

# Media Update-2

20 October 2017

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## UNIDO

Press Release

### **UNIDO sustained its support to Leather sector of Pakistan through Climate Change Adaptation Techniques for the development of leather zone at Sialkot**

Sialkot, 19 October 2017: To help in effective control of environmental hazards caused by the tanning industry in the Sialkot and to improve the Climate Change adaptation capability, UNIDO is implementing a Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project entitled; "Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation through Water Resource Management in Leather Industrial Zone Development" to shift scattered tanneries to a centralized location and provide various facilities like Common Effluent Treatment Plant, Solid Waste Disposal Site, Common Effluent Collection System and flood management.

It is an immensely important project for the leather industry which is executed by Sialkot Tannery Association Guarantee Ltd (STAGL) with the technical support provided by UNIDO. The Sialkot Tannery Zone has been planned to reduce environmental footprints where all Sialkot based tanneries will relocate to newly planned leather industrial park with generous support of Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and Govt. of Pakistan.

For the execution of above mentioned project, the first project steering committee meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017 at Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industries review the progress of the project implementation. Speaking on the occasion, Director, TDAP expressed the gratitude to UNIDO for their invaluable support to the project. He stressed upon the importance of climate change adaptation techniques; especially for leather sector and highlighted the importance of relocation of the tanneries to a more spacious location with appropriate infrastructure for efficient and cost effective



treatment of solid and liquid wastes and has thus become a prerequisite of time. The committee meeting was attended by high-ranking officials, dignitaries, industrialists and relevant stakeholders.

The project Director, Mr. Muhammad Atif, elaborated the importance of the role of project partners in providing technical support in establishing effluent treatment plant.

After the technical session, the president Chamber of commerce and Industries praised the efforts of UNIDO and ensure the continuous support for industrial collaboration and safe environment for Sialkot. Mr. Ahtisham Gillani, CEO Sialkot Tannery Association Guarantee Ltd, acknowledged the efforts of project partners and stressed the need for sustainability especially in terms of Government support in environmental and related aspects. Speaking on the occasion, Ms Nadia Aftab, UNIDO Country Representative in Pakistan, said that she is very pleased that today's steering committee meeting has been very helpful reviewing progress and way forward in implementing project work plan and activities, She also stressed upon that initiatives like this are key to contribute for the achievements of SDGs exclusively Goal 9 & Inclusive & sustainable Industrial development in Pakistan. UNIDO is determined bring international best practices for sustainable production without deteriorating the environment and help reduce climatic impacts. UNIDO team along with related stakeholders payed a visit to tannery zone project site near Sialkot international airport witnessed a dream presumed couple of years ago is now turning into reality. The efforts of Punjab Government is also laudable as 400 acer land is dedicated to relocate Tanneries for better & safer environment in & around Sialkot communities. Completion of boundary wall & carpeted road for better infrastructure is a landmark of success of all stakeholders' involvement.

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