



**National Statement by Mr. Umair Khalil, Second Secretary during
Interactive Dialogue with the Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence
against women, its causes and consequences
50th HRC Session**

20 June 2022

Mr. President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her first report to the Council and wish her a productive tenure.

We appreciate the focus of current report on a very important thematic issue i.e. violence against indigenous women and girls.

Being vulnerable to climate change, environmental degradation and industrialization coupled with socio-economic constraints, indigenous women and girls demand our greater attention and concrete actions aimed at ensuring provision of conducive environment for the enjoyment of fundamental rights and preserving their distinct traditional and cultural identity.

The SR has rightly highlighted multiple forms of discrimination and violence including gender-based violence meted out to indigenous women and girls. The international human rights law including the Declaration on the rights of indigenous people clearly prohibits gender-based violence and provides guidance on protection of their fundamental rights, combating gender-based violence, redressal mechanism and holding perpetrators to account.

We echo the SR's call for access to effective and transparent justice system as well as to ensure that survivors of violence have adequate access to support services, including culturally appropriate medical treatment and psychosocial counselling. However, provision of resources to ensure effective remedial measures would continue to pose serious challenges especially for developing countries.

We trust that the SR, in her future thematic work, would also prioritize and weave in the issue of women and girls living in other vulnerable situations including UN recognized occupied territories as they remain a victim of aggression and violence by the occupation forces with severe psycho-social impacts.