Statement on behalf of the OIC delivered by Mr. Jawad Ali, Deputy Permanent Representative, during Organizational Meeting for HRC61

(Geneva, 9 February 2026)

Mr. President,

The OIC Group extends its congratulations on your appointment as President for the Council's 20th cycle and assures you of our cooperation and support.

The forthcoming 61st Session of the Council is taking place amidst a complicated human rights situation and hampered by growing resource constraints. We urge the Council to seek collaborative approaches and shun division and polarization that does not contribute to our collective mandate to uphold all human rights for all.

During the session, the OIC Group intends to present the resolution titled "Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief" under Item 9. The resolution remains a UN-wide benchmark for a collective normative response to growing religious hatred and incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.

The Group also intends to present the following resolutions that have traditionally guided this Council's response to the human rights tragedy and humanitarian catastrophe in the Middle East:

i. Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice (Item 2)
ii. Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination (Item 7)
iii. Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan (Item 7)
iv. Human rights in the Occupied Syrian Golan (Item 7)

We expect the Council to lend its full support to the Group's draft resolutions and look forward to constructive engagement and genuine dialogue.

Thank you.

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