



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, First Secretary, during ID with
SR on Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children, including Child Prostitution, Child
Pornography and other Child Sexual Abuse
HRC 55th Session
5 March 2024**

Mr. Vice President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for the report and appreciate its focus on the entertainment industry across diverse genres, both formal and informal.

Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to our obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols.

Pakistan's zero-tolerance policy for child abuse and exploitation has led to more effective measures like the "Zainab Alert" as well as stronger legislation. These cover such areas as generating electronic alarms, documenting cases, engaging civil society, raising public awareness, and prosecuting perpetrators. We also remain committed to stepping up psychosocial and medical support for the victims.

Mr. Vice President,

At a time of multiple interlinked crises of a global scale and growing economic disparity and privation, exclusively supply-side analyses of child trafficking and exploitation cannot work; and even risk trivializing this important conversation.

We therefore welcome the Special Rapporteur's work for shedding much-needed light on the dark demand-side dynamics that drive trafficking, exploitation and abuse of children.

We also appreciate the mandate holder's preliminary inquiries into how technological phenomenon like social media, online gaming, extended reality and Artificial Intelligence would interact with this menace.

It remains increasingly important to address the fetishization of child sexuality. The hyper-sexualization of children and glamourization of sexual acts risk normalizing abuses of the rights of children.

We echo the Special Rapporteur's call to introduce clear and inviolable norms and principles across the entertainment and fashion industries based on the best interests of the child and will engage constructively in their development.

I thank you.