



Statement on behalf of the OIC Group, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary, during General Debate Item 4
54th HRC Session
26th September 2023

Mr. President,

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

We reiterate that in the quest to fulfill its mandate, the Council must give due importance and salience to the interdependence, indivisibility, and interrelatedness of all human rights.

As we have outlined earlier that prioritizing certain human rights over others is not in accord with the fundamental architecture of human rights law.

Moreover, the work of this Council and its mechanisms must not be politically driven or reflect selective approaches.

We would like to reiterate that the Council's actions should be geared towards fostering constructive engagement, cooperation and genuine dialogue with concerned States.

Program and initiatives which result in interference in domestic affairs of sovereign States must be steered clear of.

Increasing selectivity and politicization is signified by the fact that out of 36 special sessions of the Council only two dealt with thematic issues, the rest were all focused on situations in the developing countries. The same is true for the over three dozen investigative mechanisms instituted by the Council, most of which focus on Asia and Africa.

A similar approach is visible in the work of certain UN Special Procedures and Mandate Holders where Asia and Africa constitute their primary focus.

Unfortunately, even in instances where the states extend cooperation, these mechanisms tend to indulge in further interference by overstepping their mandates.

Mr. President,

The OIC Group expresses concern over the rise in anti-Muslim hatred, discrimination and violence; notably certain state sanctioned incidents advocating anti-Muslim hatred.



We remind the Council of its responsibility to protect and promote fundamental rights and freedoms of all persons including Muslim individuals and communities against the rise of advocacy of racial and religious hatred including Islamophobia.

In this context, women and girls especially young students and workers suffer multiple and aggravating forms of discrimination, intolerance and hatred owing to their gender, religion and race.

Mr. President,

Regrettably, many situations, which remain on the agenda of both the UN and the OIC, have become blind-spots for many members and observers of this Council, in view of their bilateral considerations.

We would urge 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 international disputes.

Thank you!