



Statement by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC **Agenda Item 8**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the OIC member states.

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA) clearly spelt out the fundamental principle of non-discrimination for respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms which has also been clearly elaborated in the UN Charter, Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. Unfortunately, even after more than 20 years after the adoption of VDPA, the international community is still far away from implementing this guiding principle. This fact is also manifested by the stark reality of the ongoing migrant and refugee crisis.

The response of some of the European countries to the current crisis is disturbing in particular when the people travelling to these countries constitute a very small portion of people that have been accommodated in other neighboring countries. Contrary to the VDPA, calling for strategies to address the root causes of refugee crisis and underlining the responsibilities of countries of origin, the inflow of migrants and refugees is being portrayed not only as a threat to national sovereignty but also as ideological threat. According to reports, thousands of people have lost their lives in the Mediterranean and those who survived, are still struggling for their lives, being the victims of Islamophobia, racism, xenophobia, torture and administrative detention.

The international community cannot shirk its collective responsibility to address this unprecedented humanitarian crisis which not only calls for political will but prompt action on the ground. With few exceptions, the level of commitment and support is indeed deplorable. There is a need to translate our statements and human rights values through actions on the ground without hiding behind the excuses of security and marginalization.

While we welcome the steps taken by some states and the hospitality of their people to accommodate some migrants and refugees, the OIC is extremely concerned that migrants and refugees, travelling from conflict situations and seeking international protection, have been the victims of exploitation and double standards. The OIC echoes the concerns expressed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights during his update at the beginning of this session. We also share the assessment of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees when he said "Europe

cannot go on responding to this crisis with a piecemeal or incremental approach. No country can do it alone, and no country can refuse to do its part".

The OIC believes that security-driven and discriminatory policies affecting the human rights of migrants and refugees are counter-productive and also result in violation of international law.

In this regard, we urge for a human-rights based approach to ensure the fundamental rights of migrants and refugees. In addition to ongoing conflicts, we consider that influx of migrants reflect economic disparity in different parts of the world and it can only be resolved through addressing the root causes of migration, enhancing international cooperation and effective realization of all human rights including economic, social and cultural rights as well as the right to development.