hope that consensual adoption of the draft resolution, coupled with its meaningful and tangible implementation, will help advance realization of these shared objectives.

**I thank you.**