

# Media Update

12 December 2017

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## UNDP

### Press Release

#### **UNDP enters new partnerships supporting innovative means of increasing accountability**

Islamabad, 12 December 2017 – To mark Anti-Corruption Day celebrated on 9 December, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Pakistan initiated two new agreements to develop innovative solutions to end corruption and increase accountability. The agreements were signed by the Country Director, Ignacio Artaza, representing UNDP Pakistan, and Fayyaz Yasin of Accountability Lab and Syed Raza Ali of the Peace and Justice Network, respectively.

“Corruption and lack of accountability undermine countries’ efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG-16, to build peace, justice and strong institutions. Pakistan is no exception to this. Indeed, transparent, inclusive and accountable institutions are a pre-requisite for sustainable development that benefits the most vulnerable in every area, from health and education to economic prosperity and environmental protection,” said Ignacio Artaza, Country Director, UNDP Pakistan.

Through the partnerships with Accountability Lab and the Peace and Justice Network, UNDP will work with the government to test innovative solutions to Pakistan’s corruption challenges. Together with the Accountability Lab, UNDP will partner with Integrity Idol, a national movement to recognize and celebrate honest government officials. The partnership with the Peace and Justice Network will lead to the development of a Knowledge Hub and Centre for Justice Statistics, and a roadmap for achieving SDG-16 by 2030. It will also develop a network of civil society organizations across Pakistan with the capacity to hold service providers accountable. The two organizations are members of the Multi-Stakeholder Forum convened by the Government of Pakistan’s Economic Affairs Division for consultations around the Open Government Platform National Action Plan.



Corruption is a major obstacle for governance, development and democracy in Pakistan. Pakistan ranked 116th out of 176 nations Transparency International's (TI) Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for 2016, which signals an improvement over previous years, but also highlights the need for improvement.

Anti-Corruption Day 2017 was celebrated on 9 December by UNDP and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with a recognition that corruption is one of the main impediments world-wide to achieving the SDGs. In Pakistan, UNDP works closely with government, communities and civil society in support of robust, inclusive and transparent institutions that benefit all Pakistanis, including the most marginalized. These include investments in innovation to increase citizen involvement in policymaking, redesign public services, and develop local, holistic solutions to Pakistan's complex development challenges.

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