

Media Update

24 October 2017

United Nations

Press Release

Female students and international experts celebrate United Nations Day 2017

Islamabad, 24 October 2017: Students from Fatima Jinnah Women University celebrated United Nations Day with female ambassadors, heads of cooperation agencies and heads of UN agencies. Some 120 students interacted directly with the international experts and got advice on best practices for a successful international career.

After the introductory remarks by Dr. Samina Amin Qadir, Vice Chancellor of the Fatima Jinnah Women University and by Vittorio Cammarota, Director UN Information Centre, the group of influential women shared their personal experiences together with information on useful skills to develop for having access to the diplomatic services and to international careers. After the discussion representatives of each group of the students shared the outcomes of their discussions and inspirational learning experiences.

The international experts included: H.E. Dr. Brigitta Blaha, Ambassador of Austria, Ms. Stefanie Burri, Head of the Swiss Development Cooperation, Ms. Ingrid Christensen, Country Director at ILO, Ms. Vibeke Jensen, Director at UNESCO, H.E. Ms. Ingrid Johannson, Ambassador of Sweden, Ms. Anne Marchal, Minister Counsellor at the European Union Delegation to Pakistan, Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, Country Representative at UNHCR, Ms Santa Molè, Head of the Italian Cooperation, H.E. Ms. Ardi Stoios–Braken, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Gender equality is central to the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development, the global plan agreed by leaders of all countries to meet the challenges we face. According to the statistics, globally, women only make 77 cents for every dollar earned by men for work of equal value. The gap is even wider when it comes to the presence of women in the leadership roles In fact, the



number of women decreases as the seniority level of the role increases. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, recently launched his new strategy on gender parity, as a start to a system-wide campaign to advance this priority at the United Nations. The strategy provides a roadmap to reach parity at the senior levels of leadership by 2021, and ultimately in 2028 across the board.

Quotes:

Dr. Samina Amin Qadir, Vice Chancellor of the Fatima Jinnah Women University: “As a pioneer female higher education institution in Pakistan, we believe that true empowerment comes with socio-economic emancipation. When we see our Alumni moving forward successfully in business and other professions, we are filled with greater hopes for a better world than the one experienced by our former generations. The University endeavours to develop an ethos that actively encourages all women regardless of age, class, ethnicity, impairment and previous educational experience to study at their optimum level.”

Vittorio Cammarota, Director UN Information Centre: Celebrating United Nations Day with young, talented women from Pakistan is a great honour! They represent the vibrant energy of the country and have a bright future ahead of them. I am very grateful to the female ambassadors and to the development experts who kindly committed their time for empowering the students through their success stories.”

Syeda Natasha Islam, Students’ representative: “Having a direct interaction with influential women working in leadership positions in international organisations and learning from their experiences and success stories was a unique opportunity for all of us. Today’s group discussion inspired us to translate our passion into setting the tones and moving forward towards becoming competent professionals of tomorrow.”

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Central African Republic’s message to UN: ‘The only thing we want is peace’

The UN Secretary-General to mark UN Day with peacekeepers who put themselves on the frontlines in some of the most dangerous areas of the



world.

23 October 2017 – It was once known as the ‘Bridge of Death,’ the frontline between warring factions in the capital of the Central African Republic (CAR). Legendary tales were shared of the bridge being drenched in blood, with even Government security forces scared to set foot on it.

Fast forward to 2014, when the United Nations peacekeeping mission was deployed to CAR and steps began to be taken to bring together the militias in attempts at community reconciliation. It was not till October 2016, that local leaders joined forces with the UN peacekeepers to convince the militia groups to disarm and re-open the bridge.

Today, it is simply known as the Yakite Bridge. Located in the PK5 neighbourhood of Bangui, the strife-torn capital, it is booming with traffic and local merchants from both Christian and Muslim communities, thanks in part to the stabilization efforts of the UN peacekeeping mission.

This commercial suburb of Bangui is crowded with small traders trying to get back to normal business. Many traders have returned from neighbouring countries, including Cameroon, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where they escaped violence.

“We are looking for peace. Now we want reconciliation, but they are still killing Muslims,” says Lawadi Ismael, a representative for the neighbourhood, adding: “When the fighting broke out in 2013, I never left. Now, business is slowly resuming, but these attacks against Muslims must stop,” as he blames the Government for its alleged passivity, while asking the UN peacekeeping mission, known as MINUSCA, to do more to protect them.

