



Statement delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative during the Urgent Debate on human rights situation of women and girls in Afghanistan at 50th Human Rights Council Session

1 July 2022

Mr. President,

First, we convey our deepest condolences over the loss of precious lives and extensive damage, caused by the recent earthquake and floods in Afghanistan. The OIC countries as well as the OIC Islamic Solidarity Fund are providing all possible assistance to Afghan people in this tragic hour, and urge the international community to do so as well.

The OIC shares concerns about the state of women and girls' rights in Afghanistan.

We note with disappointment that the decision by the de facto authorities to suspend education in girls' high schools until further notice still stands. The OIC has consistently affirmed the fundamental rights of all Afghans, including the right to education. They must be fully upheld. We urge the de facto authorities to reconsider this decision and to allow Afghans of all ages to continue their education.

Meaningful participation of Afghan women and girls in all spheres of public life remains important for their individual well-being, as well as for the socio-economic development of the country, ravaged by decades of conflict and instability.

The OIC is mindful of Afghanistan's peculiar social, cultural and religious context. We therefore recognize the central role that Islamic scholars can play in continuing dialogue and exchange of best practices with the de facto authorities on women and girls' rights. We also encourage the international community to support all such engagement efforts.

Mr. President,

No country has consistently faced the level of violence and instability for so long as Afghanistan. In protecting human rights, we should, therefore, be more engaging, realistic and not selective in our approaches.

The cumulative effects of conflict, violence and natural disasters have further exacerbated the dire humanitarian, social, economic and human rights conditions of Afghan people, including women and girls. The OIC therefore re-emphasizes the importance of sustained international engagement with Afghanistan.

Provision of necessary recovery, reconstruction, development, financial, educational, technical and material assistance to Afghanistan remain essential policy catalysts for advancing and safeguarding basic rights, needs and dignity of the Afghan people.



Similarly, pursuit of pragmatic solutions to unfreeze Afghanistan's financial assets is critical to preventing an economic meltdown, and further deterioration of the humanitarian and human rights situation.

On its part, the OIC is engaging the de facto authorities through its Mission in Kabul and appointment of a Special Envoy. To address the urgent humanitarian and human rights needs of Afghan people, we have also established a Food Security Programme, and successfully operationalized the Humanitarian Trust Fund.

The OIC reaffirms its full support to our Afghan brothers and sisters in their quest for durable peace, stability, and prosperity for everyone in the country. **Thank you.**