

*Ambassador
Zamir Akram*

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**Statement by Pakistan on behalf of OIC during High Commissioner's
update under Agenda Item 2
24th Session of the Human Rights Council
9 September 2013**

Mr. President,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the OIC.

My delegation thanks the High Commissioner for her comprehensive introductory statement, covering specific human rights situations and other issues of concern. We also appreciate High Commissioner's focus on realization of social, cultural, economic and development rights.

We share High Commissioner's concerns over deteriorating human rights situation in Syria. The High Commissioner has rightly said that, "suffering of Syria's civilian population has reached unimaginable levels". We strongly endorse the High Commissioner's call for immediate negotiations to end the conflict.

Mr. President,

The High Commissioner has urged the Government of Myanmar to address the ongoing challenges in Rakhine State and other areas which have been racked by communal violence. The OIC strongly supports the High Commissioner's call to ensure accountability for human rights violations and eliminating discriminating restrictions on freedom of movement for Muslim populations. The OIC has consistently raised the issue of human rights violations of Muslims in Rakhine State and other areas in Myanmar. We welcome the invitation extended by Myanmar government to the OIC Secretary General and Members of the OIC Contact group on Rohingya Muslims to visit Myanmar. The OIC is looking forward to implementation of an MOU between OIC and Myanmar government regarding establishment of an office for humanitarian assistance in Yangon.

The OIC shares High Commissioner's concern over Israel's continued policy of occupation including enforced evictions and demolitions in the

Occupied state of Palestine particularly in and around East Jerusalem as well as excessive use of force against the Palestinian people. The OIC urges the Occupying Power Israel to cease its policy of repression and respect the human rights of Palestinian people.

We agree with the High Commissioner's reminder that law enforcement operations must adhere to international human rights standards. However, we believe that High Commissioner's call should have included compliance with International law in the context of counter-terrorism operations.

The OIC also welcomes High Commissioner's remarks with regard to security surveillance regimes in different countries and their impact on individuals' right to privacy. We agree with the High commissioner that laws and policies must be in place to address the intrusion on individuals' privacy.

Mr. President,

The OIC has consistently raised its reservation over use of controversial notions in the Human Rights Council which are not universally agreed such as LGBT rights. We cannot support any initiative by the High Commissioner that is not agreed by the UN membership and has no legal basis in the international human rights instruments.

With regard to right to development, we believe that realization of right to sustainable development needs more robust approach. It is vital that the development oriented policies should be the guiding principle of all efforts for realization and enjoyment of basic human rights.

I thank you