



**Statement on behalf of the OIC Group, delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor,
during General Debate under Item 4**

61st Session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 16 March 2026)

Mr. President,

The OIC Group¹ reiterates its support to the Council's universal mandate and the principles of interdependence, indivisibility, and interrelatedness of all human rights.

Proliferating conflict and resort to the use of force is multiplying human rights risks around the world.

Only a principled approach to the work of country- or situation-specific mandates can preserve this Council's mandated universality, impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation. Confrontational approaches undermine the Council's mandate and these cherished principles.

A hierarchy of rights or situations remains counterproductive.

We condemn in the strongest terms expanding aggression by Israel, the illegal occupying power, including against Lebanon and Iraq and in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The illegal occupying power's continued aggression poses grave and escalating challenges to human rights and regional peace.

Thank you.

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¹ Except Albania