



Statement on behalf of the OIC Group, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary,
during General Debate Item 8
54th HRC Session
4th October 2023

Mr. Vice President,

VDPA signifies our collective aspirations to promote universal respect for human rights and human dignity, without any distinction.

In 1993, member states agreed that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally fairly and equally, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis.

The VDPA touched on all aspects of our human rights work, from strengthening the UN machinery to the rights of migrants, indigenous people, child, freedom from torture, and racial and religious discrimination.

The VDPA also envisaged the potential adverse impact of biomedical sciences and technology advances on the enjoyment of human rights.

In fostering and safeguarding rights, the VDPA outlines effective international cooperation as a vehicle.

Thirty years since the VDPA, much progress has been made in advancing universal respect for human rights.

At the same time, we are far from meaningful fulfillment of the Vienna Spirit. As we commemorate the 30th anniversary of the VDPA, we must keep stock of the upcoming challenges.

The rising inequalities within and among nations, especially in the backdrop of multifaceted crises facing the globe today, is one such challenge.

The OIC remains concerned over the alarming rise in incidents of religious hatred and, particularly, Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred.



Mr. Vice President,

VDPA considers the denial of the right to self-determination as a violation of human rights and recognizes the right of the people, living under foreign occupation, to take any legitimate action, in accordance with the UN Charter, to realize this inalienable right.

We reaffirm that effective international measures should be taken to guarantee and monitor the implementation of human rights in respect of people under foreign occupation.

Mr. Vice President,

While we reaffirm our commitment to promote and protect rights and freedoms for all, in accordance with international law, we reject self-serving efforts to re-interpret international human rights law to legitimize and normalize the controversial concept of “sexual orientation and gender identity” (SOGI). The arbitrary creation of categories of the so-called rightsholders based on their personal choices such as “sexual orientation” is unacceptable.

We also highlight the need to work together to build necessary guardrails against AI's adverse human rights impacts.

Thank you!