



Statement on behalf of the OIC Group, delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, DPR, during
General Debate Item 8
55th HRC Session
27th March 2024

Mr. Vice President,

The OIC Group reaffirms its commitment to VDPA, which signifies our collective aspirations to promote universal respect for human rights, and dignity of all, without any distinction.

This landmark document should guide our collective action to alleviate rampant poverty, counter discrimination, and protect and promote basic rights of the vulnerable and marginalized, such as refugees, migrants, and those engaged in legitimate political struggle for their right to self-determination.

Mr. Vice President,

We believe that much progress has been made in advancing universal respect for human rights since VDPA was adopted 30 years ago, however, much desires to be done to adhere to the “Vienna Spirit”.

Notably, VDPA considers the denial of the right to self-determination as a violation of human rights and recognizes the right of the peoples, 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,

After three decades, we are witnessing the weakening of the Vienna Spirit, especially during the ongoing violations of the international human rights and humanitarian law being perpetrated in Occupied Palestinian Territory by Israel.

The besieged Palestinian people have been subjected to the worst human rights violations that constitute crimes against humanity.

The occupation regime must be held accountable for these egregious violations.



Impunity for Israel's horrendous actions will only result in further catastrophes.

Mr. Vice President,

Human rights landscape, on other fronts, also, presents a somber picture.

Rising inequalities, within and among nations, especially in the backdrop of multifaceted crises facing the globe today, has significantly impacted states' ability to fulfill their obligations.

Henceforth, there is an urgent need to step up for effective international cooperation and providing support for developing countries to mitigate socio-economic consequences of the covid pandemic, rising debt burden, removing global barriers to equitable development, and the negative fallouts of the geopolitical conflicts.

Mr. Vice President,

The OIC also remains deeply concerned over the alarming rise in incidents of religious hatred and, particularly, Islamophobia worldwide.

We are witnessing an increasing trend where electoral gains are preferred over protection and promotion of religious, ethnic and linguistic minorities rights; populist leaders continue to deploy anti-Muslim hatred as an electoral strategy.

Provocative and hateful actions, under the guise of right to free speech need to be stemmed.

VDPA calls upon states to take measures to counter intolerance and related violence based on religion or belief, including the desecration of religious sites.

I thank you!