

Media Update

11 August 2016

United Nations

Media Advisory

Pakistan to face review by UN Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination

GENEVA (11 August 2016) – Pakistan’s record on tackling racial discrimination will face scrutiny by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on 16 and 17 August. Pakistan is one of the 177 States that have ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and so is reviewed regularly by the Committee of 18 international independent experts.

Among the possible issues for discussion between CERD members and a delegation from the Pakistani Government are:

- Measures to ensure all people enjoy right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion without discrimination based on race, colour, descent or ethnic origin;
- Protection of human rights defenders, particularly those working on racial discrimination issues;
- Steps to address abuse of blasphemy laws against religious and ethnic minorities;
- Investigation and prosecution of violence in Baluchistan;
- Measures to ensure members of ethnic minorities not adversely affected by anti-terrorism laws;
- Measures to abolish bonded labour;
- Legislation to prohibit caste-based discrimination, steps to address poor living conditions of Dalits;
- Situation of indigenous peoples.



The review will take place on 16 August from 15:00 to 18:00 (18:00 to 21:00 in Pakistan) and on 17 August from 10:00 to 13:00 (13:00 to 16:00) in Room TO BE CONFIRMED, Palais des Nations, in Geneva, and will be webcast at <http://webtv.un.org/>

The Committee will also hear from other UN entities and NGOs. More information here:

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1073&Lang=en

The Committee will hold a news conference at the Palais des Nations in Geneva at 13:30 on 26 August to discuss its findings on Pakistan and the other countries being reviewed – Greece, the UK, Paraguay, Lebanon, Ukraine, South Africa and Sri Lanka. The findings, officially termed concluding observations, will be published here:

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1073&Lang=en

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Media accreditation for the Palais des Nations:

[http://unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/\(httpPages\)/70991F6887C73B2280256EE700379C58?OpenDocument](http://unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/(httpPages)/70991F6887C73B2280256EE700379C58?OpenDocument)

Background

Members of CERD are independent human rights experts drawn from around the world, who serve in their personal capacity and not as representatives of States parties. The Committee's concluding observations are an independent assessment of States' compliance with their human rights obligations under the treaty. More information on the Committee: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cerd/pages/cerdindex.aspx>

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 21 December 1965. More information on the **Convention's 50th anniversary** here: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/50/Pages/lcerd50.aspx>



United Nations

Secretary-General Message

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

12 August 2016

The world's young people – who make up the largest generation of youth in history – can lead a global drive to break the patterns of the past and set the world on course to a more sustainable future. Young people are directly affected by the tragic contradictions that prevail today: between abject poverty and ostentatious wealth, gnawing hunger and shameful food waste, rich natural resources and polluting industries. Youth can deliver solutions on these issues, which lie at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In this first year of that 15-year plan for a healthier, safer and more just future, we count on the active engagement of the world's young people to transform the production and consumption of goods and services so they meet the basic needs and aspirations of the world's poorest people without overburdening already strained ecosystems.

Young people are traditionally at the cutting edge, and today's youth have more information than any previous generation. Their dynamism, creativity and idealism can combine to shape attitudes toward demand and help create more sustainable industries.

Youth are already influencing how the world produces, distributes and consumes while driving green entrepreneurship by designing sustainable products and services. As conscious consumers, young people are at the forefront of a shift toward more fair, equitable and sustainable buying patterns. Youth are strong and effective advocates of recycling, reusing and limiting waste, and they are leading technological innovations to foster a resource-efficient economy.

When we invest in youth, they can contribute to new markets, decent jobs, fair trade, sustainable housing, sustainable transport and tourism, and more opportunities that benefit the planet and people.



I am proud that the United Nations is actively engaged in supporting young leaders who can carry out the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production patterns. I encourage all young people to become involved in advancing the SDGs and demanding action by their Governments. My Youth Envoy is eager to connect you to our campaigns, which are being carried out across the entire United Nations system.

On International Youth Day, I urge others to join this global push for progress. Let us empower young people with the resources, backing and space they need to create lasting change in our world.

