



**Statement on behalf of the OIC Group, delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, during  
General Debate Item 3  
54<sup>th</sup> HRC Session  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Mr. President,**

The OIC reaffirms the interdependence, indivisibility, and interrelatedness of all human rights.

On the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we are reminded of the importance of inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all human beings.

We recognize that the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world rests on upholding civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.

This can be achieved by adherence to the core principles of impartiality, objectivity, and nonselectivity.

While we commemorate the anniversaries of UDHR and VDPA, it is vital to underscore the special significance of the UN Charter and the principle of equal rights and self-determination of people and to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character.

Denial of the singular right of self-determination opens the door to denial of several other interconnected rights.

We deplore attempts to demonize the legitimate actions of people under foreign occupation to realize their right to self-determination, often under the bogey of terrorism.

We also reiterate our call for peaceful settlement of internationally recognized disputes, in accordance with international law, to ensure the realization of the human rights of the affected populations.

**Mr. President,**

The cascading effects of COVID-19, geopolitical conflicts, and climate catastrophes have exacerbated existing inequalities and impeded progress toward the achievement of SDGs.

We reaffirm our view that there is an imperative to view the international financial architecture from the perspective of achieving economic and social rights, including the right to development.



We would also reiterate our call for shared efforts to combat the rising tide of xenophobia, racial discrimination, racism, and Islamophobia.

**Mr. President,**

We recognize the contribution of the Working Group on the right to Development, After years of deliberations, the Working Group has reached a critical juncture, and presented the “draft international covenant on the right to development.”

The draft text contextualizes the right to development as foundational and rightly frames the tools to advance this right.

We believe that consideration of the draft text by the UN General Assembly would be beneficial due to the universal membership of the body.

We are confident that once finalized and adopted, the legally binding covenant would help operationalize the right to development and make tangible progress toward achieving the SDGs.

Thank you!