Special High-level event to Commemorate the International Day to Combat Islamophobia

10 March 2023 (10:00am – 1:00pm)

General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters

Concept Note

Pursuant to the General Assembly Resolution 76/254 proclaiming 15 March as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, the President of the General Assembly and the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in his capacity as the Chair of the OIC Group, are co-convening a special High-level event to “Commemorate the International Day to Combat Islamophobia” on 10 March 2023 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Background

2. On 15 March 2022, the General Assembly adopted resolution 76/254 designating 15 March as the International Day to combat Islamophobia. This resolution invites all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, and civil society, private sector and faith-based organizations to observe the International Day in an appropriate manner.

3. At this commemoration, it is important for the international community to come together and consider ways to combat intolerance, and incitement to violence, and hatred, against people of all religions and beliefs, including Muslims.

4. Despite its pervasive impacts, Islamophobia remains insufficiently understood and discussions to address the impacts are often fraught and complex. It seems essential to promote greater information of this phenomenon and promote solutions through greater understanding and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

5. This commemorative event will seek to achieve the following objectives:
(i) Consider ways to halt and reverse Islamophobia globally.

(ii) Call for international solidarity and cooperation in combating discrimination and violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, including anti-Muslim rhetoric, which leads to racial profiling, discrimination, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of Muslims.

(iii) Promote collective action by the international community to combat, xenophobia, intolerance and incitement to violence on the basis of any religion or belief.

(iv) Call for strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue on the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights.

Program

6. The meeting will be chaired by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, in his capacity as the Chair of OIC-CFM. Participants will hear statements from the President of the General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General, the Secretary-General of the OIC, the High Representative of the UN Alliance of Civilization (UNAOC), academia, followed by Group statements and statements from individual Member States and Observers.

7. The commemorative High-level event will take place on 10 March 2023 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in General Assembly Hall and live streamed on UN Web TV.