



Statement on behalf of the OIC by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan during the General Debate under Item 2

52nd Human Rights Council Session
7 March 2023

Mr. President,

The OIC thanks the High Commissioner for his first oral update *especially at a time when global human rights landscape presents a somber picture.*

Widening global inequalities, erosion of development gains, *dwindling ODA, rise of right-wing ideologies*, alarming trends of contemporary racism and continuous denial of fundamental rights in UN recognized disputed territories are some of the glaring examples.

We reiterate our condemnation of recent Islamophobic acts including burning of Holy Quran, which in the words of the High Commissioner is a dangerous trend. The OIC expects an unequivocal denouncement from the High Commissioner, of such incitement to violence, in line with his global mandate to advance respect for human rights. We encourage an even-handed approach in dealing with all human rights challenges *and with all contemporary forms of racism & Xenophobia.*

The OIC is gravely concerned over the continuing human rights violations in the OPT including East Jerusalem. *We reject all efforts aimed at institutionalizing the seven decades long colonization and demographic changes.* The recent rhetoric by certain Israeli Ministers, threatening wiping out of Palestinian villages, needs this Council's urgent attention. We reiterate our support to the COI's work. We urge the OHCHR to continue publishing data on business enterprises involved in activities related to Israeli settlements in OPT.

Mr. President,

The human rights situation in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir remains a matter of deep anguish for us. The OIC again urges India to implement the applicable UN Security Council resolutions as well as recommendations addressed to it in OHCHR's two Kashmir reports. We reiterate our strong demand for reversal of all illegal and unilateral measures taken on or after 5 August 2019, including reversal of illegal demographic changes in the occupied territory. We urge OHCHR to continue monitoring the human rights situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and to produce an updated third report.

The OIC calls on this Council to work towards securing justice and accountability for the Rohingya people, including through their safe, dignified and voluntary return to their homes in Myanmar. In this regard, the OIC reiterates its full solidarity with and calls for assistance to Bangladesh as well as to remain actively seized of the matter until achieving a durable solution.



The OIC condemns the damage and loss of properties inflicted by Armenia including cultural heritage and religious sites in the territories of Azerbaijan liberated from the occupation. The OIC reaffirms its full support to the Government and people of Azerbaijan in their efforts to rehabilitate and rebuild the liberated territories, *in particular the ongoing de-mining activities. We call upon the international community to extend assistance to Azerbaijan for safe and dignified return of Azerbaijani IDPs.*

On situation in Afghanistan, the OIC calls for upholding human rights of all including women, children, elderly and minorities. The OIC is seriously concerned over the deteriorating economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and calls for international community's sustained engagement with Afghanistan on political, economic, human rights, humanitarian and development paths. *We also emphasize for wide-ranging dialogue among all parties to ensure an inclusive and representative government.*

I thank you.