Statement on behalf of the OIC Group delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor, during General Debate under Item 8

60th Session of the Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 30 September 2025)

Mr. Vice President,

The OIC Group affirms its commitment to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA), which signifies our collective aspirations to promote universal respect for human rights, and dignity of all, without any distinction.

But the VDPA's promises of universality, indivisibility and interdependence are at risk.

Mr. Vice President,

The VDPA correctly recognised the denial of the right to self-determination as the root of gross human rights violations. It therefore recognized the right of the peoples under foreign occupation to take legitimate action in exercise of this inalienable right.

The unspeakable horror in illegally Occupied Palestine marks the erosion not only of the Vienna Spirit but of the collective edifice of international law.

Continued impunity for the occupying power's crimes will only invite further excesses.

Rising religious hatred, including Islamophobia merit this Council's continued attention. The weaponisation of hatred for electoral gains is being amplified by social media and emerging technologies and must be responded to consistent with states' obligations under international human rights law.

Mr. Vice President,

Multifaceted global crises are impeding states' ability to fulfill human rights obligations. Renewed commitment to effective international cooperation and support remains essential. The early adoption of the Covenant on the Right to Development could decisively restore momentum to the international human rights agenda.

Thank you.

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