



**Statement, delivered on behalf of the OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi,
Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, at 11th Session of the Adhoc
Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards**

06 December 2021

Madam Chair,

On behalf of the OIC, we congratulate you on your election as the Chair-Rapporteur of this Adhoc Committee. We also thank the experts for their contributions during the intersessional consultations.

The OIC accords high importance to the Committee's mandate and renews its support for elaborating complementary standards to further strengthen the international human rights architecture against racism, xenophobia and related intolerance.

We regret to note that even after 14 years since the establishment of this Committee, meaningful progress remains elusive. Yet, the challenges in this thematic area have aggravated. The OIC is of the view that status quo is no longer an option.

Madam Chair,

The OIC is gravely concerned over the steady rise in incidents of discrimination, hatred, hostility and violence on the basis of religion, especially against Muslim individuals and communities.

Anti-Muslim hatred and Islamophobia, often tolerated or sanctioned by some states, remains pervasive, either in the guise of "counter-terrorism" or "national security" measures. Rise of populist politics and right-wing extremist ideologies across the globe are fueling religious hatred and violence against Muslim populations.

Influenced by such ideologies, several countries have introduced legislations institutionalizing discrimination against Muslims, stereotyping and restricting Muslim women and girls from wearing headscarf or facial veils. Refugees, migrants and indigenous communities are also often the targets and victims of structural and systemic discrimination, undermining their dignity, rights and freedoms.

The COVID pandemic has further accentuated these disconcerting trends.

The OIC strongly condemns Islamophobic acts in all its forms and manifestations and reiterates its call for reversal and repeal of such discriminatory laws.

Madam Chair,

The OIC Member States believe that a culture of peace, harmony, mutual tolerance and accommodation are essential anti-dote to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and religious intolerance. These affirmative actions need to be accompanied by dissuasive measures, such as calling out patterns of impunity, holding perpetrators accountable and providing remedies to victims of these menaces.

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 34/36, we echo calls for commencement of negotiations on the draft additional protocol to the International Convention on the Elimination of all form of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). This protocol would be a critical tool to help bridge the existing legal and regulatory gaps in combating all forms of contemporary racism, including Islamophobia.

The OIC assures the Chair-Rapporteur of its constructive engagement in this endeavour.

I thank you.