



**Statement on behalf of OIC, delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative**  
**during General Debate under Agenda Item 4**  
**52<sup>nd</sup> Session**  
**22 March 2023**

**Mr. President,**

The OIC reaffirms its support to the mandate of the Council in promoting universal respect for all human rights.

In achieving this objective, the Council's work should be guided by the principles of universality, objectivity, and impartiality, as enshrined in the founding UNGA resolution 60/251.

We are concerned over the increasing tendency to prioritize some human rights concerns over others. In some instances, political agendas have driven the work of this Council and human rights mechanisms selectivity.

The selective approaches and politicization of Council's work is illustrated by the fact that out of its 35 Special Sessions, only two were focused on thematic issues. Except for instances where the Council rightfully responded to grave human rights and rule of law violation in the occupied Palestinian territories, all other special sessions were aimed at developing countries. Ironically, states that drive the Council's agenda on Item 4, have chosen to remain silent and even oppose its actions vis-à-vis continued aggression in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Beyond the special sessions, this Council has established around 37 investigative mechanisms, out of which around 15 are on situations in Africa and nearly 17 on Asia. In many such situations, the stated goal of improving the human rights landscape remain largely elusive, due to application of political preferences. In cases primarily where states cooperate, these mechanisms tend to become the Boa constrictor.

Unfortunately, even some of the glaring manifestations of racism including religion-based discrimination are often approached from a political lens and conceptual "gridlock".

It's time for retrospection on whether the Council has achieved its core objective of promoting universal respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner.

**Mr. President,**

The OIC expresses concern over the rise in anti-Muslim hatred, discrimination and violence, even at times under State-patronage.

We once again invite the Council's attention toward systematic and persistent human rights violations and the well-established patterns of impunity in situations of foreign occupation, unresolved conflicts and simmering disputes. A litmus test for the Council is to unequally address the escalating violence, forced displacement and illegal attempts to obliterate distinct religious, cultural and demographic identity of Muslims in these situations.

I thank you.