

Media Update

22 November 2016

United Nations

Media Advisory

You are cordially invited to cover

“Food Security and Nutrition Strategic Review”

By the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) - Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan
in collaboration with the United Nations (UN) Pakistan

Venue: Crystal Hall, Marriott Hotel, Islamabad

Date: Wednesday, 23 November 2016

Time: 09:00 AM – 04:30 PM

Agenda:

9:00 – 9:05

Quran Recitation

9:05 – 10:15

Inaugural session

- Opening remarks by UNRC
- Address by Chief Guest

10:15 – 10:30

Tea Break

10:30 – 13:30

Food security and nutrition presentations by Strategic

Review Research Team

- Overview and analysis of situation
- Recommendations on the way forward
- Open Discussion

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch Break / Prayers

14:30 – 16:00

Closing Session

- Keynote address by lead convener
- Closing remarks by UNRC
- Closing remarks by EAD

16:00 – 16:30

Closing Tea

We look forward to your participation and coverage.

For RVSP and more information please contact:

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UN Women

Press Release

BISP and UN Women Ink an MoU on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

(ISLAMABAD, 22 November 2016): Pakistan's Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), the custodian of more than 5.3 million vulnerable women and their families, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) on expanding social protection coverage through improvement in women's empowerment and gender equality.

The MoU was signed by Mr Jamshed Kazi (Country Representative, UN Women Pakistan) and Mr. Shahid Gul Qureshi (Director-General, BISP) in the presence of the Honourable Marvi Memon (Member of National Assembly, Minister of State and Chairperson BISP).

Under this MoU, both partners will take on joint ventures related to gender equality, violence against women, women's economic empowerment, and women's leadership in social reconstruction. BISP beneficiaries will be linked to relevant UN Women projects to benefit from its social protection services. BISP and UN women will launch joint campaigns for commemoration of key international days on women rights and spread awareness on key women empowerment subjects in BISP population. This cooperation will leverage community outreach, resources and technical expertise in gender equality contributing towards closing of gender gap to bring transformative changes in the lives of women.

Addressing the signing ceremony, the Honourable Marvi Memon stated, "BISP is a social safety net with prime focus on financial inclusion of women and the only central point for women empowerment in the entire country. Besides providing cash assistance to 5.3 million women, BISP is engaged in raising awareness on issues of vital importance among its beneficiary community through the platform of BISP Beneficiary Committees (BBCs). The partnership with UN Women would further strengthen empowerment initiative of BISP that plans to educate BISP women on women rights, nutrition, mother and child health, sanitation, basic finance, entrepreneurship empowering them to make better informed decisions. For women empowerment to become a reality, all concerned organizations would be encouraged to work with BISP to further the gains in this area."



Speaking of the strategic alliance with BISP, Jamshed Kazi said, “As we begin the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the main focus in tackling poverty is characterized by the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’. This means that we must collectively redouble our efforts and go the extra mile to identify and reach the most marginalized segments of society where inequalities are stark with women often bearing the brunt of economic and social deprivation. Forging a partnership with BISP with its millions of the poorest female beneficiaries across the country will generate a catalytic, multiplier effect for UN Women’s ongoing initiatives in Pakistan, such as advancing women’s economic empowerment, tackling gender-based violence in the home and in public spaces, and strengthening women’s leadership and resilience to prepare for and cope with natural disasters and displacement due to conflict and violent extremism. Through this alliance, we firmly believe that we will make significant headway towards removing gender inequalities in Pakistan by 2030.”

For more information contact:

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UNESCO

Press Release

Stakeholders in Karachi met to discuss Participatory Policy Design for Culture and Creative Sector for Sindh

Karachi: UNESCO Pakistan has been working closely with multi-stakeholders from the culture and creative industry of Pakistan at national and provincial levels to shape public policies. These policies are specifically being tailored to support the creative sector and to raise awareness about the importance of UNESCO’s 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. In this context, UNESCO Pakistan,



inaugurated a two day workshop in Karachi. Last week a similar workshop was held in Peshawar.

The two day workshop is followed by the earlier countrywide consultations that were held in July this year in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad which was organized with the support of Centre for Culture and Development (CKU) and funded by the Government of Denmark. Officials from the provincial government of Sindh and public institutions and representatives of the academics as well as representatives of civil society organizations and media, participated in the workshop to further discuss a **“Participatory Policy Design for Culture and Creative Sector and to raise awareness on the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions”**. UNESCO believes that bringing together multi-stakeholders is important for collaboration across different ministries and line departments to create policies which are supportive, transparent and participatory with regards to the creative sector.

Pakistan has a diverse and rich culture which provides great potential for the creative industry. Devising cultural policies both at the provincial and national levels, can further help the young creative entrepreneurs in various industries to contribute to the economic development of Pakistan. In this regard, UNESCO’s 2005 Convention, an international treaty that recognizes the distinctive nature of culture as an important contributor to economic and social development, once ratified, may provide Pakistan’s creative economy a much needed economic boost.

At the Karachi workshop, Mr. Ghulam Akbar Leghari, Secretary, Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Department, Government of Sindh spoke about the impact of culture on society and vice versa. He stressed on the need for Pakistan to accept the ever-changing nature of culture and said that a national and provincial cultural policy will provide provisions to ensure the true essence of Pakistani culture remains constant despite external changes. He claimed that culture is what defines an individual of any given society and celebrating culture and streamlining it through policy will ensure protection of identity and add to the overall quality of life in Pakistan.

UNESCO Expert, Mr. Andrew Senior and UNESCO Consultant, Mr. Salman Asif briefed participants on the understanding of policy creation and how culture can be streamlined into policy. The workshop was well attended by representatives from the Sindh government, academics and creative entrepreneurs who were enthused at the prospect of protecting and

promoting Sindhi culture. The workshop was held at the Pakistan Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management in collaboration with their staff.

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