

Media Update

20 May 2016

ILO

Press Release



Employers Call for a Policy to Combat the Implications of Climate Change on Labour Market

18th May 2016, Karachi: Climate change is posing a direct threat to the lives and livelihoods of people across the globe. This is also evident from recurrent disasters in Pakistan since 2005, which have inflicted huge human and financial losses. There is thus an urgent need to develop a national policy to address the labour market implications of climate change.

This was the consensus reached during the 9th Business Talk Sustainability meeting organized by the Employers' Federation of Pakistan (EFP) in collaboration with ILO and the Global Compact Network Pakistan on 13 May, 2016. The meeting was attended by experts and intellectuals drawn from business, government, NGOs, workers organizations, academia and the representatives of three Agricultural Employers (Small Landlords) Associations and Agricultural Workers Unions, recently established in Dadu and Mirpukhas districts, under the auspices of a One-UN project implemented by ILO, FAO and UN-Women with the financial support of the UN Trust Fund on Human Security.

The President of EFP, Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Nauman, while welcoming the participants to the meeting stated that it was an opportune time for the stakeholders to develop a comprehensive policy to combat the implications



of climate change on the labour market as a part of a holistic employment oriented labour and industrial approach at the Federal and Provincial levels.

The meeting participants identified the risks posed by the climate change to livelihoods and employment emphasizing the need to enhance awareness on climate change and its adverse impact on farmers' communities throughout Pakistan and particularly in Sindh. They also proposed the development of a Water Policy for Sindh, because water mismanagement is also promoting unemployment at a larger scale

During the focused group discussions, recommendations were made for land reforms, the need for a consistent policy with national consensus on labour, agriculture, water management, food security and other issues related to climate change and employment generation. Participants also called for a removal of the disconnect between policy, communication and implementation, and the shift from a loan based economy with structural changes, imposition of agricultural tax, interaction of parliamentary standing committees with stakeholders, promotion of public-private partnership in the design and implementation of projects to combat adverse impacts of climate change on employment with particular emphasis on the promotion of alternative and agro-based skills in rural women and youth.

Mr. Ahsanullah Khan, President, Global Compact Network Pakistan, Mr. Karamat Ali, Executive Director, Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research, Mr. Nasir Mansoor, General Secretary, National Trade Union Federation, Mr. Qazi Wajid Mahesar, President, Agricultural Employers (Small Landlords) Association Dadu, Mr. Noor Muhammad Baloch, Director General, Research, Agricultural Research Center TandoJam, Mr. Nazar Ali, CEO, Skill Development Council, Ms. Zehra Khan, General Secretary, Home-Based Women Workers Federation addressed the business talk sustainability meeting.

The meeting was attended by a range of stakeholders which included, among others, the Presidents, Secretaries and Members of Agricultural Employers' Associations and Agricultural Worker Unions of Mipurkhas and Mehar, K. N. Shah of Dadu, Mr. Abdul Aziz Channa, Deputy Secretary, Technical, Department of Agriculture Sindh, Mr. Toshio Fujita of Saita

Pakistan Limited, Ms. Zeenat Hussain of PILER, Ms. Meher Marker Noshirwani, Sociologist and Consultant on Gender and Environment.

Mr. Fasihul Karim Siddiqi, Secretary General, E F P, in his closing remarks, called for strong bilateral dialogue between employers and workers to effectively advocate the need for an employment and productivity oriented labour, industrial and agricultural policy which can create conducive climate for responsible investments in industry and agriculture for employment generation, implementing labour standards and promoting social dialogue and decent work approaches.

A special task force was formed at the conclusion of the meeting to develop a policy framework in the light of discussions and suggestions made in the focus group meeting. The recommendations of this meeting will be placed for discussion before the forthcoming National Industrial Relations and Provincial Tripartite Labour Convention being organized by EFP on 19th & 20th May, 2016 at Karachi.

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United Nations

SECRETARY-GENERAL MESSAGE

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

22 May 2016

Biodiversity and the ecosystem services it supports are the foundations for life on Earth and the livelihoods and well-being of people everywhere. Protecting biodiversity and preventing further losses is an essential investment in our collective future.





Biodiversity is an important cross-cutting issue in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Goal 15 explicitly recognizes the importance of halting biodiversity loss, and other Goals recognize the importance of biological diversity for eradicating poverty, providing food and fresh-water, and improving life in cities. It is critical that we make progress in mainstreaming biodiversity and transforming how societies value and manage it.

Despite numerous commitments, biodiversity loss continues to accelerate in all regions. Only 15 per cent of countries are on track to achieve the Aichi Targets on biodiversity by the target date of 2020. In addition, the anticipated expansion of sectors that both depend on and affect biodiversity – including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture – will pose a significant challenge to halting biodiversity loss in the coming decades.

Reversing these trends will require action by all sectors and stakeholders, from United Nations Member States and agencies to civil society, academia and business. We need better research, and we need to act on the evidence that biodiversity is integral to achieving social and economic goals.

