



**PERMANENT MISSION OF PAKISTAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

56 rue de Moillebeau

1209 Geneva 19

Tel: (4122) 7491930

Fax: (4122) 734 8085

E-mail: geneva@pakistanmission-un.org

No. Pol/Sp-Proc/2020

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the UN Special Procedures Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to its letter no. OL PAK 3/2020 dated 19 March 2020, has the honour to share the enclosed response of the Government of Pakistan to the subject joint communication.

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.



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.
