



National statement delivered by Mr. Umair Khalid, Second Secretary, during Interactive Dialogue with UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants at the 50th session of Human Rights Council

23 June 2022

Mr. President,

We thank the SR for the well-researched report.

We echo his concerns about the growing trend to push back against migrants at international borders under dubious interpretation of human rights laws, and deployment of a wide array of deterrence and discriminatory measures.

We also agree that the designation of ‘a safe third country’ for asylum seekers by some countries in the global North has raised legitimate concerns about its use to whitewash human rights violations, escape global scrutiny and avoid international responsibility.

More often than not, the application of these border governance measures discriminates against migrants on the basis of their race, color, ethnicity, nationality and religion. This is reflective of the increasing application of electoral lens to international migration, and amplification of ill-informed narratives against migrants.

Cumulatively, these sobering developments have endangered safety and well-being of people on the move, and enabled illegal expulsions, denial of basic necessities of survival, and in some cases, family separation.

We therefore fully endorse the SR’s call on States to put an end to pushback practices, and bring their border management regimes in full compliance with international human rights standards, obligations and commitments.

We would appreciate SR’s views on how the availability of data on discrimination against migrants and independent reporting of such cases can be strengthened.

Thank you.