We followed a joint patrol of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the CAR ([MINUSCA](#)) to the PK5 neighbourhood, the site of numerous clashes between the mainly Muslim Séléka rebels and the anti-Balaka militia, which are mostly Christian, during the civil conflict that erupted in 2013.

A unique aeronautics surveillance unit supports the patrol with live information gathering capacity: a camera equipped aerostat balloon, and three hover masts mounted on vehicles, send videos in real time to the joint operation centre, indicating any crowd movement or potential threats. This is used to guide the patrol to areas which need security, while protecting their



members.

Even as technology helps the peacekeepers, reconciliation is still fragile, especially after recent attacks in the south-east and the centre of the country, often targeting minority communities.

“The police assist mostly when we apprehend a suspect; the military takes the lead when the use of force is required,” explains Jean-Marie Vianney, commander of the 36-strong Rwandan military platoon, as they head together with the 12-member Cameroonian Formed Police Unit (FPU) towards PK5. “We need to reassure the population and discourage bandits,” says Sergeant Epouba Martine Martial, a Cameroonian police officer with MINUSCA.

Despite noteworthy progress and successful elections, and a UN presence to shore up stability, support governance and provide humanitarian assistance, CAR has remained in the grip of instability and sporadic unrest.

The deteriorating situation has driven about a quarter of the people in the country from their homes and since the start of 2017, the number of IDPs has reached 600,000 and refugees in neighbouring countries number over 500,000.

More than 1 million Central Africans are displaced – inside the country or abroad – and in Bangassou, the camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) has reached 1,800 people and is still growing.

When he arrives in the area on 24 October, which is also United Nations Day, Secretary-General António Guterres is expected to pay tribute to the 12 peacekeepers who have died since January 2017 due to hostile acts.

“Across the country, communal tensions are growing. Violence is spreading. And the humanitarian situation is deteriorating,” said Mr. Guterres, who made it a point to mark UN Day with peacekeepers who put themselves on the frontlines in some of the most dangerous areas of the world.

In his latest report to the Security Council on CAR, the Secretary-General has requested reinforcements of 900 additional troops for the mission.

Lieutenant General Balla Keita, Force Commander of MINUSCA, is quite clear that the effect of this surge in capacity will help the mission stabilize the situation. However, he noted: “There will never be a military solution for a

peacekeeping operation. The solution will be a political one – a genuine negotiation with all parties.”

Download link: Keeping the Peace in the Central African Republic.
<https://youtu.be/i48sWluKx0Q>

UNDP

Media Advisory

Launching Ceremony of the Report on “The Vulnerability of Pakistan’s Water Sector to the Impacts of Climate Change: Identification of Gaps and Recommendations for Action”

When: *25 October 2017, at 1030 – 1315 Hours*

Where: Ramada Hotel, Islamabad

What: Launching Ceremony of the Report on
“The Vulnerability of Pakistan’s Water Sector to the Impacts of Climate
Change: Identification of Gaps and Recommendations for Action”

Agenda:

S. No	Agenda Items	Time
1.	Registration of Participants	10:30 a.m.
2.	Welcome Remarks by the Chief Guest Syed Abu Ahmad Akif Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change	11:00 a.m.
3.	Remarks by Dr. Santa Molè Director, Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation (AICS)	11:15 a.m.
4.	Remarks by Ambassador Shahid Kamal Head/Advisor	11:30 a.m.

	Center for Climate Research & Development (CCRD), COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad	
5.	Presentation on the Report by Dr. Toqeer Ahmed Assistant Professor, Center for Climate Research & Development (CCRD), COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad	11:45 a.m.
6.	Question/Answer/Discussions/Feedback on Recommendations	12:15 p.m.
7.	Closing Remarks by Mr. Ignacio Artaza Country Director, UNDP Pakistan	12:45 p.m.
8.	Group Photo	01:00 p.m.
9.	Lunch	01:15 p.m.

You are cordially invited to participate and cover the event

ILO

Press Release

ILO, Prime Minister's Youth Programme and Punjab Government to develop Youth Employment Strategy

Lahore: Punjab is Pakistan's largest province and has the highest youth population which translates into a higher unemployment rate (9.51%). This situation calls for a coherent and integrated Youth Employment Strategy to make visible impact. This was the conclusion of the Provincial Consultation on Youth Employment in Lahore on 18th October 2017.

