



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Umair Khalid, Second Secretary, during
Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Racism
53rd HRC Session
11 July 2023**

Mr. President,

We align with the OIC statement.

We thank the SR for outlining her priorities during discharge of her mandate and affirm our support for a majority of the priorities set out by her.

Pakistan reaffirms its support for efforts to implement international legal provisions, particularly the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA).

We thank the SR for adopting an intersectional approach to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance into elements of her work, however one of the most harmful aspects of current trends is the rising tide of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred.

We request the SR to make Islamophobia as a significant element of her intersectional approach during the course of her mandate.

Mr. President,

We have woefully witnessed several acts of premeditated acts of desecration of the Holy Quran, this year. We strongly condemn these recent Islamophobic acts and welcome convening of the Council's urgent debate on this subject.

We agree with the SR that contemporary manifestations of these phenomena cannot be understood in a historical vacuum. These manifestations of bigotry, hatred and incitement to discrimination and violence need to be analyzed from a historical lens and solutions need to be found to address this intensifying challenge, including the nexus between digital technologies and advocacy of hatred and discrimination.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

How can we forge greater international cooperation and inclusive approaches to find solutions for tackling the worrying trends of rising Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred?

I thank you!