

Islamic Republic of IRAN
Item 9
ID with the Special Rapporteur

Mr. President,

My delegation fully associates itself with the statements made by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC and by Egypt on behalf of the NAM respectively.

We would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for his statement and for presenting the report on defamation of religions to the Council and at the same time express concern on the approach taken for addressing such an important issue in the submitted report.

Mr. President,

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and would like to stress that the integrity of the mandate should be fully maintained during the process of reporting to the Council with due regard to the terms of references including relevant General Assembly and Council's resolutions.

We express our serious concern over the increasing trend of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance around the world. We also condemn ever-increasing manifestations of defamation of religions and particularly Islamophobia in certain parts of the world as we are witnessing in recent years on a daily basis.

As stated before, various manifestations of defamation of religions and its negative consequences have not only increased in the past few years but also have been widely documented by different governmental and non-governmental agencies and even the previous Special Rapporteur on racism. Therefore, it is expected that the Special Rapporteur, would pay due attention to mandate entrusted to him as well as factually documented incidents while preparing reports of this nature.

With the same token, it is also expected that the special Rapporteur instead of philosophical discussions, strive to monitor and report on the

ongoing trends and manifestations of the defamation of religions and in particular on the serious implications on Islamophobia on the enjoyment of all rights by their followers, as mandated by the relevant resolutions.

Finally Mr. President,

My delegation, sincerely hopes that in future we witness more comprehensive reports on this important topic.

Thank you,