



# PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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56 Rue de Moillebeau, 1211 Geneva Tel: (4122) 749.1930 Fax: (4122) 734.8085

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**AMBASSADOR ZAMIR AKRAM  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN  
ON BEHALF OF THE OIC**

**AT THE  
GENERAL SEGMENT OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Geneva  
4 March 2009**

**Statement by Ambassador Zamir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan,  
on behalf of the OIC, at the General Segment of the Tenth Session of the  
Human Rights Council, Geneva, 4 March 2009**

**Mr. President,**

I am making this statement on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The Human Rights Council is gradually gaining strength as a viable intergovernmental institution. Its endeavours to implement the human rights agenda in a non-selective, impartial, and universal manner were highlighted by the successful start of the UPR process, an ongoing and thorough review, rationalization and improvement of the Special Procedures and the ability of the Council to take up human rights situations requiring immediate attention.

**Mr. President,**

These successes notwithstanding, the OIC believes that we will need to do more to address all those issues which continue to obstruct realization of universal respect for human rights norms and standards. These are:

**One:** Politicization, double standards and selective emphasis on civil and political rights over economic, social and cultural rights must be avoided.

**Two:** A comprehensive approach to address human rights issues needs to be adopted. While strengthening national frameworks, focus must also be placed on global economic and political inequities which promote poverty, armed conflict, refugees flows and foreign occupation of territories and peoples.

**Three:** Emerging threats to individual and collective rights, such as defamation of and intolerance against followers of certain faiths, must also be addressed.

**Mr. President,**

The member states of OIC believe that following principles should guide us in our efforts to improve existing human rights structures:

**One:** all human rights, economic, social, cultural, civil and political including the right to development are given equal attention and weightage in the work of the United Nations mechanisms in particular the Human Rights Council and the OHCHR;

**Two:** effective UN mechanisms may be established to assess the impact of measures underpinning globalization and to redress any negative consequences of these measures for the full realization of human rights;

**Three:** An open and frank dialogue among, states, cultures, societies and religions may be promoted to broaden understanding of the emerging issues and to devise strategies to address all human rights concerns particularly those relating to defamation of religion and incitement to hatred based on race and religion.

**Mr. President**

In recent years, the phenomenon of defamation of religions has manifested itself in sacrilegious documentaries, hate speeches and art exhibitions with an agenda to intentionally distort historical facts and denigrate venerated personalities and objects. Islam, in particular, has been targeted leading to Islamophobia and incitement to violence against Muslims. We welcome all the moderate voices that condemn these acts. However, unified action by the international community and especially by this Council, will need to be taken to effectively address this phenomenon. The followers of all religions must be protected and all faiths must be respected equally.

The OIC has been constructively engaged with the preparatory process of the Durban Review Conference. We appreciate efforts of the High Commissioner to make this Conference a success and support her call for a genuine commitment to seeking consensus and avoiding narrow interests for the greater common good.

**Mr. President,**

The OIC condemns Israel's frequent attacks in the Palestinian territories which have resulted in massive violations of the rights of the Palestinian people. The Council in its 9<sup>th</sup> Special Session called for a fact finding Mission and requested the High Commissioner and other Special Procedures to report on illegal Israeli actions against the Palestinian people. We look forward to these reports and hope the Council will consider these in an impartial and non politicized manner. We also hope that the Council members will support OIC's traditional resolutions on Occupied Palestine and Syrian Golan in the 10<sup>th</sup> session, which have assumed greater importance in the context of continued violations of human rights in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.

In conclusion, the OIC would like to reiterate that while organizing the Council's Programme of Work, the ability of the small Missions in Geneva to effectively manage their activities in dealing with a number of international organizations needs to be taken into consideration.

I thank you, Mr. President.