National statement during Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

59th session of the UN Human Rights Council

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Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the Special Rapporteur and thanks him for presenting the mandate's thematic report, of which we take note.

Pakistan is concerned at increasing restrictions on regular migration, which contribute to increased in irregular migration and trafficking; across increasingly more dangerous routes.

Migration frameworks that enable regulated movement across borders can better safeguard human rights, foster economic opportunities in both source and destination communities, and encourage social inclusion. Simultaneously, combatting illegal migration should address root causes such as poverty, conflict, and lack of awareness about safer, legal alternatives. These approaches can prioritize human dignity and economic stability while reducing the risks associated with irregular migration.

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) remains an essential framework.

As host to several waves of millions of displaced Afghan brothers for decades, Pakistan underscores that supporting host countries is a matter of burden-sharing and international responsibility. We are proud to see thousands of Afghans succeed as doctors, professionals, and athletes based on the education and training they received in Pakistan.

Mr. President,

Increasing hostility and discrimination against migrants is another pressing concern.

Hate speech and stigmatisation against migrant communities, particularly Muslims, has been mainstreamed into political discourse around the world and accorded legal protection. This has upended the system of human rights safeguards by protecting the perpetrators of hatred and not their victims. Harmful stereotypes, narratives and profiling policies have perpetuated biases against migrants from many parts of the world, which further amplifies the already severe human rights risks they face.

We would appreciate the Special Rapporteur's views on how states could enhance efforts to combat denigration and negative stereotyping of migrants based on their religion or belief, as well as incitement to religious hatred against them?

Thank you.

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