



National statement, delivered by Mr. Junaid Suleman, First Secretary, during the Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery at the 48th session of Human Rights Council

17 September 2021

Madam President,

We concur with the Special Rapporteur that displacement renders individuals, especially women and children, more vulnerable to various forms of contemporary slavery.

In this regard, we would like to underscore three inter-related points:

First, the global community should focus on addressing the underlying political and socio-economic drivers of displacement at all levels. In particular, we stress the need to end foreign interventions, resolve lingering conflicts and disputes, bridge global economic disparities and mitigate climate change impacts.

Second, lack of legal migration pathways has pushed people towards smugglers, traffickers, and criminal groups. Many countries in the global North continue to push back against asylum seekers, and migrants through deploying an array of deterrence measures including at borders. We call on such States to review and revise laws, policies and administrative measures to bring them in full compliance with their international obligations and commitments.

Lastly, displaced people, especially migrant workers, face systematic barriers in availing decent work, education, and other basic necessities of life in host countries. The growing trend to scape-goat migrant workers and refugees in the West for electoral gains is disconcerting. We, therefore, endorse SR's call on relevant States to improve socio-economic pathways to integration of displaced people in host communities. I thank you, Madam President.