



## **Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN**

**Geneva**

**Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate on Agenda item 5: “Human Rights bodies and mechanisms” at the 45<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

**(29 September 2020)**

Madam President,

The OIC thanks the President for the oral update on decision 43/117.

We reaffirm of our constructive engagement with the proposed open consultations, aimed at formulating draft working methods of the Consultative Group.

The OIC believes that these efforts to ensure objective, transparent and independent selection of mandate-holders will add value to their work and further strengthen their position within the UN human rights architecture.

Madam President,

The OIC re-emphasizes that the Special Procedures should rigorously follow the Code of Conduct. Communications to States should be sent after fact-checking. Steps should be taken to ensure that such privileged communications between States and mandate-holders are made public only after lapse of the 60-days standard deadline.

Often Press Releases, in follow-up to such communications, are issued at a very short notice to States, making it impossible to consult with capitals and seek feedback of the concerned national stakeholders. Often contents of such Press Releases are imbalanced, contain unsubstantiated assertions and are not reflective of States' viewpoint on the matter under discussion.

This practice goes against the very spirit of constructive engagement and genuine dialogue and should be strongly discouraged.

Similarly, country visit reports should be objective and take into full consideration the perspective of the concerned Governments, national contexts and challenges.

The OIC also calls for balanced regional representation in the selection and nomination of SPMHs.

Madam President,

All human rights are universal, indivisible, inter-related and inter-dependent, and should be considered equally by mandate-holders in their work. We continue to strongly urge the Special Procedures to pay close attention to the serious issue of Islamophobia as a cross-cutting theme. We also urge them to continue to pay sharper attention to the widespread human rights violations of people in situations of foreign occupation and long-festering



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conflicts and disputes. We further call on them to highlight the need to address the root causes of forced displacement.

Madam President,

The OIC countries are fully committed to the comprehensive and balanced implementation of UNGA Resolution 68/268, to further strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the treaty body system. We believe that the mandated review process should be State driven, based on consensual approach, and focused on evaluating the effectiveness of measures taken in pursuance of resolution 68/268.

Treaty bodies should continue with their efforts to harmonize their working methods, enhance coordination among themselves, and create more capacity-building opportunities for less-developing and developing countries, enabling them to fulfill their international obligations.

I thank you.