

**Statement by Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Conference  
on the Reports by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for  
Children and Armed Conflict and Special Rapporteur on Toxic Wastes,  
9 September 2008**

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

**Children and Armed Conflict**

The OIC thanks the Special Representative of the Secretary General Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy for her report. Her recommendations and suggestions merit careful consideration.

The OIC member States believe that protection and security of children affected by armed conflict is an essential for sustainable peace, security and development. It is also a major human rights concern and must be closely focused by this Council. We, therefore, recognize the need to streamline the rights of children affected by conflict in the work of the Human Rights Council.

We believe that a strengthened protection mechanism should encompass implementation of States' obligations pursuant to international instruments. Additionally, the role of corporate actors particularly those dealing with weapons trade is also important in protecting children from violations and abuse. These actors must be discouraged from engaging in commercial activities that support parties that engage in violations of the rights of children in armed conflicts.

The OIC views with favour the call of the Special Representative to make systematic use of Security Council resolution 1612 of 2005 as an advocacy tool, and also to make combating grave violations against children an integral part of the Council's agenda.

The OIC would like to stress the need for full and unqualified respect of international humanitarian law by the parties involved in armed conflicts. Where UN peacekeeping or observer missions are already deployed, their mandates should include observation and reporting on the treatment of children and measures to offer them protection.

**Special Rapporteur on Toxic Wastes**

We recognize that the participation of Special Representative in activities organized under the Ninth Conference of Parties to Basel Convention, the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. This will be helpful to streamline human rights dimension in the discussion toxic wastes.

The issue of illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes should not be merely handled at the destination. A broader and origin-oriented approach will be more useful to tackle the problem. The receiving countries, which are mostly developing countries, cannot handle their storage and disposal. We hope that the Special Rapporteur will focus on this aspect during his visit to the Netherlands to study the human rights impact of the Probo Koala case.

Lastly, the OIC believes that the current mandate of the Special Rapporteur is sufficiently broad. The proposal to enhance the mandate will not have any added value.

**Statement by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC on the Reports submitted by the Special Rapporteurs on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, contemporary forms of slavery and Independent Expert on International Solidarity under agenda item 3, Geneva 9 September 2008**

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

**Sale of children, child Prostitution and pornography**

The OIC thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report.

Sale of children, child prostitution and pornography is an abhorrent practice. The OIC has always supported this mandate. We have reviewed with interest and appreciation the strategic direction that the Special Rapporteur has set out in her report.

We endorse her views about an in-depth analysis of socio-economic conditions and the factors leading to sale of children. It will be difficult to develop an effective child-protection system at international or regional levels without the understanding of underlying factors, and the forces driving such appalling practices.

Regarding her future country visits, we would suggest that the Special Rapporteur should chalk out a comprehensive plan well in advance, and inform the relevant authorities of relevant states in order to coordinate the visit, and make it more fruitful.

As regards the sale of children, the SR should consider conducting a survey aiming to establish the trends in: (a) sexual exploitation of the child; (b) transfer of organs of the child for profit; (c) engagement of the child in forced labour, and; offering, obtaining, procuring or providing a child for child prostitution. The SR should also conduct a comparative study of the effectiveness of select national laws in combating this phenomenon.

**International Solidarity**

The OIC welcomes the report by Mr. Rizki on International solidarity. The OIC believes that an effective international solidarity will have to be based on the foundation of shared responsibility, mutual respect, cooperation and support. To achieve solidarity, the spirit of mutual support, cooperation and respect for national sovereignty has to be at the core of relationship between the developing and developed countries. The OIC would appreciate further elaboration of the 'obligation to fulfill' at the international level. We hope that the developed partners would fulfill their development commitment and undertake new responsibilities to enable developing states achieve MDGs.

The OIC appreciates the work done by Mr. Rizki in developing the draft questionnaire to identify the basic parameters of the principles of international solidarity and human rights. We look forward to further discussion on it in future sessions of the Council .

**Contemporary Forms of Slavery**

We welcome the first report of Ms. Gulnara Shahinian which summarizes the known discriminatory practices under the framework of slavery.

Discrimination on one ground reverberates on other rights too. Accordingly, the heinous crime of slavery is rightly described as a "Social death" affecting the whole series of social rights. The Special Rapporteur will, therefore, need to utilize all tools available under human rights regime to implement her mandate. 4/4

Madam Shahinian rightly pointed out that a common understanding of contemporary forms of slavery does not exist. We agree that she will need to use her mandate in raising awareness on the issue.

**Mr. President,**

No one can contest that root cause and consequences of slavery have synergies with other human rights branches and that different forms of slavery are the result of long-standing discrimination against the most vulnerable groups in societies. In this context, focus on gender and age groups is a welcome move. It is our hope that in addition to child labour, forced labour and domestic work, she would also focus on the sex industry where both women and children are exploited under different pretexts.

In the end we look forward to her recommendations which will hopefully be carried out in a consultative manner taking into account the views of all stake holders.