

Media Update

24 October 2016

United Nations

Press Release

Urdu translation of the Basic Facts About the United Nations officially launched

Comprehensive information about the United Nations and its work is now available to Urdu readers in Pakistan. The Urdu translation of the "Basic Facts About the United Nations" was officially launched Monday at the Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, on the occasion of the UN Day. The event was attended by Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Resident Coordinator of the UN Neil Buhne, Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Marc P George, Vice Chancellor of the Quaid-e-Azam University Dr Javed Ashraf and Director of the UN Information Centre Vittorio Cammarota.

Published since 1947, "Basic Facts about the United Nations" serves as a trusted guide to the United Nations and its system of related agencies. The 2014 edition provides a concise overview of the organization's work throughout the world — including current peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions — along with essential information on UN membership and structure.

"UN has made enormous progress in international law, peace and development after the end of the Cold War," said Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, adding that, "The Urdu translation of this handbook will increase awareness about the UN's work."

UN Resident Coordinator Neil Buhne said, "With 60 percent population below 30 years of age, Pakistan is playing a leading role in the UN in many ways. It can only continue to do so if more Pakistanis are aware of the UN and its mandate."



“It is extremely important for the UN to reach out to Urdu speakers in Pakistan,” said Vittorio Cammarota, Director of the UN Information Centre. “To meet the challenges of the globalized world today, it is essential that citizens all over the world are properly informed about the work of the United Nations so that they actively contribute to it,” he added.

Vice Chancellor of the Quaid-e-Azam University Dr Javed Ashraf said, “It’s a matter of great honour for us that Pakistan’s highest ranking university has been selected for the launch of this book.”

On this occasion, a UN Corner was also unveiled at the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) library. The UN Corner is a bookshelf that serves as repository of newsletters, journals, reports, magazines and books published by the UN Secretariat and the agencies, funds and programmes of the UN System. It aims to provide university students with full time access to information on the priority areas of work of the UN.

"This UN Corner provides a treasure of knowledge to support students in their research work and to empower Pakistani youth for their future careers," said Marc P George, Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan, adding that "the Swiss Development Cooperation has therefore decided to support the roll-out of the UN Corner to all government universities throughout the country."

“The Quaid-i-Azam University is a microcosm of Pakistan, truly representative of our culturally diverse national demography. The UN Corner will prove to be a knowledge hub about the world body for both our students and faculty,” said Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad, Director SPIR.

This event was part of celebrations of the UN Day in Pakistan. UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, the United Nations officially came into being.

High resolution photos can be downloaded at: <https://we.tl/8EZHetfBUt>

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Press Release

Photo exhibition on sustainable development goals launched

As part of celebrations of the UN Day on October 24, a photo exhibition was launched at Lok Virsa in Islamabad on Monday that looks at the lives of Pakistani people through the lens of UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Jointly developed by Agence France-Presse (AFP), the European Union and the United Nations with support from the Embassy of France in Pakistan and UK Aid, the exhibition comprises 102 photos from all over Pakistan, organized in 17 collections, according to the Sustainable Development Goals. It aims to raise awareness about SDGs and UN's efforts for development in Pakistan and will remain open for public until November 21.

Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs inaugurated the exhibition. Martine Dorance, Ambassador of France to Pakistan, Jean-François Cautain, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Neil Buhne, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Amélie Herenstein, Bureau Chief Pakistan and Afghanistan for AFP and Vittorio Cammarota, Director of United Nations Information Centre were also present on the occasion.

“This exhibition reflects beautifully the diversity of Pakistan, but it also visualizes the common humanity and spirit of all people here. The UN team in Pakistan hopes through its own diversity and through support to the sustainable development goals, to help all Pakistanis meet their own shared goals,” said Resident Coordinator of the UN Neil Buhne.

“It is a great honor for AFP Pakistan to present, for the first time, our photos directly to the Pakistani public,” said Amélie Herenstein. “We have deliberately chosen to focus on the human angle of the story, showing the reality of life as it is now for millions of Pakistanis, be they shopkeepers, teachers, farmers, children, or immigrants abroad. It also documents the extraordinary resilience of ordinary Pakistanis in the face of tragic events like floods,” she added.



"In Pakistan, the EU has been for many years working closely with the Government, the private sector and the civil society to tackle the challenges the country faces. We will continue this strong partnership, in cooperation with the United Nations, ensuring that our assistance contributes to Pakistan achieving the SDGs for the benefit of each citizen of this country," said the EU Ambassador Jean-François Cautain.

"The Sustainable Development Goals are the global blueprint of development for the next 15 years," said Vittorio Cammarota, Director of the UN Information Centre in Islamabad. "These powerful images will, hopefully, enhance awareness of Pakistan's development priorities and inspire Pakistani citizens to take action," he added.

The Sustainable Development Goals represent a common agenda, adopted by the world leaders to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. These 17 goals comprise 169 targets which focus on economic inequality, innovation, climate change, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among others. Promotion and raising awareness about SDGs is a top priority for UN system in Pakistan.

United Nations Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being.

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United Nations

Press Release

United Nations In Pakistan Celebrates 71 Years Of Promoting Peace, Prosperity And Equality For All

Islamabad, 24 October 2016 – The United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, in his UN Day message said that “Humanity has entered the era of sustainability – with a global commitment to fulfil the great promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this, the Organization’s 71st year, we have 17 goals to propel us towards a better future for all on a healthy planet.”

The UN Family in Pakistan is made of 22 UN agencies, funds and programmes, operating together to deliver development and humanitarian results. Each element of the “One UN Programme” in Pakistan promotes sustainable human development, social equity and rights for all.

In his Welcome Address at the UN Day Staff Celebration, Neil Buhne, the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator of the United Nations in Pakistan, said that, “As we celebrate 71 years of the UN, we should be proud of what the UN Pakistan team has contributed to, in Pakistan, but it is also vital that we learn from what we were not able to do. As we look forward let us help Pakistanis realize the opportunities there are to transform their lives over the next 15 years. In doing this, it is right that the UN places a special focus on Pakistan’s youth. Quality education, good health, gainful employment and meaningful engagement are the key drivers which will empower the country’s young, rapidly urbanising population as they enter the labour market and find their voices within their communities. Bringing to the fore the energy and creativity of 60% of the population who are under the age of 30 is a unique opportunity to raise living standards nationwide, and to make Pakistan’s development equitable and sustainable.”

On this UN day, the United Nations renewed its commitment to the people of Pakistan to work together in responding to crisis, support recovery from disasters and rebuild communities, and to champion equitable and inclusive



development. A tribute was also presented to honour all staff members who had lost their lives in the line of duty.

"In Pakistan, our aim is to work with all partners to achieve inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development for all the citizens of this country, with principled efforts to reach the most vulnerable, both today and in the future," said Neil Buhne.

For additional information, please contact :

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