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**Statement by Pakistan, on behalf of the OIC Member States, during an interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food and the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing as a component of the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living under Agenda Item 3  
22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council  
4 March 2013**

**Mr. President,**

I am making these remarks on behalf of the Member States of the OIC

We thank the Special Rapporteurs for presenting their annual reports

**Special Rapporteur on Right to Food**

The Special Rapporteur has focused his report on threats to women's right to food. The report covers broad range of issues that might affect women's right to food including discriminatory practices in their access to education and employment opportunities, lack of access to economic activity and poor bargaining power in the household. This report should also have included impacts of global food insecurity on women's right to food.

We agree with the assessment of the Special Rapporteur that cycle of discrimination against girls and women must be broken by provision of education and employment opportunities, access to productive resources and required incentives in terms of social and cultural values. This would indeed provide financial autonomy and would ensure women's right to food. We would be grateful to receive some concrete proposals in this regard.

**Mr. President,**

The age-old idea that a woman's right to food is secondary to man has become obsolete and it is no longer acceptable. The comments of the Special Rapporteur on "care economy" should further be analyzed in terms of women's free will to choose between employment and looking after her family. We believe that free will of women to engage her in household activities should not be viewed as discrimination. In our approach to address this matter, we should always be conscious that the solution is not to dismantle

the equilibrium that societies evolved and conciliated on, but to ensure an optimum balance between this socially and culturally established arrangements and the enjoyment of all the universally agreed on human rights of women, including the right to food. The OIC acknowledges the fact that woman access to education and availability of economic opportunities are not only important for their empowerment and socio-economic progress of a country but also for future generations.

**Mr. President,**

The Special Rapporteur has provided some good ideas in his recommendations to avoid gender stereotyping roles and improving burden-sharing. However, it would be crucial to provide some practical proposals to enhance capacities of countries those are vulnerable to food security and natural disasters.

### **Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing**

The Special Rapporteur, in her recent report has discussed different forms of tenure insecurity such as forced evictions, displacement resulting from development, natural disasters, conflicts and land grabbing.

The OIC shares assessment of the Special Rapporteur that forced evictions are the most visible and egregious sign of tenure insecurity. The Committee on Economic and Social and Cultural Rights has referred legal security of tenure as one of the seven elements of the right to adequate housing. Tenure security has the direct link with poverty and it would be important to find out ways and means to overcome this challenge through enhanced cooperation at the international level.

**Mr. President,**

We welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on her missions to Occupied State of Palestine and Israel and presenting her findings and recommendations regarding the protection and promotion of the right to adequate housing in the occupied state of Palestine and Israel. The OIC does not recognize any change in the legal status imposed on the State of Palestine since 1967 particularly in and around occupied east Jerusalem.

We are deeply concerned for the systematic and organized destruction of private and public properties of the Palestinian people throughout the occupied state of Palestine. We reject the Israeli discriminatory planning and laws that hamper the urban and rural

development of Palestinian communities in the occupied state of Palestine and demand Israel the occupying power to immediately stop such illegal practices and to revise its laws in a manner that fully correspond to international norms and standards.

We call on Israel the occupying power to implement these important recommendations without delay and calls upon the Palestinian side and the international community to implement their part of recommendations.

We would like to ask the Special Rapporteur on her vision for the best approach and modalities that will ensure the most proper implementation of recommendations and follow up to her report.

Thank you.