



Shri V.L Kantha Rao
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

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BY E-MAIL: [REDACTED]

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

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30 December 2025

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

Dear Shri Rao,
Dear Mr. Awan,
Dear Mr. Akbar,

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

The Neutral Expert acknowledges receipt of Pakistan's letter dated 22 December 2025, providing its comments on the draft press release communicated to the Parties for their comments on 18 December 2025 and "renew[ing] its application" from the Fourth Meeting for the publication of the Parties' written and oral pleadings in the ongoing phase of these proceedings. Pakistan requests an expeditious decision on the latter application and "notes that the Neutral Expert has already afforded India an opportunity to comment on this and other applications and submissions made by Pakistan, and it has failed to do so."

Regarding the draft press release, the Neutral Expert notes that the 23 December 2025 deadline for the Parties' comments has expired, and that no comments have been received from India. Accordingly, the Parties are invited to find enclosed a new version of the press release, as revised in the light of the comments received. The press release will be published on **Friday, 2 January 2026**.

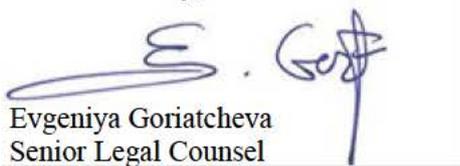
Regarding Pakistan's application for the publication of pleadings, the Neutral Expert notes that, at the Fourth Meeting, counsel for Pakistan had noted that "the publication of the Parties' written and oral submissions . . . would be covered by default by Rule 14(3) [of the Supplemental Rules of Procedure]" and that "Pakistan [was] not making an application under paragraph 14(3) at this point" (Unrevised Tr., page 173, lines 8-14)." Having regard to the ambiguity arising from this assertion as to whether or not

Pakistan was making an application for the publication of the Parties' written and oral pleadings in the ongoing phase of these proceedings, the Neutral Expert finds it appropriate to give India a further opportunity to comment on Pakistan's application at this stage (beyond the opportunity given to India to comment on procedural matters arising from the Fourth Meeting transcript). India is accordingly invited to comment on Pakistan's application as set out in its letter dated 22 December 2025 and at the Fourth Meeting by **Thursday, 8 January 2026**.

In accordance with Paragraph 14.2 of the Supplemental Rules of Procedure, the Neutral Expert has instructed the Registry to publish the present letter on its website on Friday, 2 January 2026, in an appropriately redacted form.

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



Evgeniya Goriatcheva
Senior Legal Counsel

Encl.: Revised Press Release

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])
Ms. Fatima A. Malik, Office of the Attorney General for Pakistan (by e-mail: [REDACTED])
Mr. Syed Shahroz Bakhtiyar, 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])
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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])