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Please check against the delivery

**Statement by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC Member States during the First session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Review of the Work and Functioning of the Human Rights Council under Agenda item 4.2 entitled "Discussion on Special Procedures including the presentation on concrete proposals",
(26 October 2010, Geneva)**

Mr. President

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Conference.

At the outset, let me convey that the OIC Member States fully support the proposals made in the NAM Position Paper on Review of the Council.

The OIC recognizes the valuable contributions of the Special Procedures in the work of the Council as well as in the promotion and protection of all human rights. The OIC is of the view that independence, impartiality, integrity and objectivity of the system of special procedures should be respected.

Mr. President

Matters pertaining to the independence and latitude of the Special Procedures are excessively echoed in the work of the Human Rights Council. The OIC concurs that they are independent. However, we stress that their independence is not an absolute right. All of them have been appointed to perform specifically mandated tasks by the Human Rights Council. We all know that these mandated tasks are minutely negotiated in the Council, which must be respected and upheld by the Special Procedures.

The Special Procedures do not have a stature above this Council of sovereign States. The OIC believes that States can better demonstrate the recognition of Special Procedures if mandate holders give priority to reports, which comply with mandates given to them as well as following the Code of Conduct and not follow their own personal inclinations. Full respect for mandate and Code of Conduct will not only improve mutual trust but will also raise their stature. The OHCHR must also play its role in highlighting this to the Special Procedures while facilitating them in their work.

Mr. President

The OIC Member States would like to submit the following proposals for consideration of the Working Group;

- i. All mandate-holders must act in an objective, independent, non-selective, impartial and non-politicized manner,
- ii. States should cooperate with Special Procedures in the performance of their mandates by providing required information and responding to their communications in timely manner,
- iii. The Council should respect the principle of equitable geographical representation while appointing new mandate holders;
- iv. The Council should ensure implementing the process of Review, Rationalization and Improvement (RRI) on regular intervals,
- v. The Council may consider converting some Special Procedures into Working Groups. This exercise may be considered by the Council during renewing the mandate of a particular special procedure or in the context of a continuing RRI process,
- vi. Transparency in resource allocation and expenditure within the system of Special Procedures should be guaranteed,
- vii. All the mandate holders, whether in the domain of Economic, Social and Cultural rights or in Civil and Political rights, should be treated on equal footing as far resource allocation is concerned,
- viii. Country specific mandates must not be created against the will of those countries.
- ix. During the selection/appointment of the Special Procedures, the short-listed candidates should be invited to make a written submission presenting their views on the relevant mandates and their vision to their implementation,
- x. The President of the Council should follow the order of priority as suggested by the Consultative Group and should conduct extensive consultations with the regional groups in order to ascertain the acceptability of selected candidates with the aim to achieve consensus.
- xi. Information on the financial resources used by mandate holders in executing their mandates in the form of an "expenditure report" should be annexed to their reports,
- xii. Voluntary resources should be made to the OHCHR in the form of non-earmarked resources, and OHCHR should allocate them equally to all mandate-holders,

- xiii. Equal human resources should be provided to all mandate holders, and only members of the Secretariat should accompany mandate holders in the course of their official country visits,
- xiv. There is need to establish a HRC "Legal Committee on compliance with the Code of Conduct" on the basis of equitable geographical distribution.
- xv. An annex shall be added to country visits reports of Special Procedures including information presented to them by the State concerned, and their comments on the preliminary report prepared by the Special Procedure.

Mr. President

We assure you that the OIC has carefully submitted these proposals, taking into account that such proposals only pertain to fine-tuning the work and functioning of the Council.

I thank you.

