

**Statement by Pakistan on Behalf of OIC during the High-Level
Panel Discussion of the Human Rights Council on Human Rights
Mainstreaming on "Enhancement of International
Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights"
28th Session of the Human Rights Council
(3rd March 2015)**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of OIC member states.

Today the world is confronted with multiple and complex challenges in the field of human rights which affect fundamental rights of every human being. In order to address and overcome these challenges enhancement of genuine and sustainable international cooperation is required on the basis of principles of universality, objectivity, non-selectivity, transparency and non-discrimination laid down by the UN Charter, Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA) and Institution Building Package of the Human Rights Council. Unfortunately, we continue to witness politicization, Polarization, double standards, discrimination and lack of consensus in the Council which have an adverse impact on its effectiveness and erode the very foundations of international cooperation. Naming and shaming of countries and selective consideration of human rights issues have undermined constructive dialogue and engagement of international community for the advancement of human rights.

OIC believes that it is the shared responsibility of the international community to foster genuine dialogue and cooperation on a balanced and equitable basis for the protection and promotion of human rights. In this regard, we should make endeavours to strengthen the Universal Periodic Review mechanism with the view to improve human rights situation in all states. Human Rights Council should play its role in promoting human rights by providing

advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building services to member states through constructive dialogue and engagement.

Mr. President,

If we analyze the work of the Council of the past 9 years, we would realize that undue attention has been paid to civil and political rights while ignoring economic, social and cultural rights including the right to development. Without realizing right to development, billions of people cannot enjoy human dignity, equality, social justice, economic, social and cultural rights. In short, we cannot ignore human needs while promoting human rights. Therefore, we believe that the Council should pay utmost attention to economic, social, cultural rights, including the right to development. We would also like to urge upon the international community to include right to development in the goals and targets which are being negotiated for the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. President,

One of the primary objectives of promoting international cooperation is to ensure protection of fundamental rights and freedoms and maintain peace and harmony in the world through mutual respect, tolerance and recognition and acceptance of cultural and religious diversity. In order to realize this objective, it is crucial that we should combat racist political discourse, xenophobic acts, Islamophobia, hate speech and incitement to hatred which leads to imminent violence. In this regard, we call upon the international community to promote mutual respect, interfaith dialogue and recognition and acceptance of cultural and religious diversity with the view to ensure that everyone can enjoy fundamental rights and freedoms.

I thank you.