The Government of Punjab in collaboration with Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) and International Labour Organization (ILO) organized the second Provincial Consultative workshop on Youth Employment. The workshop, which is part of a series of national consultations, was attended by the Government departments from Punjab, United Nations' agencies, Academia, Civil Society Organizations, Youth-led organizations and the youth



representing Punjab.

Seven thematic areas relating to Youth Employment were discussed including 1) Education and Training 2) Employment opportunities at provincial level 3) Youth Employment in Rural Value Chains 4) Youth Employment in Mega Development Projects 5) Overseas Employment of Youth 6) Self-employment and Enterprise Development and 7) Social Protection for unemployed Youth.

In his welcome remarks, Mr. Aamir Jan Secretary Youth Affairs, Sports, Archaeology and Tourism Government of Punjab highlighted the importance of youth as an asset for development of the country and province. He called for the proper guidance of young women and men in developing their careers according to their skills, capabilities and aspirations. Mr. Jan raised the concern that, if the nation failed to provide proper guidance to the youth of Pakistan then this asset could become a threat to the nation. He emphasized the need to develop a long term strategy for Youth Employment, based on international best practices that promotes career counselling and encourages entrepreneurship. He also said that the capacity building needs of the relevant stakeholders needed to be identified and fulfilled particularly for the government departments responsible for implementing youth employment strategies with the assured support of the Government of Punjab.

In his remarks, Mr. Zahid Hussain Additional Secretary Youth Affairs, Sports, Archaeology and Tourism department Government of Punjab shared the initiatives taken by the Punjab Government to promote youth employment that seek to include them in the development of the province. He said there was lot to be done to take full advantage of the energy and enthusiasm of young women and men in order to develop the nation. Mr. Hussain also stated that the government was aware of the challenges faced by the youth and was fully committed to overcoming these challenges with the support of national and international development partners.

The ILO Senior Programme Officer-Mr. Saad Gilani, in his presentation highlighted the major challenges of youth employment in Pakistan including underemployment, vulnerable employment and unproductive jobs that needed to be addressed. He emphasized on investing in developing policies and action plans for youth employment as well as the identification of new avenues for Youth Employment. Mr. Gilani said that under Pakistan's Decent Work Country Programme (2016-2020), ILO was providing technical and financial support to social partners (Employers, Workers and Government of

Pakistan) to create an enabling decent working environment for youth and would continue its support in this regard. Mr. Gilani appreciated the efforts of Government of Punjab in organizing the consultation on Youth Employment and assured ILO's support in developing youth employment strategy. Participants provided detailed feedback and inputs on the proposed Youth Employment Framework for Punjab and fully endorsed the process for its implementation.

In thanking the participants for their active engagement, Ms. Gulalai Khan Head of Communications Planning and Development Department Government of Punjab assured participants that the Government of Punjab, with the support of relevant government departments and other stakeholders would take the agenda of youth employment and empowerment forward. Similar consultations on Youth Employment Framework are also planned in other provinces and regions of the country in coming months. ILO's collaboration with Prime Minister Youth Programme to formulate youth employment framework is an example of on-going efforts to create decent work opportunities for youth.

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UNICEF

Press Release

Children to 'take over' business, government and entertainment on World Children's Day

November 20, stars and global leaders rally with UNICEF to give a voice to the most disadvantaged

NEW YORK, 24 October 2017 – In a month's time, children from around the world will be taking over key roles in media, politics, business, sport and entertainment to voice their support for millions of their peers who are unschooled, unprotected and uprooted, UNICEF said today. The takeover, set for November 20, marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the mobilisation of the first World



Children's Day.

“From Auckland to Amman and from New York to N’Djamena, we want children to campaign in their schools and communities to help save children’s lives, fight for their rights and fulfil their potential,” said Justin Forsyth UNICEF Deputy Executive Director. “World Children’s Day will be a day for children, by children.”

In the run-up to November 20, UNICEF is inviting children around the world to speak up against bullying, discrimination and unfairness. Despite tremendous progress over the past decades, according to the latest data:

- 385 million children live in extreme poverty.
- 264 million children and youth are out of school.
- 5.6 million children under the age of five died last year from preventable causes.

