No. Pol/Sp-Proc/2020


The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the esteemed Office the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 19 May 2020

Special Procedures Branch,
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),
Geneva
Response by the Government of Pakistan to the Joint Communication dated 19 March 2020 on The Citizen Protection (Against Online Harm) Rules 2020

The Citizen Protection (Against Online Harm) Rules 2020 were drafted in compliance with the statutory requirement under Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016. Responding to the concerns raised by section of media and civil society, the Federal Cabinet has since suspended and asked review of these rules, so as to further streamline and bring them in sync with international best practices.

On the directive of the Prime Minister, a Consultation Committee has been constituted, which is in the process of reviewing the rules through an open and broad-based consultation process, involving all stakeholders. The Committee has since held meetings and is seized of the matter.

The Consultation Committee finalized a questionnaire to seek comments from all stakeholders. It is being uploaded on the website of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority for wider dissemination. On the completion of this inclusive consultative review process as well as on the basis of feedback received, the rules will be revised accordingly.

The Special Rapporteurs’ views, conveyed vide their joint communication dated 19 March 2020, have been duly noted and will be given due consideration during the ongoing review process.

Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to implementing its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and other applicable international human rights instruments.

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