

**Statement by
Tehmina Janjua, Acting Permanent Representative of Pakistan
on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Conference
on the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against
women, its causes and consequences**

Mr. President,

I am speaking on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. We thank the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences for her report. Today's debate on this vital issue coincides with the celebration of the International Women's Day two weeks ago.

The report presents a detailed analysis in explaining the dominant culture-based paradigms that are used to justify violations of women's rights. It also identifies the myths around cultural discourses and provides guidelines for an effective strategy to counter these discussions which constitute one of the major obstacles to the implementation of women's rights. As an important value added to the common debate of harmful traditions, the report also highlights some relatively new patterns of cultural practices that discriminate against women. Such instances include the growing culture of gun ownership and the wide spread portrayal of women as sexual objects in the media that trigger harmful self-imposed practices resulting in life threatening consequences. The OIC commends the special rapporteur for these revealing observations and suggests to further elaborate these phenomena in her future reports.

The OIC, however, wishes to underline the inadequacy of a passing reference in the report to the dominant cultural paradigm against women in armed conflict and situations of foreign occupation. Reference to a culture of impunity that looms large in situations of foreign occupation is also missing from this important thematic report.

The OIC believes that persistence of conflicts in various parts of the world remains a major impediment to the elimination of violence against women. The international community must pay special attention to the plight of women and their families living under foreign occupation and ensure that their basic and inalienable rights are guaranteed.

The OIC would appreciate if the Special Rapporteur would like to comment on the culture of impunity in situations of foreign occupation and its impact on violence against women.

I thank you, Mr. President