

# Media Update

26 October 2017

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## United Nations

Press Release

### United Nations Pakistan celebrates 72nd Anniversary of the United Nations

Islamabad, 26th October 2017 – The United Nations in Pakistan organized an event to celebrate the 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations. All staff members, member states, diplomatic community and government counterparts were invited to partake in the festivities.

On the occasion, Mr. Neil Buhne, the UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan said: “Pakistan has a wealth of diversity among its people; Scientists, activists, Nobel Prize winners, hard working men and women respected throughout the world who remit funds, a military that has contributed to the top leadership to UN peacekeeping, dedicated and skilled federal and provincial civil servants many of whom could work anywhere – and do with the UN. It is fitting then, that the theme for this year’s UN Day is “Potential in Diversity”.”

Mr. Neil Buhne further highlighted that: “The UN by its work in Pakistan is privileged to partner with the government of this country to build strength from this diversity to overcome the shared challenges. Some of this work includes: dramatically reducing Polio in partnership; extensive work on nutrition; helping hundreds of thousands of people dislocated to return to FATA and helping them rebuild their lives; helping Pakistan host refugees and migrants; supporting women to enjoy equal rights; supporting Pakistani producers to meet international standards and export more; and doing all this in the frame of the Sustainable Development Goals – including equality, the environment and sustained peace and justice ”

This event also commemorated the service of those staff members who have served with the United Nations for more than twenty-five years and their commitment to service was recognized and awarded. Staff members also



renewed their Oath of Office as part of the programme.

Mr. Arif Ahmed Khan, Secretary Economic Affairs Division, expressed that: “Our partnership with the UN is important to help us advance Pakistan’s development objectives and priorities. The Government, and the UN, and people of Pakistan will continue to work together to further prosperity, peace and improve the lives of future generations.”

**For additional information, please contact :**

Mahwish Humayun, Information and Advocacy Officer & Communications Focal Point for UNRCO Pakistan, [mahwish.humayun@one.un.org](mailto:mahwish.humayun@one.un.org) or +92 (51) 835 5714

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## UN Women

Press Release

### 13th Inter Provincial Ministerial Group Meeting (IPMG) held in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Peshawar, 25 October 2017: Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) with the support of UN Women hosted 13<sup>th</sup> Inter Provincial Ministerial Group Meeting (IPMG) in Peshawar from 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

The Provincial Ministers of Women Development Departments, National/Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women, National and Provincial Women Parliamentary Provincial Caucuses (WPC), Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Provincial Assemblies, Federal Ministry of Human Rights and Provincial Women Development Departments (WDDs) attended the meeting from all four provinces including FATA, Gilgit-Baltistan and AJ&K.

The meeting brought together relevant stakeholders from all over Pakistan to strengthen the coordination mechanisms, share achievements and collectively deliberate on faced challenges in relation to women’s empowerment and gender equality.

Mr. Asad Qaiser, Speaker Provincial assembly KP in his opening remarks,



acknowledged the importance of this forum for sharing success stories, issues and challenges. He showed his full support to the WPC in provincial assembly KP and acknowledged the role and importance of women in progress of country.

On the occasion, a publication “Stakeholders’ Analysis Beijing +20 Report prepared by NCSW was also launched by the speaker.

The common areas echoed in the discussion were pertaining to legislation, policy, sensitization of stakeholders, violence against women, women economic empowerment. Presence of institutional mechanisms such as ombudsperson, gender units in departments, crisis centers and shelters were highlighted by the provincial delegates.

To accomplish women’s empowerment and gender equality objective several challenges were pointed out. These included lack of conducive environment, weak implementation and monitoring of laws and policies, frequent transfer of government officials, inadequate vertical and horizontal coordination between women machineries, line departments and civil society. Financial constraints were faced especially no separate funds were allocated for women’s wing. Lack of human resource and expertise were termed as additional bottlenecks.

The participants emphasized the need for regular meetings of IPMG and further elaborated their expectations from the Secretariat NCSW. The forum proposed a set of recommendations including linkages with sectoral departments, strengthening of women’s machineries, investing in building of non-traditional skills of women, political participation and representation of women especially in the context of elections 2018, introduction of new areas such as women and sports and impact of climate change on women. Follow up on Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and measuring the impact of activities were termed as critical actions. There are numerous examples practiced in the provinces, which can be the basis of learning, adoption and adaptation by others. The forum has contributed in developing joint vision in promoting women empowerment and gender equality.

Participants also agreed that legislation on local government system and issues related to women’s participation in line with CEDAW should be formalized in FATA, AJK and GB too.

The meeting ended with the formulation of a resolution with consensus,





stressing on the development of effective reporting and coordination mechanism of CEDAW provincial committees and regular reporting on all ratified international human rights conventions.

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