

DECLARATION

ON

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR DISPUTE

The Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir to be held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly Session at New York in September 2018;

Reaffirming the principles and objectives of the Charter of the OIC and the UN regarding the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and recalling the UN resolutions relevant to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute which remain unimplemented;

Welcoming and endorsing the recommendation of the Report of Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on Jammu and Kashmir of the formation of Commission of Inquiry to conduct comprehensive, international and impartial investigation into the gross human rights violations in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir;

Welcome the statement at the Human Rights Council by the new High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Michelle Bachelet stating that "people of Kashmir have exactly the same rights to justice and dignity as people all over the world", and that the High Commissioner "will continue its monitoring and reporting".

Denounce the brutal assassination of the veteran Kashmiri journalist Shujaat Bukhari in cold blood and calls for its independent and impartial investigation;

Stressing that Jammu and Kashmir is the core dispute between Pakistan and India and its resolution is indispensable for realization of the dream for peace and stability in South Asia;

Expressing concern at the alarming increase in the indiscriminate use of force and gross violations of human rights committed against the innocent Kashmiris and regretting that India had not allowed the OIC-IPHRC and United Nations Fact Finding Mission to visit Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir;

Expressing deep concern at the heinous crimes against humanity and atrocities, massacres, extrajudicial killings, custodial deaths, reprisal killings, arbitrary arrests, torture, burning of houses, and the use of rape as an instrument of terror by the Indian government, through its more than 700,000 occupation troops, who have since 1989 killed more than 100,000 people in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and raped more than 10,000 women;

Deploring the continuous use of live ammunition and pellet guns against unarmed peaceful protestors resulting in the killing of more than 500 people and injuring around 20,000;

Expressing concern at the illegal detention and deteriorating health of Mr. Shabbir Shah in Tihar Jail, New Delhi, who has been denied access to adequate medical facilities;

Denouncing the inhuman measures by the Indian occupation forces to terrorize the population in the Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir through continuous curfews and other restrictions;

Strongly condemning the use of an innocent Kashmiri civilian as human shield by tying him to an army jeep and the act of the Indian army chief of awarding the perpetrator Major Gogoi instead of taking punitive action against him;

Deploring the increasing number of disappearances and expressing deep concern at the discovery of more than 7000 unmarked mass graves in IOK;

Condemning the persecution of Gujjars and Bakarwals (nomads) in Jammu and the rape and murder of the eight year old Asifa Bano belonging to the same community;

Expressing grave concern over the cordon and search operations in which Kashmir youth are being targeted with impunity;

Reaffirming that elections held in Jammu and Kashmir are not a substitute to the plebiscite under UN auspices in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions;

Supporting the indigenous uprising of the Kashmiri people against the illegal Indian occupation and denouncing the Indian attempts to falsely link the peaceful freedom struggle with terrorism;

Expressing concern at Indian efforts to bring demographic changes in IOK by settling non-Muslim non-State subjects (West Pakistan Refugees) and by making attempts to change its Muslim majority into a minority;

Also concerned over the steps being taken by the Indian Government to construct illegal settlements and colonies for Pundits and former armed personnel;

Noting with concern extension of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act (SARFESI Act) and the Statistics Act to the IOK to alter the demographic composition of the territory;

Condemning the Indian actions of putting Hurriyat leaders under prolonged detention or house arrest;

Noting that the resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, can end the grave human tragedy in IOK;

Reaffirming that the people of Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir will continue their just and legitimate struggle for the realization of their right to self-determination, as sanctioned in the UN Security Council resolutions;

Expressing deep gratitude to OIC and its Member States, especially the Contact Group countries for their unequivocal support for the Kashmiris;