



**National Statement, delivered by Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary, during the
Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons**

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Mr. President,

We thank the SR for spotlighting the increasingly complex area of refugee protection, internal displacement and statelessness.

For over four decades, Pakistan has hosted one of the largest number of refugees in the world. Despite financial restraints and economic challenges, we continue to assist more than 3 million people seeking refuge on our soil.

We share the SR's concerns that trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation, as a form of sexual violence in conflict, continues to take place widely; especially in the case of displaced and stateless women and children.

We support SR's assessment that displacement linked to climate change can aggravate conflicts over scarce resources and negatively impact vulnerable populations.

In this regard, we underscore the need for greater international cooperation and burden sharing with states facing protracted situations of hosting sizeable refugee populations, especially those with limited fiscal resources.

We are deeply saddened by the recent tragedy in the Mediterranean Sea that resulted in huge loss of lives. Such recurring incidents are stark reminders that more needs to be done to plug existing policy and normative gaps to prevent human trafficking but also to save lives.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

We would like to hear your views on what immediate steps can be taken by the international community to prevent trafficking in persons from a human rights perspective.

I thank you!