**Candidature of Pakistan to the Human Rights Council, 2026-2028**

**Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251**

1. As a founding member of the Human Rights Council and as an active participant at the United Nations, as well as international organizations, Pakistan is seeking re-election to the Human Rights Council for the term 2026-2028.

2. Pakistan's enduring commitment to the global human rights architecture dates back to the very inception of the United Nations. As a state party to most core international human rights treaties, Pakistan has played a pivotal and consistent role towards the global human rights agenda, including through contributing to the establishment of the Human Rights Council and the development of its mechanisms.

4. As an active member of both the erstwhile Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, Pakistan attaches paramount importance to the work of the Human Rights Council. Pakistan's engagement with the Council has consistently been guided by a deep-rooted commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all peoples, in accordance with the principles of impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity.

6. If elected to the Council, Pakistan will continue to actively contribute to the strengthening of dialogue, constructive engagement, consensus-building, and international cooperation. Pakistan remains committed to upholding the Council's integrity and effectiveness through principled and inclusive participation in its processes and mechanisms.

8. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251, following is a brief account of Pakistan's contributions, voluntary pledges and commitments in the field of human rights.
Progress made in implementation of previous pledges, legal enactments undertaken and engagement with UN human rights system.

9. Pakistan, while contesting the elections for the Council's term (2021-23), submitted voluntary pledges and has made steady progress in their implementation, including through enactment of legislations, strengthening of institutions and strengthening policy- related actions, including the implementation of the National Action Plan for Human Rights.

10. In the last decade, Pakistan has enacted more than 70 legislations at the federal and provincial levels to further strengthen the legislative and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights of citizens..Recent amendment to the constitution recognized the fundamental right of citizens to enjoy a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

12. Several progressive legislations were enacted to safeguard the rights of women and children, minorities' rights, the juvenile justice system, protection of underage girls, enforcement of women's property rights, speedy trials and enhancing protections for rape victims, protection against harassment of women at the workplace, safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities, protection of journalists and media professionals, protection against torture & custodial death and for protection of transgender persons. The most recent legislation is the Islamabad Capital Territory Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2025, which prohibits child marriages under the age of 18.

13. Specialized Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Courts have been established across the country to expedite cases involving violence against women. These courts are designed to provide a supportive and sensitive environment for victims to ensure timely justice. In addition, shelter homes, known as Dar-ul-Amans, have been strengthened in various provinces to provide safe havens for women fleeing violence. These shelters offer medical care, psychological counselling, and legal assistance to survivors of violence. (we can mention number of courts and shelter home-figures are important)

14. The National Commission for Human Rights received 'A-status' accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) in 2024 and was elected to GANHRI's Bureau in March 2025.

15. National Commission on the Status of Women and the National Commission on the Rights of Child continue to actively tackle matters related to gender inequality and the rights of child and the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances continues its critical work.

16. Pakistan completed the approval process to formally ratify the Maritime Labour Convention and the Labour Statistics Convention in 2024.

17. Pakistan has a strong record of active engagement with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures & Mandate Holders (SPMHs), and the UN Treaty Bodies. Pakistan regularly responds to the communications issued by SPMHs and provides its submissions for their 'call for inputs'.

18. Since the inception of the Universal Periodic Review, Pakistan has participated four times in the review process the most recently in 2023. The government accepted around 70% (a total of 253) of the recommendations received from member statesand has submitted a mid-term UPR report to the OHCHR.

19. Pakistan has also periodically been reviewed by the Treaty Bodies including CEDAW; CAT: HRC, CESCR; CRC; CRPD; and CERD. In 2024, Pakistan underwent reviews of its periodic reports under (ICCPR) and (ICERD).Treaty Implementation Cells at the Federal and Provincial levels, and 'National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up' are fully functional to coordinate implementation of the country's human rights obligations.

21. Pakistan has consistently lent diplomatic and financial support to the OHCHR including financial support to three voluntary funds, ie. Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture; Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of (LDCs) and (SIDS); and Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the UPR.

22. In its national capacity and as the Coordinator of OIC Group, Pakistan has always endeavored to build bridges between different ideological and regional groupings and intends to continue with that pursuit with reinforced commitment. The consensual adoption of OIC-led HRC resolutions on "combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief" (known as 16/18), is testament to the constructive role played by Pakistan as Coordinator of OIC Group in Geneva.

24. In 2022, Pakistan hosted the Istanbul Process meeting and facilitated the discussion on the Action Plan contained in HRC resolution 16/18.

25. Pakistan served as a member of the HRC's Working Group on Situations in 2023.

26. During the OHCHR's event on UDHR75, Pakistan pledged to (i) advance the implementation of its international human rights obligations; (ii) reinforce social safety net for the poor and the marginalized; (iii) build climate resilience and rehabilitate the people affected by the 2022 devastating floods; (iii) continue to lend political, moral, and diplomatic support to the occupied people of Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine; and (iv) build partnerships in countering the growing problem of religious intolerance, hatred, and Islamophobia worldwide.

