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**Bill**

*further to amend the Higher Education Commission Ordinance, 2002*

**WHEREAS**, it is expedient further to amend the Higher Education Commission Ordinance, 2002 (Ordinance No. LIII of 2002);

(2) It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**1. Short title and commencement.-** (1) This Act shall be called the Higher Education Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment of section 6, Ordinance No. LIII of 2002.-** In the Higher Education Commission Ordinance, 2002 (Ordinance No. LIII of 2002), hereafter called as the said Ordinance, in section 6,-

(a) for sub-section (5), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(5) The Chairperson shall hold office for a period of two years and members shall hold office for period of four years. In no case the Chairperson and members shall be eligible for re-appointment for more than one similar term.”; and

(b) after sub-section (5) substituted as aforesaid, the following new sub-section shall be inserted, namely:-

“(5A) Notwithstanding anything in any order, notification, contract, agreement or any instrument containing the duration and terms of service, a Chairperson or a member who, on or after commencement of the Higher Education Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021 completes the term or tenure as provided in sub-section (5), shall on such commencement forthwith cease to be the Chairperson or member, as the case may be.

**Explanation.-** Sub-section (5), as amended, shall have operation despite any vested right or right as a past and closed transaction in any appointment or terms thereof acquired or purported to have been acquired prior to coming into force of the Higher Education Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021”.

**3. Amendment of section 11, Ordinance No. LIII of 2002.-** In said Ordinance, in section 11, for sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“(1) The Government shall appoint an Executive Director on the recommendations of the Ministry of Federal Education who shall unless earlier removed on any of the grounds specified in sub-section (6) of section 6, shall hold office for a term of four years and shall be responsible for the various activities of the Commission.” .

### **STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

In the new knowledge economics of 21<sup>st</sup> Century educational standards are shaping the destinies of nations. Particularly, in post-COVID era, the paradigm of Higher Education System and its delivery mode has undergone tremendous changes.

**2.** In order to align the Higher Education Commission with the fast-changing environment, the process and criteria of tenured appointments need to be reviewed so that the incumbents may keep pace with the changing eco-system of 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills.

**3.** The Bill is designed to achieve the afore-said objectives.

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