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39th SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General Debate - Agenda Item 5 -Human Rights Bodies and Mechanisms

OIC Statement delivered by Pakistan

(21 September 2018)

Mr. President,

The OIC considers that equitable distribution of financial and human resources is critical for effective and unbiased discharge of the mandates of the Special Procedures as underscored in UNGA Resolution 65/281.

2. The OIC reiterates that work of the Special Procedure Mandate Holders and treaty bodies should always be guided by the principles of universality, objectivity, impartiality, constructive cooperation, non-selectivity and non-politicization. Following respective mandates, transparency in financing as well as engagements lies at the heart of the Special Procedures system. Practice of issuing statements on unverified information and not waiting for or accommodating the response of the respective government goes against the spirit of positive engagement and therefore needs to be discouraged.

3. All human rights must be treated on equal basis and must be given equal attention in the working of the Council and its mechanisms. In this regard, the OHCHR may share the finances that were utilized for enhancing the cause of right to education, health and poverty alleviation and also indicate their percentage to the overall expenditure.

4. Considering the prevailing populist discourse and contemporary issues of racism and racial discrimination especially against the Muslims, we urge the Special Procedures Mandate Holders to put emphasis on the pernicious impact of such rhetoric anti-Muslim discourse on the rights of the vulnerable segments of society especially women, children and people with disabilities in their mandates. Moreover, Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief should remain a cross cutting theme in the work of the mandate holders.

5. Climate Change is a reality. It has adverse impacts on all especially the agriculture and related sectors. In this regard the work of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group on a United Nations declaration on the rights

of peasants and other people working in rural areas is very important since it highlights the concerns and challenges that would be faced by all in the coming years. We would urge the UN mechanisms to focus in their respective fields of work on the various impacts of climate change and natural disasters and necessity of international cooperation to counter their bad effects on basic human rights.

I thank you Mr. President.