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**National Statement during Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on
Contemporary Forms of Racism**

62nd session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 2 July 2026)

Mr. Vice President,

Pakistan thanks the Special Rapporteur for her timely report on racism and sports. We welcome its focus on a domain that reaches millions, yet too often mirrors the inequalities and prejudices of the societies in which it is embedded.

Systemic barriers excluding athletes of colour or discriminating against Muslim athletes for manifesting their religious identity run counter to the principles of equality and non-discrimination that underpin international human rights law.

Pakistan is deeply concerned by the growing trend of States politicizing sports to advance narrow political agendas.

We have witnessed, firsthand, the systematic denial of visas to our athletes and sportsmen for international events hosted in a neighbouring country; a practice that contravenes the spirit of the Olympic Truce and the fundamental principle that sport must remain free from political interference. Such actions not only dehumanize political targets but also lay the groundwork for further discrimination, hostility or violence, in clear violation of international law, particularly international human rights law.

We share the Special Rapporteur's concern that impunity for racist acts in sports remains a serious obstacle to progress. Pakistan therefore calls on all States to strengthen legal frameworks, enhance monitoring mechanisms and ensure that victims have access to effective remedies.

Thank you.

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