



Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate under Agenda Item 6

16 March 2021

Madam President,

The OIC values the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process as a useful mechanism of the Human Rights Council. This is evident by the high level of participation of member states in the process and steady growth of legislative, policy and administrative steps taken by States to advance human rights, pursuant to UPR recommendations.

The OIC calls for upholding UPR's key principles of universality, impartiality, transparency, and equality, as we approach the completion of the third UPR cycle.

Commencing with the preparation of national reports and compilations of civil society and UN contributions, the UPR process provides a unique opportunity to share best-practices, highlight national achievements and offer constructive feedback.

Through positive interactions in the entirety of a UPR cycle, States have demonstrated tangible progress in the promotion and protection of all human rights including through introducing voluntarily policy and institutional reforms.

The UPR process has led to the improvement of human rights situations and strengthening of human rights framework in several countries. It would be prudent to utilize this mechanism as a source of providing technical cooperation and capacity building of member states.

Madam President,

As an effective and unique peer review mechanism, it represents a useful platform for engaging in a meaningful dialogue among range of stakeholders, including the civil society and National Human Rights Institutions. We appreciate the role of civil society organization and national human rights institutions during the UPR process.

The spirit of constructive engagement should continue to guide the future work of the UPR mechanism.

The OIC also commends the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for their role in smooth and efficient proceedings of the UPR process.

I thank you.