

**Statement by Ambassador Zamir Akram on behalf of the OIC Member States during the 15<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the Human Rights Council, (Geneva, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2011)**

Thank you Mr. President

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

Consistent with the statement made by the Secretary General of the OIC, the OIC Member States in the Human Rights Council strongly condemn the excessive use of force against civilians in the Arab Libyan Jamahiriya, resulting in the death and injury of a large number of people. We also express our heartfelt condolences to the Libyan people and to the families of the victims, and wish speedy recovery to the wounded.

The OIC Member States call on the authorities in Libya to immediately cease violence against innocent people and underscore the need to address their demands peacefully and through dialogue in accordance with the true spirit and injunctions of Islam.

Mr. President

The OIC Programme of Action calls upon all OIC members to enlarge the scope of political participation, ensure equality, civil liberties and social justice and to promote transparency and accountability, as well as to eliminate corruption in their national spheres. It is, therefore, incumbent upon the Libyan authorities to respect and uphold these obligations.

Mr. President

The world is witnessing far-reaching developments in a number of OIC countries at present. It is a time of awakening; a time for reckoning. Muslims will no longer be denied their rights. Justice, equality and the rule of law must prevail, not only within Muslim societies but across the world.

Mr. President

Recent developments in the Muslim world, provide a fitting rebuttal to those quarters that allege that Islam is incompatible with democracy. The Quran, our holy book, states in chapter 42 verses 38 to 43 that:

*I quote*

“they (the Muslims) conduct their affairs by mutual consultation and they keep open for the welfare of others what We have bestowed on them. And whenever gross injustice is inflicted, those who stand up for their rights and defend themselves are without blame; the blame is on those who oppress people and cause disorder on earth.

Democracy, justice, freedom and morality thus constitute the core values of Islam.

Similarly, Islam places great emphasis on the rights of human beings. Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) opened the door to social reforms, and created an environment of security and safety where people were able to enjoy basic rights and freedoms.

The current Muslim awakening has emphatically stated that the Islamic world will no longer accept double standards and hypocrisy in the international sphere. Democracy, freedom and justice are immutable rights that cannot be promoted and protected selectively to serve the interests of some and not all. The international community will have to pay attention to the voices of the Muslim people and not just to their leaders.

Muslims will no longer tolerate inequalities and injustice, not only in their own societies but in all those societies where they are discriminated on the basis of their religion.

Most importantly, Muslims will no longer tolerate denial of their rights in any part of the world.

Mr. President

In conclusion, the OIC Member States expect that the Libyan authorities will heed the voice of the international community and will resort to peaceful means to respond to the ongoing crisis.

The international community, for its part, must come to the aid and relief of the Libyan people and desist from playing politics with this issue.

A new dawn has come. Rules of the game have changed. Those who do not embrace it, will be swept away.

I thank you.