



**Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Mr. Junaid Suleman, Second Secretary, during Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the 46<sup>th</sup> session of Human Rights Council**

**(03 March 2021)**

**Madam President,**

On behalf of the OIC, we thank the Special Rapporteur for his first report to the Council.

The OIC has taken due note of priorities with respect to COVID pandemic, climate change, extreme poverty identified by the Special Rapporteur.

Islam establishes a communal obligation on communities to assist those in need. The OIC realizes the challenges and is cognizant of the importance of protecting rights of persons with disabilities as part of their religious, social and moral obligations. With the same spirit, the OIC countries are integrating rights of persons with disabilities in their policies and programs.

We agree with the Special Rapporteur that “inclusive equality” and “culture of change” are crucial for protecting right of persons with disabilities. These principles are equally applicable and relevant in other situations where people are being discriminated based on socio-economic status as well as race, colour or religion. Persons with disabilities among vulnerable segments of societies not only experience discrimination but also neglect of the society as a whole.

We invite Special Rapporteur’s comments to address this double layer of discrimination.

As the Special Rapporteur has reflected on negative impacts of COVID on persons with disabilities, we request his views on challenge with particular focus on resource constraints of developing countries and their reduced capacities to meet obligations under the CRPD.

I thank you.