



National Statement by Mr. Umair Khalil, Third Secretary during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children, including Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and other Child Sexual Abuse Material

10 March 2022

Mr. President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her report.

Pakistan remains committed to its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) and Optional Protocols. We are pursuing a zero-tolerance policy in combating sale and sexual exploitation of children both through legislative and administrative measures.

We are deploying all efforts to provide an enabling environment for children's physical and psychological wellbeing.

We appreciate SR's efforts to highlight the range of measures to prevent and protect the child from sexual abuse and steps for rehabilitation of child victims. We believe such measures should correspond to socio-cultural context of each country. Even more importantly, they should conform to children's evolving capacities as well as necessary parental and legal guidance as stipulated in the CRC.

We would like to emphasize the importance of sustained engagement and cooperation for eliminating inequalities and disparities across the globe and addressing underlying socio-economic challenges. Poverty, hunger and unemployment undermine efforts to eliminate this scourge.

At the same time, dismantling of the huge pornographic industry and its revenue streams remains critical. Such demand curtailing measures are essential to combat the sale, trafficking, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of women and children, particularly the girl child.

I thank you.