**Voluntary pledges and commitments**

At the national level

27. Pakistan pledges:

1. Strengthening Human Rights Protection and Enjoyment

To continue consolidating progress toward the full realization of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights for all individuals, without discrimination, in accordance with Pakistan’s Constitution and international obligations.

1. Effective Implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan
2. To sustain the comprehensive implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan, with emphasis on institutional strengthening, data-driven decision-making, and accessible grievance redress mechanisms.
3. Enhanced Engagement with UN Mechanisms

To actively implement recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review and UN treaty bodies, and to further empower Treaty Implementation Cells and the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) at federal and provincial levels. Also to ensure regular and timely reporting to international treaty bodies, building on recent submissions under ICCPR and ICERD, through strengthened coordination of Treaty Implementation Cells and the NMRF.

1. Empowerment of National Human Rights Institutions

To strengthen the National Commission for Human Rights, the National Commission on the Status of Women, and the National Commission on the Rights of the Child, reinforcing their mandates and operational capacities.

1. Promoting Accountability and Oversight

To enhance parliamentary oversight and ensure transparent formulation and implementation of legislation and policies at all levels.

1. Expanding Access to Justice and Legal Aid

To improve legal aid and assistance for victims of human rights violations through the Legal Aid and Justice Authority and the expansion of helpline services.

1. Safeguarding Fundamental Freedoms and ensure the safety of journalists and media professionals through legislative and institutional safeguards.
2. Inclusive Civic Engagement and Civil Society Participation

To broaden engagement with civil society in promoting human rights, advancing the 2030 Agenda, and supporting inclusive and participatory policymaking.

1. expand human rights education and training for parliamentarians, law enforcement, judiciary, prosecutors, lawyers, and public officials.
2. Empowerment of Marginalized Groups

To promote inclusive development and social protection for women, children, youth, minorities, persons with disabilities, transgender persons, and older persons through targeted policies and programs, including BISP, Nashonuma, Hunarmand Pakistan, and digital inclusion initiatives.

1. Minority Rights and Interfaith Harmony

To protect the rights of religious, ethnic, and linguistic minorities and promote interfaith harmony, tolerance, and cohesion, while combating hate speech and violence based on religion or belief.

1. Labour Rights and Decent Work

To advance labour rights through improved working conditions and ratification of relevant ILO conventions, in line with international standards.

1. Combating Discrimination and Violence

To strengthen legal and policy frameworks to prevent all forms of discrimination and violence, particularly against women, children, and vulnerable groups, including through enforcement of women's property rights, protection of underage girls, and anti-torture safeguards.

1. Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

To advance gender equality and women's empowerment in political, economic, and social spheres by addressing structural barriers and combating all forms of violence.

1. Child Protection and Juvenile Justice

To implement the National Action Plan on Child Protection and enforce the Juvenile Justice System Act to prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse.

1. Environmental Rights and Climate Resilience

To uphold the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment and strengthen climate resilience and environmental protection initiatives.

**At the international level**

28. Pakistan pledges to:

1. Reaffirm commitment to transforming the Human Rights Council into an effective, inclusive platform based on principles of impartiality, non-discrimination, and objectivity. Pakistan will actively participate in reforms to enhance its efficiency, institutional coherence, and responsiveness.
2. Foster consensus-based, solution-oriented approaches by bridging divides among regional and ideological blocs, especially in its capacity as Coordinator of the OIC Group on Human Rights in Geneva.
3. Maintain active engagement with UN treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), including the implementation of accepted recommendations, and contribute to their financial sustainability through voluntary funds.
4. Champion the right to development, promote social protection, digital inclusion, and share best practices in realizing economic, social, and cultural rights, including through access to water, health, food, and education.
5. Reaffirm commitment to climate resilience and a healthy environment, support global efforts addressing the human rights impacts of climate change, and advocate for climate justice, especially for vulnerable populations.
6. Lead diplomatic efforts against racism, xenophobia, religious intolerance, and Islamophobia through the implementation of HRC Resolution 16/18 and support to the Istanbul Process and the UN Alliance of Civilizations.
7. Promote a global culture of peace, coexistence, and interfaith harmony through international platforms, and support the implementation of the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration.
8. Highlight the linkages between corruption and human rights violations, advocate for international cooperation on asset recovery and illicit financial flows, and advance global good governance goals.
9. Continue moral, political, and diplomatic support to the people of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir in their just struggle for the realization of their right to self-determination in accordance with UN resolutions.
10. Enhance cooperation with Special Procedures, Mandate Holders, and all relevant stakeholders to address thematic human rights challenges, including racial discrimination, emerging technologies, assistive technologies, and access to water and sanitation.
11. Continue its political, diplomatic, and financial support for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), including through contributions to three voluntary funds: (i) the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture; (ii) the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund for LDCs and SIDS; and (iii) the Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the UPR.