



Ms. Debashree Mukherjee
Designated Representative
Secretary, Department of Water Resources
River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Government of India

[REDACTED]

BY E-MAIL: [REDACTED]

Mr. Mansoor Usman Awan
Designated Representative
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney-General

[REDACTED]

BY E-MAIL: [REDACTED]

Mr. Raja Naeem Akbar
Deputy Designated Representative
Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice

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20 October 2025

RE: PCA CASE NO. 2023-14 – INDUS WATERS TREATY NEUTRAL EXPERT PROCEEDINGS (INDIA V. PAKISTAN)

Dear Ms. Mukherjee,
Dear Mr. Awan,
Dear Mr. Akbar,

I write on behalf of the Neutral Expert in the above-referenced matter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. Agenda, Schedule and other Matters Pertaining to the Fourth Meeting

By letter dated 12 September 2025, having regard to India's earlier statements that it would not participate in these proceedings going forward, the Neutral Expert invited India to indicate by 10 October 2025 whether it intends to attend the Fourth Meeting. By letter dated 29 September 2025, India submitted that "the Fourth Meeting cannot go ahead and all future proceedings should be kept in abeyance." The Neutral Expert replied on 1 October 2015 that the dates for the Fourth Meeting are

maintained and the proceedings are not suspended. India has not made any further response. The Neutral Expert accordingly understands that at this time India does not intend to attend the Fourth Meeting. It is therefore appropriate to now proceed to confirm the agenda of the Fourth Meeting on that basis.

In its letter dated 4 September 2025, Pakistan suggested that, in the event of India's continued non-engagement, "it may still be useful to reserve up to five days for the Fourth Meeting, on the basis of three days of opening submissions by Pakistan, followed by a fallow day to allow Pakistan to prepare responses to questions from the Neutral Expert, and a final day of second round oral submissions." The Neutral Expert is content to proceed in accordance with this proposal, on the basis that the final, fifth day will be dedicated to Pakistan's answers to any questions that may be put to it by the Neutral Expert in the course of the meeting and that the first three days will be slightly abbreviated to allow the Neutral Expert sufficient time to consider Pakistan's submissions and prepare questions as needed. The sixth day set aside for the Fourth Meeting, 22 November 2025, is hereby vacated.

[REDACTED]

The Work Programme provides that the Fourth Meeting will be dedicated (aside from preparations for the Second Site Visit, which are not proceeding) to the presentation of India's Memorial and Pakistan's Counter-Memorial and questions from the Neutral Expert to the Parties. In view of India's expected non-participation in the Fourth Meeting, the Neutral Expert wishes to confirm that Pakistan may present its Counter-Memorial, and that questions may be put to Pakistan in relation to the entire record of these proceedings, including India's Memorial where relevant. Following the Fourth Meeting, India will be invited to make any comments it may have on the meeting transcript in writing.

Additionally, the Neutral Expert hereby directs that any electronic or hard copy materials intended to be used by a Party during the meeting (e.g. PowerPoint presentations, hand-outs, document bundles) shall be provided by e-mail in electronic format to the Registry at least one hour before the meeting session in which they are used. The Registry shall transmit such materials by e-mail to the Neutral Expert, the Technical Assistant, the other Party and the court reporter.

[REDACTED]

3. Pakistan's Request for a Determination and Next Procedural Steps

The Neutral Expert takes note of Pakistan's formal request, set out in its letter dated 1 October 2025, "that, notwithstanding India's withdrawal from or non-participation in the proceedings, the Neutral Expert moves forward expeditiously and as a matter of urgency to reach a determination on the basis of the Parties' first round written submissions and First Site Visit alone."

Pakistan further requests that the Neutral Expert vacate the dates currently reserved for India's Reply, Pakistan's Rejoinder and the Fifth Meeting, and propose "new, more proximate placeholder dates for a rescheduled Fifth Meeting in the event that it may be useful to schedule such a meeting to address any issues arising out of or following the Fourth Meeting."

It is apparent from India's recent correspondence that at this time it does not intend to participate in the proceedings and hence to file a Reply in accordance with the Work Programme. The Neutral Expert accordingly vacates the dates currently set in the Work Programme for India's Reply, Pakistan's Rejoinder and the Fifth Meeting.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

* * *

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



Evgeniya Goriatcheva
Senior Legal Counsel

[REDACTED]

cc: *For India:*

- Mr. M. Anand Prakash, Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran Division), Ministry of External Affairs (*by e-mail:* [REDACTED])
- Darpan Talwar, Commissioner (Indus), Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti (*by e-mail:* [REDACTED])
- Mr. Harish Salve, KC and Senior Advocate (*by e-mail:* [REDACTED])

For Pakistan:

Mr. Syed Ali Murtaza, Federal Secretary to the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Water Resources (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Mr. Syed Muhammad Mehar Ali Shah, Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters, Ministry of Water Resources (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Mr. Khalid Mahmood, General Manager, Water and Agriculture Division, National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK) (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Mr. Zohair Waheed, Office of the Attorney General for Pakistan (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Ms. Fatima A. Malik, Office of the Attorney General for Pakistan (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Mr. Syed Shahroz Bakhtyar, Office of the Minister of Law and Justice, Pakistan (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Sir Daniel Bethlehem KC (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Prof. Attila Tanzi (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Prof. Philippa Webb (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Dr. Cameron Miles (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Mr. Stephen Fietta (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Ms. Laura Rees-Evans (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Ms. Miglena Angelova (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Mr. Abdullah Tariq (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Ms. Charlotte Westbrook (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Ms. Megan Rippin (by e-mail: [REDACTED])

Neutral Expert and Technical Assistant:

Mr. Michel Lino, Neutral Expert (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Mr. Luc Deroo, Technical Assistant to the Neutral Expert (by e-mail: [REDACTED])