

Media Update

16 Oct 2018

United Nations

MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

17 October 2018

“Twenty-five years ago, the world commemorated the first International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Since then, nearly 1 billion people have escaped poverty, thanks to political leadership, inclusive economic development and international cooperation.

However, many are still being left behind. Over 700 million people are unable to meet their basic daily needs. Many live in situations of conflict and crisis; others face barriers in accessing health care, education and job opportunities, preventing them from benefitting from broader economic development. And women are disproportionately affected.

Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as embodied in Goal 1 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, remains one of the greatest global challenges and a major priority for the United Nations.

This year, as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, let us remember that ending poverty is not a matter of charity but a question of justice. There is a fundamental connection between eradicating extreme poverty and upholding the equal rights of all people.

We must listen to the millions of people experiencing poverty and destitution across the globe, tackle the power structures that prevent their inclusion in society and address the indignities they face. We must build a fair globalization that creates opportunities for all and ensure that rapid technological development boosts our poverty eradication efforts. On this International Day for the Eradication of Poverty let us commit to uphold the core pledge of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.”

Background:

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the declaration by the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992, of 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the Call to Action by Father Joseph Wresinski — which inspired the observance of October 17 as the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty — and the recognition by the United Nations of the day as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

2018 Theme - “Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity”

It is important to recall the fundamental connection between extreme poverty and human rights, and that people living in poverty are disproportionately affected by many human rights violations.

Joseph Wresinski was one of the first persons to highlight this direct link between human rights and extreme poverty. In February 1987, he appealed to the Human Rights Commission to examine the question of extreme poverty and human rights and eloquently captured the nexus between human rights and extreme poverty with his profound observation: *“Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty.”*

Government policies alone cannot create the social inclusion that is fundamental to reaching those left furthest behind and overcoming poverty in all its dimensions. The commemoration of October 17 each year, when people living in poverty take the floor and share their experiences, demonstrates how we can achieve greater social inclusion by enabling people from all walks of life to come together to respect the human rights and dignity of people living in poverty. It underscores the importance of reaching out to people living in poverty and building an alliance around their priorities with citizens from all backgrounds to end extreme poverty. It recognizes the important mutual roles and relationships we have with each other based on our common and equal dignity.

The persistence of poverty, including extreme poverty, is a major concern for the United Nations and, at its 72nd session, the General Assembly launched the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027), under the theme “Accelerating global actions

for a world without poverty”. It is important that the Third Decade’s inter-agency, system-wide plan of action to coordinate the poverty eradication efforts of the United Nations system includes an effective partnership with people living with poverty.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty can strongly complement such initiatives because it aims to ensure that the active participation of people living in extreme poverty and those furthest behind is a driving force in all efforts made to overcome poverty, including in the design and implementation of programmes and policies which affect them. Only by creating and nurturing a genuine partnership with people living with poverty will it be possible to build an inclusive world where all people can enjoy their full human rights and lead lives with dignity.

FAO

PRESS RELEASE

“The initiative of the present govt. will gear towards reducing hunger to the zero level in Pakistan by year 2030”

Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan, Federal Minister M/o National Food Security & Research

ISLAMABAD: (16th October, 2018) The theme for World Food Day this year-2018 was “Our Actions are our Future. A Zero Hunger world by 2030 is possible” Various organizations including Ministry of National Food Security Research, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Food Program (WFP) ,Oxfam and research institutes came together to organize the ceremony at National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad.

Mr. Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, was the chief guest at the ceremony. Messages from the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read at the ceremony in which the long standing partnership Government of Pakistan and FAO was highlighted. Speaking on the

occasion, Federal Minister Sultan said that World Food Day is celebrated every year for raising awareness of food security and demonstration of solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. This year's theme "our actions are our future. Zero hunger world by 2030 is possible" is relevant to the mandate of Ministry of Food Security and Research. World Food Day theme of this year demands strong commitment of multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder partnerships to mobilize means of implementation. The Minister further added that the present Govt. has given top priority to uplift agriculture and conserve water in its first 100 days. Certainly, the initiative of the present Govt. of Pakistan will be geared towards reducing hunger to the zero level in Pakistan by the year 2030.

Ms. Minà Dowlatchahi, FAO Representative in Pakistan also addressed the ceremony. Highlighting the completion of 40 years of FAO in Pakistan she said "We all have to continue to play our respective roles for achieving Zero Hunger in Pakistan. It is encouraging to see Pakistan taking steps in the right direction for reaching this goal. The first National Food Security Policy and the Water Policy provide the framework for action, putting emphasis on agriculture diversification and value addition, resilient climate smart agriculture and water management, improved livelihoods of small holder farmers and tenants, safe drinking water and a National Zero Hunger Program." She also read out a message from Mr. Jose Graziano da Silva, Director General FAO.

Federal Secretary for MNFS&R, Mr Hashim Popalzai said that peace, progress and prosperity are greatly linked to the food security in a country. Govt. Researchers, NGOs and communities must join hands to achieve this goal with the help of suitable policies, strategies and actions. FAO and its partners can play a leading role in this regard. Agriculture Researchers should increase their efforts to cope with the emerging challenges of our time like climate change. Climate change adaptation and mitigation has significant importance for poverty reduction. Mr. Finbarr Curran, Country Director and Representative, United Nations World Food Program (WFP) Pakistan said at the occasion that ending hunger will require investments in agriculture, rural development, nutrition, social protection and gender equality.

Dr. Yusuf Zafar, T.I, Chairman PARC said that World food day is celebrated every year to review, monitor and strengthen our efforts for food security. This year the day is followed by the theme "Our actions are our future; A Zero hunger World by 2030 is possible". Eradicating hunger and malnutrition is one of the great challenges of our time. Not only do the consequences of not enough-or the wrong-food cause

suffering and poor health, they also slow progress in many other areas of development like education and employment. To conclude, there is still a long way to go, and no one organization can achieve Zero Hunger by 2030 if it works alone. Therefore, governments, citizens, civil society organizations and the private sector must collaborate to invest, innovate and create lasting solutions.

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Director General NARC paid vote of thanks in the end and said that with the collaboration of international partners we will cope with food security and he is confident that working together, we will find lasting solutions to the root causes of malnutrition in Pakistan and banish hunger to the history books once and for all.
