



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement by Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Deputy Permanent Representative, during Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in persons at the 44th Session of the Human Rights Council

(2 July 2020)

Madam President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her report.

We agree that changes are needed in the current approach to anti-trafficking action to focus more on victims' support, empowerment and long-term social inclusion. Pakistan believes that human trafficking and forced labour pose serious challenges towards the promotion and protection of all human right and disproportionately affect the vulnerable segments of society, like women and children.

We support the view of the Special Rapporteur that the current poisonous political discourse that leads States to adopt extremely restrictive and even xenophobic migration policies and regulations contributes to the current lack of early support for victims and potential victims of trafficking.

Pakistan has adopted Convention for the Suppression of the trafficking in Women of full Age, International Convention for the Suppression of White Slave Traffic, and International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and children. Pakistan has also ratified the Forced the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 and UN Convention against Trans-national Organized Crime and remains committed to address the crime of trafficking in persons.

Pakistan is also working at regional as well as national level to combat human trafficking. We are signatory of SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution. Domestically, Pakistan's Parliament passed Trafficking Act 2018 to complement Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, 2002 to beat the menace of trafficking in all its forms and manifestations. In addition, a wide range of policy, legal, administrative and technical measures are underway to completely eradicate trafficking in persons.

Madam President,

In conclusion, we join the call for stepping up efforts for the protection of the human rights of migrant workers, in particular in the case of exploitation by the



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN

Geneva

hiring private entities. Trafficked persons should not be placed in immigration detention, and their freedom should not otherwise be restricted for security or other reasons.

I thank you.