National statement by Mr. Abbas Sarwar Qureshi, Counsellor, during 4th cycle UPR of Australia

(Geneva, 26 January 2026)

Mr. President,

Pakistan welcomes the delegation of Australia to this UPR (*Universal Periodic Review*) and thanks the distinguished head of delegation for presenting the national report.

My delegation notes Australia's efforts to strengthen legal prohibitions for hate speech, including through the introduction of new offences. We also note its appointment of a Special Envoy to combat Islamophobia yet remain concerned about rising levels of hatred against Muslims online, offline and in public discourse.

We recommend that Australia:

i. Prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion at the federal level;

ii. Ensure accountability for hate speech on the basis of race, ethnicity, colour or religion, especially by political leaders or public figures;

iii. Eliminate racial or religious profiling and expand sensitivity training in law-enforcement contexts; and,

iv. Combat denigration and negative stereotyping based on religion by speaking out clearly, as well as through education, community engagement and dialogue.

Thank you.

-end-