



**Statement on behalf of OIC by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor during  
Interactive Dialogue with the Report of the Working Group on  
discrimination against women and girls**

**50th HRC Session**

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**Mr. President,**

The OIC Member States take note of the Working Group's report on Girls' and young women's activism.

We attach great importance to the promotion and protection of rights of women and girls. In this spirit, the OIC countries are taking several affirmative measures aimed at combating discrimination against women and girls, ensuring women empowerment, and providing access to basic services including health, education, food and livelihoods.

While we acknowledge that the issue of activism resonates with the freedom of expression, this concept has however not been defined and codified in the existing international human rights law. We invite the Working Group to spell out the normative and legal framework of "social activism" from human rights perspective as the current legal analysis in the report use it as a wide-ranging umbrella term labelling anyone engaging in public life as a human rights defender.

From the legal standpoint, the international human rights instruments provide clear guidance on the enjoyment of human rights by women and girl child. For example, the CRC stipulates children's evolving capacities, parental guidance, and importance of peculiar social, cultural and religious values with respect to their wellbeing.

These legal guidelines must be adhered including during our deliberations at the Council in this area.

The fundamental rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association should be exercised in accordance with international human rights law, respective national legal frameworks and socio-culture peculiarities.

I thank you.