

by Pakistan

**Statement on behalf of the OIC States on a panel discussion on
“discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and
gender identity” (19th session of the HRC, 7th March 2012)**

Mr. Moderator

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the OIC Member States.

The OIC Member States would like to record their consistent and firm opposition to the subject under discussion in the work of the Human Rights Council. Our opposition stems from the fact that controversial notions such as “sexual orientation” are vague and misleading and have no agreed definition and no legal foundation in international law. The international community only recognizes those rights that are enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which were codified in subsequent international human rights instruments.

Thus, we strongly condemn systematic attempts by a Group of States to introduce the notion of “sexual orientation” in the United Nations system in general and in the universally agreed human rights framework in particular. These attempts not only distort the intent of the drafters and signatories to these human rights instruments, but also seriously jeopardize the internationally agreed human rights framework.

Mr. Moderator

It must be recognized that the international community agreed, as stipulated in Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action as well as in UNGA resolution 60/251, that while considering the issue of human rights, national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind. Licentious behavior promoted under the concept of “sexual orientation” is against the fundamental teachings of various religions including Islam. From this perspective, legitimizing homosexuality and other personal sexual behaviors in the name of sexual orientation is unacceptable to the OIC.

The OIC Member States consider that all people are entitled to the enjoyment of human rights and that sexual orientation does not confer special status in this respect. Our opposition to the notion of sexual orientation also stems from the fact that it may encompass the social normalization, and possibly the legitimization, of many deplorable acts, including pedophilia and incest.

Mr. Moderator

A number of studies have confirmed that homosexuality may have a negative health impact. At the same time, such behavior contributes to the weakening of the institution of the family and can also lead to a generation gap. Any abnormal arrangement at the parental level may deprive the child of the traditional love and affection of a mother and a father.

We are even more disturbed at the attempt to focus on certain persons on the grounds of their abnormal sexual behavior, while not focusing on the glaring instances of intolerance and discrimination in various parts of the world, be it on the basis of color, race, gender or religion, to mention only a few.

In conclusion, Mr. Moderator, it is incumbent on the Council to demonstrate the requisite sensitivity to the different cultural and social common denominators among states and refrain from promoting national or regional values or norms that do not enjoy international consensus.

We call upon all Member States to give priority to the real issues and refrain from discussing personal behaviors of certain individuals. We urge Member States, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to continue devoting special attention and resources to protect the family as the natural and fundamental social group is entitled to protection by society and the State as stipulated in Article 16 of the UDHR.

Above all, we expect that this panel discussion on the subject would be the last of its kind in the work of the Human Rights Council.

I thank you.