To help give a voice to the millions of children whose voices remain unheard, high profile stars and world leaders are lending their support to the initiative, including:

- UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador **David Beckham** will quiz children about their views of the world in a short film to be released for World Children’s Day.
- French music group **Kids United** will release an empowering new music video recorded for UNICEF and World Children’s Day.
- Global takeovers of government, sport and business, including legendary cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar**, Spanish footballer and New York City FC captain **David Villa**, South Korean actor and national ambassador **Ahn Sung-ki**, and **Lego Foundation** and **Qantas**.
- *Logan* actress **Dafne Keen** and **Isabela Moner** from *Transformers: The Last Knight* and Nickelodeon will join 150 children to take over United Nations Headquarters wheresingers, songwriters and musicians **Chloe x Halle** will debut a specially penned track to mark the day.

“We are asking children to take part, online and offline, for a world where every child survives and grows up healthy, educated and protected from harm,” said Forsyth.

In schools around the world, children will ‘takeover’ classrooms and assemblies to raise their voices and fundraise for the issues facing their peers around the world, such as migration, early marriage and missing out on

school.

Actors and philanthropists **Debra-lee Furness** and **Hugh Jackman** will support a mass *Move the World* fundraising activation - *Workout for Water* – taking place in gyms in over 100 countries. On November 18, instructors and gym goers can participate to help children and their families access safe water, healthcare and food in some of the world's poorest nations.

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Note to editors:

Further information on how to get involved, where to download a school resource pack or sign up to take part in *Move the World* is available at: <http://www.worldchildrensday.org/>

About UNICEF

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone. For more information about UNICEF and its work for children visit www.unicef.org.

Follow UNICEF on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

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UNIDO

Press Release

Transforming the Leather Processing Industries towards Low Carbon Emission & Climate Resilience Development in Karachi, Pakistan

24 October 2017, Karachi-Pakistan: United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has chalked out a comprehensive programme to improve the environmental situation and address various issues like solid waste management, and cleaner production techniques in tanneries



specifically in reduction of CO2 emissions for resilient development in Korangi Sector 7-A. The project is being funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF).

UNIDO conducted a consultative workshop to deliberate upon project and its various outputs in collaboration with PTA (SZ) Environmental Society Korangi Industrial Area with active participation of Ministry of Industries & Commerce, Government of Sindh.

Mr. Mazoor Hussain Wasson, the Minister for Industries & Commerce Govt. Sindh, , while praising the role of UNIDO & PTA in order to mitigate the solid waste management issues & regarding the combined effluent treatment plan at Kornagi industrial area, said: There can be no two opinions then that climate change is now a reality. There is a consensus among Government of Sindh & industrialists of Sindh province to bring best international practices for effective mitigation efforts for the improvement of environmental footprint of Korangi Industrial area, contributing ultimately to enhance the export of leather/leather products from Karachi.

Addressing the participants, Mr. Abdul Hakim Soomro, the Secretary Industries Government of Sindh assured full cooperation from the government of Sindh to improve the environmental conditions of the Industrial sites. Simultaneously he stressed upon participation of private sector to come forward and join hands with the government to work together for the GEF project as well as new initiatives to reduce the pollution and reducing carbon footprint to tackle Climate Change. He also highlighted that five combined treatment plants for industrial areas in Karachi have been approved. Mr. Gulzar Firoz, in his speech emphasized UNIDO assistance for the up gradation of the existing effluent collection and conveyance system as well as comprehensive plan for solid Waste management to reduce the carbon footprint of the tannery industry in Sector 7A.

Ms. Nadia Aftab UNIDO Country Representative welcomed all participants and thanked Government of Sindh support & appreciated the efforts of Pakistan Tannery Association Environment society to overcome the industrial waste problems & revamping treatment plant with the technical assistance of UNIDO. She also remind the mandate of UNIDO's which echoes SDG9, but also aligns with many other sustainable development goals. UNIDO Pakistan is engaged in several initiatives related to industrial competitiveness, improving environment profile of various industrial areas by addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation etc. She said UNIDO is celebrating

UN day in Pakistan while discussing the climate resilient leather industry with Government & Private.

Mr. Ivan Kral, Industrial Development Officer / Project Manager UNIDO presented the project and its various proposed outputs. The UNIDO project is in line with inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development. It is expected to enhance the leather export contributing towards increase in job opportunities and for the socio-economic uplift in the target areas. Furthermore the project would strengthen, enable sustainability, and enhance viability of leather sector level initiatives undertaken previously.

The workshop was attended by various Government and Local Government representatives, NGOs, Academia and Representative from Industry, Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Pakistan Tanners Associations.
