

# Media Update

*8 April 2015*

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## United Nations

PRESS RELEASE

### The United Nations Information Centre increases outreach to the young people in Pakistan

Islamabad, 8 April 2015: The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) signed today two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPD) and with the Inter-University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts (IUCPSS) for enhancing dissemination of values and core messages of the United Nations among the young people of Pakistan.

The partnerships will focus on the joint development of several initiatives, including the UN Corner, the UN Wall campaign, the Academic Impact, an internship programme and commemoration of the UN Days.

Mr. Vittorio Cammarota, Director United Nations Information Centre welcomed the strategic partnership with IUCPSS and IPD and highlighted the valuable role educational institutions play in involving young people in the communication initiatives of the United Nations. "This year the United Nations celebrates its 70th anniversary and we will do our best to ensure that Pakistani young people actively contribute to the global campaign".

Speaking at the signing ceremony Ms. Farhat Asif, President, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies said: "It is wonderful to get into a cooperation agreement with UNIC for promoting UN values across Pakistan through several steps and joint efforts. I hope that this partnership will have lasting impact over the youth communities in Pakistan.

The Inter-University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, consisting on 26 universities representing all regions of Pakistan is the largest autonomous network of the public/private sector universities in the world. While signing the MOU, Dr.Naseer Ali Khan, Chairman, IUCPSS and Vice Chancellor of the University of Haripur assured his full support for promoting the UN's ideals and values through the network of the universities all over Pakistan. He stressed the importance of establishing the UN Corners in Pakistani universities as they will provide an opportunity to both faculty and students of the members institutions to have access to the independent and impartial information from the United Nations.

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## UN-Habitat

### PRESS RELEASE

## National Workshop on Finalization of Pakistan Country Report for Habitat III Conference

Islamabad, 7 April 2015: The final draft of the National Report for Habitat III Conference was presented and discussed at today's national workshop held in Islamabad. Mr. Sajjad Ahmad, Director General (Environment), Ministry of Climate Change, led the workshop and he was joined by Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Awan, Associate Country Director, Oxfam GB and Ms. Bella Evidente, Country Programme Manager a.i., UN-Habitat Pakistan. Representatives from the Federal and Provincial Governments and Line Departments, Academe, Civil Society, and Urban Planners/Experts actively provided their feedback and valuable contributions which were highly appreciated by the lead author of the report, Mr. Jawed Ali Khan.

The draft National Report of Pakistan has been prepared by adopting a two-pronged strategy, i.e. 1) conducting literature review and 2) holding meetings and roundtable discussions with relevant stakeholders at all provincial headquarters, including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad, Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). The Ministry of Climate Change requested the Provincial/State Planning and Development Departments to designate Coordinating Officers to facilitate the discussions with relevant stakeholders. The meetings and



roundtable discussions were held and the inputs received from this process, as well as literature review, have been incorporated in the draft National Report. UN-Habitat Pakistan and Oxfam GB provided technical advisory support and financial support, respectively. It is noteworthy to mention that the Pakistan Government through the Ministry of Climate Change has led the entire process and full ownership of the report following the guidelines and format provided by UN-Habitat.

The National Report is the first step towards an evidence-based outcome document of Habitat III Conference that will take place in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016. It comprises of eight chapters: 1) Urban Demographic Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda, 2) Land and Urban Planning, 3) Environment and Urbanization, 4) Urban Governance and Legislation, 5) Urban Economy, 6) Housing and Basic Services, 7) Indicators, and 8) Case Studies and Policy Documents.

The Pakistan Government is ready to officially submit the National Report on or before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Committee meeting for Habitat III that will take place in Nairobi, Kenya from 14 to 16 April 2016.

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