



**National Statement, delivered by Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi  
Deputy Permanent Representative, during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special  
Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children at the 46<sup>th</sup> session of  
Human Rights Council**

**(01 March 2021)**

**Madam President,**

We thank the Special Rapporteur for the report.

A safe and secure environment for children's physical and mental growth remains an urgent imperative.

We stress that discussions on sale and sexual exploitation of children require a comprehensive and coordinated approach that addresses the supply and demand sides of the problem.

We are concerned over the "25%" rise in child pornography especially in the western countries during the COVID pandemic. This disturbing increase once again highlights the continuing vulnerabilities of children, exposing them to sale, trafficking, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

The global community must join hands to address the root causes of the growing evil of child sexual abuse and child pornography. COVID pandemic alone cannot be blamed.

A meaningful strategy to curb this menace requires an unqualified dismantling of the huge pornographic industry and its revenue streams based in western countries. Such demand curtailing measures are essential to combat the sale, trafficking, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of women and children, particularly the girl child.

We invite the Special Rapporteur to share her views and concrete recommendations to address the demand side of the problem given vast and burgeoning pornographic business with states' sanctioned companies and platforms that exist in western countries as well as online platforms hosted in such jurisdiction.

I thank you