The responsible use of natural resources is essential to sustainable development. Mainstreaming biodiversity will ensure that addressing development needs and protecting the environment are mutually supportive.

On this International Day for Biodiversity, I urge all Governments and stakeholders to preserve and sustainably manage the variety of life on Earth for the benefit of current and future generations. Preserving biological diversity is a vital part of our compact with each other and the planet that nurtures us.





UNESCO

Press Release



Pakistan completed first phase of SDG-4 consultation at federal and provincial level, concluding session held at Balochistan

The plan of action for Sustainable Development Goals requires the government and relevant stakeholders to act in collaborative partnership to align SDG-4 (Quality Education) for implementation according to the respective areas education policy imperatives

Quetta: To sensitize and enhance knowledge of the education stakeholders of Balochistan, final consultation phase-1 on SDG-4 – “the Education 2030” concluded in Quetta Balochistan following the successful consultations held in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Multan. The consultation was organized by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training in collaboration with the Secondary Education Department Government of Balochsitan, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP.

Over 150 officials and representatives of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Provincial Education and its Line Departments, development partners, civil society organizations and media participated in the consultation who deliberated upon the SDG-4 and its integration with the Balochsitan education sector plan.

Mr. Abdul Saboor Kakar, Secretary, Secondary Education Department, Government of Balochistan in his welcome remarks applauded the federal government role in leading the provincial/ areas consultations for creating awareness about SGD-4. He said that the Balochsitan education sector



plan includes most of the SDG-4 indicators and focuses on quality education. He mentioned that the department is planning to organize SDG-4 related consultations at the districts and school level in the near future.

Addressing the participants, Ms. Ellen Van Kalmthout, Chief of Education UNICEF Pakistan highlighted that SDG-4 agenda is a major step forward to reflect the world determination to ensure that all children, young people and adults gain the knowledge and skills they need to live in dignity, to fulfil their potential and contribute to their societies as responsible global citizens.

Muhammad Humayun, Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training highlighted that the federal government is taking a number of initiatives for promotion of education such as institutionalization of the Inter-Provincial Ministerial Conference (IPMC) and the National Curriculum Council (NCC). He mentioned that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has recently signed under which the Federal Government will send 1000 Pakistani students to different universities in the United States for higher education. He said that quality education and lifelong learning opportunities is the focus of new education agenda which requires all stakeholders including education departments, teachers and parents to play a positive role for its successful implementation.

Mr. Abdul Rahim Ziarat Wal, Education Minister, Government of Balochsitan in his key note address highlighted that under the Education Sector Plan (2013-18), the Provincial Government had undertaken a number of policy interventions such as increase in the education budget from 3-4 % to 25 %, enrolment of 350,000 students at primary level in the winter zone of Balochistan, merit based teachers recruitment, actions against non-performing teachers, and fulfilling education needs of 40, 000 marginalized and refugee children to improve the overall status of education in the province. He shared that considering the enormous need of the province in education, the provincial government requires technical and financial support of the international community. The Minister assured his full commitment and support to the new education agenda for its implementation in Balochsitan province.

Speaking at the concluding session, Ms. Vibeke Jensen, UNESCO Representative to Pakistan appreciated the participants for articulating concrete recommendations for integration of SDG-4 targets and indicators into the education sector plan, which is mostly in line with the new

education agenda. She said that the SDG-4 reminds us our collective responsibility to ensure education caters to the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized children and youth, especially refugees, internally displaced children, stateless children and children whose right to education has been compromised by conflict and insecurity. These children are the keys to a secure and sustainable future, and their education is significantly important for all of us.

Addressing the audience, Muhammad Rafique Tahir, Joint Educational Advisor, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training appreciated the active participation of stakeholders in the SDG-4 consultation. He added that with completion of the SDG-4 consultation in Balochsitan the first phase of the SDG-4 consultations has been completed. Key recommendations of all provincial and area consultations will be validated in a national consultative meeting in Islamabad after Ramadhan, which will lead to the formulation of an integrated SDG-4 strategy document for Pakistan.

Ms. Raheela Durrani, Speaker, Balochistan Assembly, who was the chief guest, extended full support and commitment for implementation of the new education agenda. She highlighted the need for concrete follow-up actions to transform this agenda from a policy perspective to actual implementation on ground and offered support of the provincial assembly for required legislation. She also stressed on to decide on the language for imparting education according to the local context and dialects of the province.

Ms. Yasmeen Lehri, Member Provincial Assembly Balochsitan also expressed her views in relation to the new education agenda. Ms. Ilaria Martinattoo, Provincial Head of World Food Programme, Balochistan delivered a statement on behalf of the development partners to support the implementation of SDG-4 in Balochsitan.

The two day provincial consultation was focused on interactive presentations and discussions which highlighted the implications, opportunities and challenges of the new education agenda followed by group work for in-depth analysis of the SDG-4 targets and indicators and concrete recommendations for alignment of SDG-4 with the education sector plan of Balochsitan province.

For more information on SDG-4, [Click here](#)

For more information on World Education Forum 2015, Incheon, Republic of Korea,
[Click here](#)

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