Permanent Mission of Pakistan
to the United Nations and
other International Organizations, Geneva

Permanent Representative

No. Amb-1/2025

2 December 2025

Dear Ms. Margaret Satterthwaite,

In reference to your communication Ref. OL PAK 14/2025 dated 28 November 2025, I would like to express my deep concern at the ungrounded and misplaced assertions regarding the 27th Constitutional amendment adopted by two-third majority of the Parliament of Pakistan.

Like all parliamentary democracies, any amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan remains the exclusive domain of the elected representatives of the people of Pakistan. Democracy and democratic methods form the bedrock of civil and political rights, and therefore must be respected. The constitutional amendments adopted by the Parliament of Pakistan followed due procedures as enshrined in Pakistan's Constitution.

We regret the haste in which the communication based on disinformation/ misunderstanding is intended to be made public on the recent Constitutional Amendments in Pakistan, thereby foreclosing the possibility for a detailed and substantive discussion that should always be afforded to such matters.

While a detailed response to the questions raised by you in your letter follows, I would like to highlight the following preliminary observations:

i. The constitutional amendments were undertaken through a robust and transparent democratic process, in line with the Constitution of Pakistan.

ii. The appointment or selection of Justices from among existing superior judicial officers, as recommended by the Judicial Commission of Pakistan, reflects standard practice and compares favourably with jurisdictions where lifetime judicial appointments are made directly by the executive on partisan considerations.

iii. The extension of sovereign immunity to holders of select high offices accords with well-established legal doctrine and comparative State practice. Such immunity neither signifies impunity nor weakens accountability; rather, it ensures that decision-making in complex contexts remains insulated from politically motivated reprisals or vexatious litigation.

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We look forward to remaining in contact with your office in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation.

(Bilal Ahmad)

Margaret Satterthwaite,
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Geneva

Copy to:
Mr. Volker Türk
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