

General Statement on behalf of the OIC on resolution A/HRC/6/L8 entitled "Elaboration of international contemporary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination"

Mr. President

On behalf of the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, I would like to strongly support the initiative of the African Group contained in A/HRC/6/L8 entitled "elaboration of international contemporary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination".

This important initiative responds to the rising and new manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The concepts contained in PP4 of the resolution (draft) are extremely important and of great relevance in today's world where unfortunate attempts have been made to incite racial and religious violence through the misuse of the freedom of expression and opinion.

The OIC also strongly support PP4 that refers to the sharp increase in xenophobic tendencies and intolerance towards various racial and religious groups and cultures, where people belonging to minorities, migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and illegal migrants are the worst affected victims of such tendencies and acts.

We are satisfied that the draft resolution addresses the demand for complementary standards in the form of either a convention or additional protocols to the International Convention on Elimination of all forms and racial discrimination, filling the existing gaps in the Convention and providing new normative standards aimed at combating all forms of contemporary racism, including incitement to racial and religious hatred.

The OIC, in the statement under item 9, has suggested that the Council, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, should work to fill the juridical vacuum in regard to defamation of religions and religious intolerance. This will help in preparing the ground for drafting an international convention to combat defamation of religions.

The OIC strongly supports the African proposals to establish an Ad hoc Committee of the Human Rights Council on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards. This is an essential requirement.