

Media Update

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United Nations

Press Release

United Nations Resident Coordinator visits Pakistan Administered Kashmir

Islamabad, 22nd August 2017 – The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, Mr. Neil Buhne, visited Pakistan Administered Kashmir (PAK) on a two-day mission to meet senior government officials and discuss development priorities in the region.

During his meeting with President of Pakistan Administered Kashmir, Mr. Sardar Masood Khan, they discussed the challenges and opportunities facing the UN development initiatives in PAK, and explored avenues to further strengthen the partnership between Government of PAK and UN on key issues such as education, nutrition, employment, disaster risk reduction, food security, health amongst others.

The President shared that despite nearly 100% school enrolment of boys and girls, unemployment levels are high. In addition to this, there are challenges related to diminishing donor assistance post 2005 Earthquake and continuing risks from naturally induced disasters. However, he also stated that there are various opportunities that the government is focusing on which include ongoing development schemes, hydropower projects, skill development of educated youth through TVET and tourism. The President further expressed openness to UN's work by stating: 'we are your allies, receptive to your initiatives', including the Sustainable Development Goals.

During the visit, Mr. Neil Buhne also visited an e-learning centre established at the police training school in Muzaffarabad, where he met senior officials of the police who briefed him about the centre's training modality. The programme supported by UNODC in 2010 focused on providing foundational knowledge to law enforcement agencies. Until now, 42,000 law enforcement



personnel in Pakistan have completed over 260,000 hours of training on core law enforcement functions including: searches and interdiction techniques, evidence collection and preservation, detecting and investigating transnational organized crimes, criminal intelligence, and crime scene investigations.

Mr. Neil Buhne appreciated the excellent work and said that ‘the work of the police is remarkable and the training will further polish the existing skills of officials’.

Speaking of the development priorities he further stated that, “Efforts will be made to further strengthen our work in helping the Government meet its development objectives.”

During his visit, he also met with the Chief Secretary Ijaz Munir, Assistant Chief Secretary Syed Asif, Secretary Muhammad Ehsan, Minister of Education Syed Iftikhar Gillani.

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