



OIC Draft Resolution on “Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping and Stigmatization of, and Discrimination, Incitement to Violence, and Violence against Persons based on Religion or Belief”
A/HRC/46/L.3

Introduction by Pakistan on behalf of OIC

Madam President

On behalf of the OIC, Pakistan has the honor to introduce the annual draft resolution on “Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief”, as contained in document L.3.

2021 marks the tenth anniversary of adoption of resolution 16/18. The continued consensual adoption of resolution 16/18 is a clear evidence of the importance attached by the Council in combating the persisting scourge of religious intolerance, discrimination and violence. It also signifies that constructive engagement and dialogue across diverse perspectives should continue to guide the Council’s work.

The OIC particularly thanks the EU for its cooperation, which has helped in pursuing a balanced and coordinated approach to address the twin issues, spotlighted in HRC resolutions 16/18 and Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Madam President,

This landmark resolution articulates an eight-point Action Plan to counter the growing forms and manifestations of discrimination, negative stereo-typing, stigmatization, and incitement to violence on the basis of religion or belief.

This Plan calls for , inter alia, public condemnation of any advocacy of religious hatred; criminalization of hate speech; servicing projects in the fields of education, health, employment, and media; and fostering inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and harmony at all levels.

An inter-governmental mechanism, known as the Istanbul Process, has been established to pursue implementation of the 16/18 Action Plan in a cohesive and institutionalized manner. It remains a useful platform for dialogue and exchange of views among States, civil society and other relevant stakeholders. The next (8th) meeting of the Istanbul Process will be hosted by Pakistan.

The report by the High Commissioner, published annually in pursuance of the resolution, is another important vehicle, facilitating wider dissemination and cross-fertilization of good practices with regards to implementation of the Action Plan.



Madam President,

The COVID pandemic has further magnified and laid bare the structural fault-lines and inequalities within our societies. We are alarmed at the widely reported online smear campaigns and stigmatization of religious minorities as spreader of the deadly virus; exclusionary approaches while designing and disbursing COVID relief packages; denial of medical treatment on religious grounds; and selective ban on gatherings by followers of certain religions. Cumulatively, these steps have further accentuated socio-economic exclusion of religious minorities in many countries around the world.

The disturbing exploitation of COVID-related fears to stoke racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia is another reminder for upholding universal respect for human rights and dignity.

The OIC also believes that irrespective of our religion, belief and faith, it is in our enlightened interest to respect each other's religions, avoid denigration of religious personalities, and symbols, and combat deliberate provocation to violence.

We, therefore, earnestly hope that the consensual adoption of the draft resolution will contribute towards realization of these shared objectives.

I thank you, Madam President.