



National Statement, delivered by Mr. Junaid Suleman, Director HR&HA, for Interactive Dialogue with the Advisory Committee

54th HRC Session

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Mr. President,

We thank the Advisory Committee for its valuable work, including the report on advancing racial justice and equality by uprooting systemic racism.

We agree with the committee's finding that the changing demography due to migration is fueling rise in xenophobic ideologies, racism, and Islamophobia.

Against this backdrop, we stress the need to recognize the intersectionality between hatred based on religion and race.

While the legal, institutional and societal mechanisms against racism have advanced ahead, prohibition of religious hatred remains weak due to absence of an international legal instrument, among other factors.

As a result, there is an increasing tendency to express racial hatred through attacks on religions, holy scriptures, symbols and sacred personage.

Mr. President, in the Committee's views, what normative and legal avenues must be pursued to counter contemporary forms of racism being expressed through public advocacy of religious hatred.

I thank you!