

**Draft statement by Tehmina Janjua
DPR of Pakistan on behalf of the OIC on the Agenda of the
Human Right Council, 30 November 2006**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the OIC.

The OIC has consistently underscored the importance of having a structured agenda of the Human Rights Council to ensure its smooth, effective and efficient functioning. In this regard, we welcomed the proposal of the African Group to establish an open-ended intergovernmental Working Group on the agenda of the Human Rights Council.

We believe that the President will shortly circulate a text setting up the working group that would meet for two annual sessions of ten working days each and present its report to the Council. We look forward to comprehensive discussions within this working group.

The work on the agenda is closely linked with the work being done by the two working groups on the UPR and the Review of Mechanisms.

We believe that the agenda of the Council must be predictable, transparent and balanced. Our experience over the past few months has underscored the importance of predictability and transparency in order to ensure the effective participation of all stakeholders. Predictability would require a structured agenda. The agenda must also reflect a balance between economic, social and cultural rights, civil and political rights as well as individual and collective rights.

The agenda should include important human rights themes like: right to self-determination; occupation and its implications and consequences on human rights; racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and combating defamation of religions; promotion of tolerance and respect for and freedom of religion and belief; and the right to development.

The Arab Group and the OIC would like to see the question of the violation of human rights in the Occupied Territories, including Palestine. This is generic agenda item that deals with people under occupation.

The Secretariat's preliminary non-paper on some issues relating to the working arrangements of the human rights Council throughout the year requires in-depth examination by the OIC. We will take the opportunity of addressing the issues raised in the paper in the discussions in the working group on the agenda of the Human Rights Council.

Finally, the OIC is strongly opposed to the inclusion of country-specific items in the agenda. We all agreed at the time of the setting up of the Council to get rid of

politicization in the work of the new body. The OIC has consistently emphasized that the Human Rights Council should have a “constructive and remedial” and not a “judgmental and selective” approach.

Thank You, Mr. President.