

**Statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**On the High Commissioner's Update,**

**Agenda item 2, 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council,**

**Geneva, 30 May 2011**

**Mr. President,**

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC.

We have taken note of the statement made by the High Commissioner that affords an update on specific situations and important issues of human rights concern and advocacy.

In her updated report, the High Commissioner has touched upon a number of specific situations in the Middle-East and North –Africa as well as steps and initiatives are being taken by some of concerned countries to promote and protect human rights of their citizens in the aftermath of recent developments.

It is well known that more than a century the West has supported and financed dictatorships in the Middle East and the Arab world, as it was through the autocracies that it managed to control the wealth of this part of the planet which subsequently led to the increasingly widespread poverty, torture and repression and lack of fundamental freedoms and rights.

The ongoing Muslim awakening has insistently affirmed that the Islamic world will no longer accept double standards and hypocrisy in the international relations era either. Justice, democracy, freedom and self-determination are undeniable rights that cannot be promoted and protected selectively to serve the interests of some and not all and must be extended to people living under foreign occupation in particular in occupied Palestine and other Arab territories. It is also of paramount importance for states to undergo these processes of change and adjustment without unwarranted foreign interference.

**Mr. President**

We deeply concerned over the increasing anti -migrant feelings and Islamophobia in western societies in particular in France, Norway, Denmark and Belgium. These feelings, at times, result in violence and discrimination against migrants including Muslim community living in the host communities since generations. The international community has an

important role to play in protecting the rights of the migrants including right to life and freedom of religion.

We like other OIC member states express our deep regret that the High Commissioner's statement contains no reference to appalling act of burring Quran in Florida in March 2011. While the international community condemned this act clearly, the OHCHR, the primary agency of the United Nations on human rights, did not condemn this appalling act publicly. The increasing incidents of defamation of religion, violence and discrimination on the basis of religion in US and EU must not be ignored. We hope that this issue remains an important priority in her work both in advocacy as well as in practice.

**Finally, Mr. President**

We are of the view that the report of the Secretary General's Panel of Experts on accountability in Sri Lanka was an internal document of the Office of the UN Secretary General. We welcome the ongoing independent and comprehensive domestic process of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC). We maintain that the international community must support national efforts to prevail peace in Sri Lanka.

I thank you.