



**Explanation of Vote before the Vote on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi,
Permanent Representative during the Mandate Renewal of Independent Expert on
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

**50th Human Rights Council Session
07 July 2022**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the OIC countries except Albania, we reject the draft resolution as amended, seeking renewal of the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The OIC is of the view that draft text neither reflects the legality of international human rights framework nor does it represent universal values. In fact, the text undermines the key human rights principles of universality, equality, impartiality and objectivity as highlighted in the Institution Building Package of this Council and UN General Assembly resolution 60/251.

The OIC regrets to note the presentation of rationale behind this text which is not grounded in international norms and values.

The OIC further notes with disappointment the propensity to mainstream and promote controversial concepts that are inconsistent with the principles of international human rights law.

Our opposition to the draft text flows from the following key elements:

- One; there is no universal consensus on the concept of sexual orientation and gender identity and this concept is not recognized by international human rights law as ground of discrimination.
- Two; grounds of discrimination are well-codified in International human rights covenants, calling on state parties to honour their human rights obligations without discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
- Three; these concepts run contrary to social, cultural and religious peculiarities of many UN member states and undercut the shared values of respect for diversity and pluralism.
- Four; international human rights law provides sufficient grounds to counter discrimination and violence against people for any reason, obviating the need to elevate personal sexual preferences as fundamental rights.

The OIC Member States reaffirm their commitment to uphold human rights of all individuals without any discrimination and reject violence on any ground. However, we cannot support efforts aimed at inventing new sets of rights on the basis of personal sexual preferences.



In line with article 16 of the UDHR, we also reaffirm that men and women of full age, have the right to marry and to establish a family and stress the need to provide full protection to Family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society.

In view of the concerns highlighted above and in line with our consistent opposition to this mandate in 2016 and 2019, the OIC does not support the extension of the mandate. We, therefore, call for a vote on the draft text before the Council and trust that the Council members would vote against this divisive resolution. We request this EOV be made part of the Council's report.