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**Statement by Ambassador Zamir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan,  
on behalf of the OIC Member States, on the High Commissioner's Update, under  
agenda item 2, during 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council,  
(Geneva, 10 September 2012)**

Madam President,

1. We thank the High Commissioner for her comprehensive introductory statement that provides an update on specific situations and reflects on important issues of human rights concern and advocacy. Her statement also explains expansion of the work of the OHCHR - both in Geneva and in the field and we support her call for additional resources to the Office. We believe that additional budgetary allocations from the regular budget would lessen the Office's dependence on voluntary contributions or earmarked funding and hence, allow it to function in a truly independent manner.
2. The Office has an important advocacy role to promote and protect human rights across the globe. We believe that this role can be strengthened by addressing all situations of concern without selectivity and with the same zeal. At the same time, in order to be more effective in its advocacy efforts, the Office needs to be more cautious in quoting facts associated with the situations of concern.
3. The OIC supports the ongoing engagement and dialogue with the High Commissioner with a view to promote better understanding and greater cooperation between the Office and States on important issues. We thank the High Commissioner for organizing the meeting on the transparency of the OHCHR funding on 19 July. The meeting provided an opportunity to the States and the Office to exchange views on this crucial issue. We believe that such opportunities would enhance the credibility, efficiency and the financial independence of the OHCHR and the significant work it does in the promotion and protection of human rights all over the world. We expect that this process would continue in future. We also thank the High Commissioner for providing the States an opportunity to share their views on OHCHR's strategic priorities.
4. We commend High Commissioner's advocacy efforts to include human rights provisions in the final document of the Rio+20 Conference. While appreciating the efforts made by the international community in this regard, we need to tread a prudent path vis-à-vis new concept of green economy and make all-out efforts that the new phenomenon impinge upon the development and human rights.
5. With regard to the Millennium Development Goals, the international community needs to analyze the reasons for the continued gaps in the implementation of and achieving the 2015 targets of the MDGs. It is important that

the post-2015 development agenda seeks to ensure the implementation of adequate strategies and policies for achieving the new targets that would be set in particular to the human rights.

Madam President,

6. The upcoming high-level meeting on the rule of law during the upcoming 67<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly provides an opportunity to the international community to affirm its commitment to advance the rule of law at the national and international levels for the realization of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

7. The recent discussion on racist hate speech organized by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is a welcome step that provided us an opportunity to address contemporary challenges linked with the hate speech. We believe that there is a need to organize similar discussions on contemporary forms of racism and racial discrimination. The OIC Member States also look forward to the outcome report of the series of expert workshop on freedom of expression and the prohibition of incitement to national, racial or religious hatred. We expect that these workshops would guide future discussions on determining the threshold of freedom of opinion and expression and the incitement to violence.

8. The OIC attaches importance to the independence and impartiality of the treaty bodies. At the same time, we are aware of the challenges that treaty bodies face due to the exponential increase in their workload over the past years and the scarcity of resources with this increased workload. We take note of the ongoing deliberations in New York on strengthening treaty body system and look forward to the outcome of this process.

Madam President,

9. The High Commissioner has also referred to specific situations in her opening statement. The OIC condemns the violence in Rakhine State which has brought widespread suffering to the local people including Rohingya Muslims in the region. While taking due note of the measures taken so far by the government of Myanmar, the OIC encourages the government of Myanmar to take resolute steps to resolve this long-standing issue. We appreciate High Commissioner's reminder to the international community on the situation of detainees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. We do hope that Member States will urge the Occupying Power Israel to desist from violating the human rights of the Palestinian people.

I thank you.