



National statement delivered by Mr. Junaid Suleman, First Secretary, during the Interactive Dialogue with UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons at the 47th session of Human Rights Council

28 June 2021

Madam President,

We thank the Rapporteur for her presentation.

We fully agree that the principle of non-punishment is crucial for safeguarding and advancing basic rights of victims of trafficking, as well as for ensuring accountability of the perpetrators.

We have firmly embedded this principle in our legal, policy and administrative frameworks to counter this menace.

Pakistan's domestic law on human trafficking clearly stipulates that a victim shall not be held criminally liable for the offence. The law also contains provisions related to protection, safety and compensation for the victims.

To give practical shape to these victim-centric provisions, the Government has established shelter homes in key cities, where medical and psychosocial support is being provided to victims free-of-cost. Special attention is given to cater to needs of women and children. The Government has also allocated resources for legal aid, and repatriation of victims from foreign jurisdictions.

Addressing the underlying drivers of human trafficking is imperative to prevent human rights violations from occurring in the first place. The increasingly unjustified restrictions on legal pathways of migration, coupled with widening global inequalities, would continue to push more people into the predatory trap of traffickers.

We, therefore, encourage the Rapporteur to increase her focus and advocacy on these important aspects as well within the scope of her mandate. I thank you.