



**Statement, delivered on behalf of the OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Organizational Meeting of the Human Rights Council for the Special Session on Afghanistan**

**23 August 2021**

**Madam President,**

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the OIC Member States, that have requested convening of the Special Session on the serious human rights concerns and situation in Afghanistan.

We thank the countries that have joined and supported our call for this session.

**Madam President,**

The OIC shares the serious concerns around human rights and the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

It is of utmost importance that all parties respect, safeguard and advance the fundamental rights, dignity and freedoms of Afghan citizens at this critical juncture. All parties should refrain from violence, and fully abide by their obligations under the international human rights and humanitarian laws.

The decades old conflict remains the underlying driver of human rights violations and abuses in Afghanistan.

It is, therefore, imperative that all Afghan parties engage in meaningful dialogue and negotiations to find a just, durable and political settlement of the protracted conflict. The Afghan people have for too long suffered from war, conflict and instability in the country, and deserve nothing less.

**Madam President,**

The OIC is of the considered view that the international community should remain actively engaged with Afghanistan on the political, human rights, development and humanitarian tracks. Abandonment is not an option. The global community, including this Council, should speak with one voice and in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan.

Our collective and immediate objective should be to prevent loss of innocent lives, deliver humanitarian assistance to those in need, and expedite the intra-Afghan reconciliation and political settlement.

In an effort to promote these objectives, the OIC has put together a draft resolution, as outcome of the Special Session. Earlier today, we also convened informal consultations on the proposed text. We trust this Council would support the OIC's call for strengthening promotion



and protection of human rights of people of Afghanistan as well as securing a just and peaceful future for them.

The OIC looks forward to the discussions at the Special Session and consensual adoption of the outcome resolution. I thank you, Madam President.