

Media Update

24 October 2018

United Nations Pakistan Press Release

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and United Nations Pakistan celebrates 73rd Anniversary of the United Nations

Islamabad, 24 October 2018 – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN country team jointly organized a ceremony at the Foreign Office today to mark the 73rd anniversary of the United Nations Day.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi outlined the Government's priorities with a particular focus on social and economic development, poverty alleviation, job creation and institutional reforms. Acknowledging the role and contribution of the United Nations in these endeavours, the Foreign Minister expressed Pakistan's willingness to further build on this partnership.

The Foreign Minister highlighted the seminal role played by Pakistani diplomats in shaping global norms, negotiating international treaties and steering deliberations in the fields of peace, security and development. He also expressed deep appreciation for enduring contribution of Pakistani troops and police personnel to the UN peacekeeping and paid tribute to the 156 Pakistani peacekeepers for their ultimate sacrifice for world peace.

Mr. Neil Buhne, the UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan said the growing interdependence among countries and communities, and the importance to development of partnerships with civil society and the private sector, showed the importance of the UN's work in building trust. "In everything we do, in partnership with the people and Government of Pakistan, the UN agencies, funds and programmes work together, to create something greater than the sum of our parts. We work to expand peoples' options and opportunities, and we empower them with the ability to make their own choices. We work to protect those who cannot speak out for themselves. We work to assist



communities to unite and work toward common goals. We strive to enable the people of Pakistan to create the world they want for themselves and for their children. We act to uphold dignity for everyone.”

He said: “As we move forward towards achieving Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, let’s vow to not let anyone fall by the wayside. We are in this together and we must never give up”.

The UN Secretary General’s video message was also played on this occasion. A photo exhibition capturing the visual history of Pakistan’s diplomatic engagement at the United Nations since 1947 had also been arranged.

The Foreign Secretary, heads of diplomatic missions and UN agencies, senior civil and military officials, former Pakistani Ambassadors and officers of the Foreign Ministry were present at this well-attended event.

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WFP

Press Release

PAKISTAN launches consultation on national action plan for nutrition

ISLAMABAD – A National Action Plan to address the scourge of nutrition in Pakistan came one step closer to reality today through a national consultation in the capital Islamabad. The Nutrition Section of the Ministry for Planning Development and Reforms and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) are coming together with government, academia, sister U.N. agencies and development partners to turn Pakistan’s Multi Sectoral Nutrition Strategy (PMNS) into action.



The strategy reflects the determination of government and stakeholders to lower the human, social and economic burden of malnutrition. Key consultations, plans and policies from sectors such as health, education, water and sanitation, agriculture and social protection, which all impact nutrition, contributed to the elaboration of the PMNS. With financial and technical support from WFP, this strategy builds on existing policies to forge a national framework, ensuring nutrition is supported by multiple sectors and stakeholders in Pakistan.

"The devastating impact of malnutrition on the lives of millions of women and children in Pakistan has multiple causes. This integrated planning approach brings together the key players who can defeat this scourge, not only ensuring a healthier brighter future for every family, but reclaiming the staggering USD \$7.6 billion in lost opportunity costs to this great nation," said WFP Representative Finbarr Curran.

WFP has prioritized rigorous research and consultation with stakeholders to identify challenges and potential solutions through an integrated approach to nutrition and food security for the poorest of the poor. Technical consultations at provincial and regional level are being conducted to ensure key nutrition interventions have been prioritized, with objectives, actions, indicators and timelines aligned with the strategic objectives of the PMNS. WFP will continue its work with the government of Pakistan to develop a final National Action Plan.

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with the communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists 80 million people in 80 countries.

The United Nations World Food Programme - saving lives in emergencies and changing lives for millions through sustainable development. WFP works in more than 80 countries around the world, feeding people caught in conflict and disasters, and laying the foundations for a better future.

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