



**Statement on behalf of OIC Group¹ by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor, during
General Debate under Item 9**

61st Session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 25 March 2026)

Mr. President,

Religio-racial supremacism, exclusion and discrimination have become catalysts for conflict, violence and violations of international law, including international human rights law and the DDPA.

The unchecked invocation of racial and religious hatred is inciting discrimination, hostility, or violence. Without full and effective implementation of states' obligations to prohibit propaganda for war as well as advocacy of hatred, the scourge of war will continue.

Countering religious hatred like Islamophobia is therefore not a favour to any group or a matter of safeguarding a single right; it is a vital act of prevention against the descent into atrocity and a safeguard for inherent human dignity.

We are witnessing a dangerous surge in religious hatred and intolerance, particularly against Muslims. Mythical or scriptural claims are being invoked to weaponise religious identity and justify violence.

Exhortations to religious war are surging to sanctify the dehumanization of entire populations. This is being done in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, where the Palestinian people face settler-colonialism, apartheid and genocide as a result.

This Council must counter such medieval approaches not only to advance the fight against discrimination and for equal rights for all, but for the future of international law itself.

Thank you.

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¹ Except Albania