

Media Update

21 November 2016

IFAD

Press Release

IFAD President to discuss poverty alleviation with Pakistan Prime Minister and senior government officials

Islamabad, 21 November 2016 – Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and winner of the 2016 [African Food Prize](#), visits Pakistan today to meet with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to renew IFAD's commitment to alleviation of rural poverty and ensuring food security in the country.

Nwanze will also meet with Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister of Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization; Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs; and Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Minister for National Food Security and Research.

In Pakistan, an estimated 60 million people are living below the poverty line. They are located mostly in rural areas. Vision 2025 -- the Government's national poverty reduction strategy, is aimed at reducing poverty by half by 2025 and lifting Pakistan to an upper middle-income country.

"IFAD is committed to supporting the Government of Pakistan to tackle rural poverty," said Nwanze. "In order to end hunger, we have to promote sustainable agriculture, which means investing in rural smallholder producers," he added.

Agriculture is the largest sector in Pakistan's economy, accounting for 42.3 per cent of total employment and the primary source of livelihood of the rural poor. But, in the country's many mountainous areas, rugged terrain and



ecological fragility make agricultural production and access to markets difficult for the isolated communities who live there.

IFAD is recognized by the Government of Pakistan for its strong commitment to rural poverty alleviation and its ability to implement development projects in the most difficult and challenging areas of the country, such as Gilgit-Baltistan, AJK, Baluchistan and southern Punjab.

IFAD financing in Pakistan is focused mainly on promoting the sustainable economic transformation of the rural poor and ultra- poor households by:

- building assets, providing vocational training, access to microfinance and technical assistance
- building institutional capacity and links to markets
- strengthening policy and institutions for better community-led development
- building households' resilience to achieve sustainable nutrition and food security

IFAD has been working in Pakistan since 1978. It has provided more than \$604 million in financing for 26 projects, benefiting more than 2 million households.

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UNICEF

Press Release

UNICEF Celebrates Universal Children's Day with Children

Islamabad – 21 November, 2016: Children from various schools of Islamabad came together to celebrate the Universal Children's Day (UCD) at a colorful ceremony organized by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), here today. The theme for UCD this year is 'For every Child, HOPE.

UCD is celebrated around the world every year on November 20th in recognition of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), which was adapted by the UN General Assembly on this day in 1989. The CRC is one of the most largely ratified human rights treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. Pakistan ratified the CRC in 1990, only a year after signing it.

“This is a very special day for children around the world and for UNICEF, which works for the realization of child rights and providing children a conducive environment wherein they could survive and thrive to grow to their full potential in life,” says Chris Munduate, UNICEF's Deputy Representative in Pakistan. “This year, we celebrate UCD with a renewed zeal and fervor to continue our efforts for children as the day also marks the beginning of UNICEF's 70th anniversary. For seventy years, UNICEF has continued to work for improved health, education, protection and water and sanitation services for children everywhere and for every child. ”

“As a signatory of the CRC, Pakistan has come a long way in its efforts to create an enabling environment for the protection of child rights. We are grateful to the Government for its leadership and to our donors and partners for their ongoing support to UNICEF in its efforts to ensure the fundamental rights of the child.”

Children from the Mashal Model School, Babar Public School, Global System of Integrated Studies (GSIS) and Roots International School participated in the event. Issues faced by children were highlighted through skits and songs



and the significance of a protective environment wherein all rights of children are safeguarded, was emphasised.

The event was attended by the Canadian High Commissioner in Pakistan, Mr. Perry John Calderwood, the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Neil Buhne, representatives of different embassies, the delegation of the European Union and a number of donors and partners.

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About UNICEF

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere. For more information about UNICEF and its work visit: www.unicef.org

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UNIDO

Press Release

Leaving no one behind in Fostering Green Entrepreneurship for economic empowerment of women, especially of the excluded groups

A consultative session on policy dialogue on gender responsive policy and regulatory framework along with launching on an Advocacy Campaign on Women in Green Industry was held under Delivering Results Together Fund (DRT-F) joint programme with UNIDO and other UN agencies. The purpose of this dialogue and policy recommendation was to review policies and make recommendations on the policies to make them more conducive for women entrepreneurs, esp. the ones working in the area of green industry. Women



from excluded groups were present at this meeting so they could share insights on improvements that should be made with regard to policymaking. Their strategic viewpoints were valuable and in-line with UNIDO's focus on ISID. The Policy dialogue and an Advocacy Campaign on "Women in Green Industry" held in Lahore was in continuation of Islamabad's week-long dialogue on women in green industry. UNIDO is aiding excluded groups, focus given to women entrepreneurs in Pakistan, by developing policy drafts which enables them to excel in their respective fields. This policy draft seeks to raise woman's economic status by paving the way for them to start their own businesses and create innovations. Efforts in producing gender responsive policy drafts are done by collaborating with stakeholders from all levels of society. These include the government agencies, private sectors, women associations, and Chambers of commerce & Industry in Pakistan. These policies will be set in place to mitigate gender inequality as it is imperative to connect women with entrepreneurial ventures in order for them achieve economic success.

The event at Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM) was a great success, as grass root level problems were addressed and recommendations were made to address these problems as well as how to provide formal coverage to millions of home based workers (HBWs) in Pakistan, a majority of whom are women. The relevant policies adoption and implementation will improve women's empowerment and Pakistan's overall status in terms of providing economic opportunities to women.

At this occasion, Director PIM, Mr Abid Hussain Sabri, highlighted challenges of women to initiate startups in green industry without concrete support of relevant institutions and reiterated PIM's commitment to work for women since they comprise the majority of the world's poor and are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. Favourable policy framework can promote innovation to mitigate harmful impact. He reiterated PIM's commitment to support Women Business Growth Centre (WBGC) launched today in PIM's premises in collaboration with UNIDO.

UNIDO Representative Esam ALQARARAH shared his gratitude to the PIM & Chamber of Commerce & Industry for the untiring & impressive support extended for establishing Women Business Growth Centre in Islamabad with provincial chapters in Lahore and Karachi. At this occasion, he announced launching of WBGC's Lahore chapter along with an Advocacy Campaign on "Women in Green Industry". He stressed that UNIDO believes in creating

enabling policy environment, coupled with deliberate action by government, the private sector, and development practitioners. Which is necessary to utilize the full potential of women's participation in green growth.

Mr. Esam ALQARARAH added that under this mandate, UNIDO helps developing countries in securing resource-efficient, low-carbon growth. This creates new jobs while protecting the environment

The event was heavily attended by the ICCI members, GCIP partners, government officials, private sector representatives, academia, media, women entrepreneurs, students and members of Women Business Growth Centre, Colleagues from ILO, UN women and other stakeholders.
