

**Statement by Ambassador Masood Khan, Permanent Representative of Pakistan,
on behalf of the OIC, at the Organizational Meeting for the Ninth Session of the
Human Rights Council, Geneva, 22 August 2008**

7/3

Mr. President,

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

We welcome this meeting, which gives us an opportunity to discuss organizational matters relating to the 9th Session of the Human Rights Council.

The Programme of Work, as it has developed, is fine and meets our expectations. Its shortened version is especially user-friendly. We request the Secretariat to make all reports, scheduled for discussion, available on time in all UN languages.

We congratulate Mr. Miguel Alfonso Martinez, Chair of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, and other members of the Committee for the successful completion of their first session. We look forward to their report, which will come to the Council for consideration and decisions.

We request member states to kindly share information about their planned initiatives and resolutions before the commencement of the session. Such transparency leads to informed and fruitful discussions. The OIC is not tabling any fresh proposals or existing resolutions during the 9th Session. Individual OIC members will announce and coordinate their national initiatives, in due course.

Mr. President,

We have noted with satisfaction that you are proceeding with the review, rationalization and improvement of mandates in the forthcoming session in accordance with the agreed basis provided by the HRC Resolution 5/1 of June 18, 2007 and Rolling Check-list for RRI furnished by the President of the Human Rights Council on December 12, 2007. In accordance with these parameters, RRI of each mandate takes place in the context of negotiations of the relevant resolutions. An assessment can take place in a separate segment of the interactive dialogue between the Council and mandate holders. It has been further agreed that the process of RRI is member-states driven, with the main sponsor(s) of the mandate leading the discussion and providing necessary information and data.

Mr. President,

One pending issue before us is the adoption of the report of the 8th Session. We are grateful to you, Mr. President, and Ambassador Louis Alfonso de Alba for the effort

that has led to agreement on common ground on the issue. The revision made by the Secretariat, however, does not fully reflect the understanding recorded in your letter of 28th July 2008. We, therefore, urge the Secretariat to further revise the report as explained in the Presidential letter. We also look forward to your proposed Presidential Statement, which shall formalize the arrangement on the subject for future reference. We hope that the Presidential Statement will build upon the agreed elements.

3/3

We are grateful to Ambassador Mohammed Loulichki for his facilitation on the subject of streamlining the institutional relationship between the OHCHR and the HRC. The non-paper presented by him captures the essential coordinates needed to carry this discussion forward. The objective is not merely to look at the relationship between the Council and the Office of the High Commissioner, but between the Council and the High Commissioner. As we are going to witness a transition with the appointment of the new High Commissioner for Human Rights, we should give some time to the Council before it can go into the question of not one but a set of complex relationships. More importantly, we must give some time to the High Commissioner to settle down.

We reiterate that panel discussions in the Human Rights Council sessions must draw panelists from diverse regional, cultural and legal backgrounds.

Mr. President,

Finally, we want to draw Council members' attention to the plight of the diplomats representing permanent missions at the Council during the Council sessions. While Ambassadors and Ministers go through a fast lane, other diplomats have to pass through a walkthrough magnetometer and are subjected to additional checks. This special arrangement is made for the Human Rights Council sessions. We request UNOG to address this problem by standardizing security checks and bringing them in line with the practice followed at the UN Headquarters. We are ready to submit recommendations in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. President.