Statement on behalf of the OIC Group, delivered by Ambassador and Permanent Representative Tahir Andrabi, during General Debate under Item 4:

"Human rights situations that require the Council's attention"

63rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 22 September 2026)

Mr. Vice President,

The OIC Group reaffirms its support to the Council in promoting universal respect for all human rights. This mandate requires upholding the interdependence, indivisibility, and interrelatedness. Selectivity in approaches risks undermining these principles.

We note with concern the continuation in perpetuity of country-specific mandates that do not enjoy the support of the country concerned. Politically driven and selective initiatives consume an outsized share of resources and have little impact on the situation on the ground at a time when the need for greater efficiency and coherence is keenly felt.

Conflicts, disputes and situations of foreign occupation lie at the root of many human rights situations of concern and must not become a blind spot for this Council. Crises around the globe are either the direct consequences of or aggravated by the non-resolution of conflicts or disputes in a manner consistent with international law.

Yet we see also, in some parts of the world, that Islamophobic narratives underpin indifference towards certain situations of armed or foreign occupation. The amplification of hateful Islamophobic expression through the misuse of social media and biases in AI systems has become a factor that allows alarming human rights situations to worsen unchecked, despite repeated pronouncements by this Council or the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The continued mainstreaming of Islamophobia in political discourse is therefore a grave threat to the enjoyment of human rights by all and warrants this Council's attention.

I thank you.

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