



**Statement on behalf of OIC Group, delivered by Mr. Jawad Ali, Minister, during
General Debate under Item 9
57th HRC Session
3rd October 2024**

Mr. President,

Challenges in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance continue to mount.

The proliferation of conflict, festering unresolved disputes and emergence of new technologies pose new risks in successfully eradicating racism.

The politics of communal, racial and religious hatred and fear is no longer confined to the fringes. We are seeing its perilous mainstreaming in elections.

Unfortunately, there is still a dangerous tendency to downplay the risks and shrug off states' duties.

Ignoring determined hate actors – and even failing to speak out – is no strategy to combat racial and religious intolerance.

It is critical to speak out against vile expression of hate specially in the golden hours before such advocacy elevates as repeated incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.

History has shown repeatedly that failure to counter the root causes and drivers of racism and related intolerances results in unconscionable tragedies such as the unfolding genocide we are witnessing in illegally occupied Palestine.

Mr. President,

The OIC group unequivocally rejects the practice of targeting any group of believers by maligning their faith or desecrating sacred books and religious places.

We condemn the incidents that reflect an alarming rise in Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred.

Unchecked expression of Anti-Muslim hatred is delivering results for violent racists.

We remind all states to of their duties under international law including resolutions of this Council to combat all forms of religious intolerance including Islamophobia

We also recognize that appointment of special envoys, developing national strategies, are steps in the right direction.

We also recognize that some states such as Denmark and Sweden are taking actions in the aftermath of incidents of attacks on Holy Quran.

We encourage others to follow.

We must view this rising hate from perspective of affected communities and not expect them to suffer.

International collaboration is necessary and urgent.

Thank you.