



Statement on behalf of OIC by Mr. Umair Khalil, Third Secretary
during the Annual Full Day Meeting on Rights of Child
The Rights of the Child and Family Reunification

49 Human Rights Council Session
9 March 2022

Mr. President,

The OIC thanks the panelists for their contributions.

In line with Islamic teachings, the OIC countries accord high priority to care and well-being of children as well as a safe and secure environment for children's physical and mental growth.

The OIC countries have a long tradition of providing protection, assistance and asylum in accordance with Islamic law. At present, the OIC countries are hosting more than two-third of the world refugee population. Children comprise 42% of global displaced population. Our countries contribute generously towards protection and welfare of children including their reunification with family.

Mr. President,

The OIC reiterates the important role of family as the natural and fundamental unit of society in ensuring child's growth, personality development and protecting them against all forms of discrimination and violence.

The Islamic faith enjoins upon the family to raise a child with compassion and provide love, shelter, food, health and education without any discrimination.

The OIC reaffirms the salience of article 10 of the Convention on the Rights of Child which calls for positive, humane and expeditious approach in dealing with matters related to reunifications.

The OIC believes that children who are separated from their family require urgent attention and steps to ensure their reunification. The OIC calls for evolving and implementing strategies that are compliant with international human rights and humanitarian laws to protect children from multiple vulnerabilities including protection against abuse, sexual exploitation, violence and trafficking.

The OIC countries reaffirm their commitment to protect children particularly those separated from families including in situations of displacement, conflict and natural disaster.

The OIC underscores the urgent need for special attention and protection of children living in situations of foreign occupation. Children in these situations are often more traumatized, isolated from their families and placed in arbitrary detentions in violation of their fundamental rights.

The OIC calls for addressing the underlying drivers of situations where children are separated from their families by greater investments in resolution of internationally recognized disputes and countering socio-economic inequalities and vulnerabilities.

I thank you.
