United Nations Press Release

Islamabad, 11 April 2018 - The Government of Pakistan and the United Nations in Pakistan signed the UN Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF), also known as the One Programme III (OP III) 2018-2022 in a ceremony held in the Economic Affairs Division, Islamabad. Secretary EAD and United Nations Resident Coordinator signed the document along-with other UN agencies working in Pakistan.

Syed Ghazanfar Abbas Jillani, the Secretary Economic Affairs Division remarked that ‘today’s signing is an important milestone for the Government of Pakistan as it reinforces our 70 years of trusted partnership with the UN. Pakistan is amongst the first countries that adopted the SDGs as National Development Goals and one of the few countries that is investing its own resources to achieve the SDGs. We are confident that the new 5-year programme will create impactful results for the people of Pakistan.’

The 5-year partnership framework sets-out the direction of the UN’s support to the Government of Pakistan to achieve the 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UNSDF/OPIII outlines 10 key outcomes in areas in which the UN can leverage its strong comparative advantage in support of Pakistan’s commitment to the SDGs: inclusive and sustainable economic growth; decent work for all; improved health coverage and equitable WASH services; better nutrition; lasting food security and sustainable agriculture practices; greater resilience; quality education and learning; gender equality and dignity for all; strengthened governance; and more effective social protection.
Strong partnerships and country-ownership are the twin pillars of the UNSDF/OPIII. The Programme is aligned both with the SDGs and the aspirations of Pakistan’s Vision 2025. ‘It commits the UN to greater inter-agency collaboration while working closer than ever with our partners – federal, provincial and local governments, the private sector, civil society, donors and the international community – to deliver a more prosperous, inclusive and equitable future for Pakistan’ said Neil Buhne, UN Resident Coordinator.

Since 2009, the UN has contributed over $2.3 billion to support the Government of Pakistan to tackle its development challenges that has benefitted millions of Pakistanis throughout the country.

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UNICEF
Press Release

New UNICEF Representative, Aida Girma-Melaku Presents her Credentials to the Foreign Minister

Islamabad, 11 April, 2018 – The new UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, Ms. Aida Girma-Melaku, met the Foreign Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, here today, and presented her credentials. She recently arrived in the country and assumed charge of her office.

The Foreign Minister welcomed Ms. Girma-Melaku and appreciated UNICEF’s continued support to Pakistan’s National Development Programme, especially in the context of improving social indicators pertaining to children and women in the country.

The Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, said that polio eradication, reduction in child mortality and addressing similar social issues are common priorities.
for the Government and UNICEF. He assured Ms. Girma-Melaku of all his support in UNICEF’s pursuit of its mandate in Pakistan.

Ms. Girma-Melaku commended the Government of Pakistan on its efforts and achievements to-date in reducing maternal and child mortality. She emphasized the need to further strengthen routine immunization and improve access to basic health services, especially for marginalized communities in hard to reach areas.

Referring to the tireless efforts of hundreds of thousands of the frontline polio workers, Ms. Girma-Melaku praised the government-led Polio Eradication Initiative for edging ever close to a polio-free Pakistan.

She apprised the Minister of UNICEF’s ongoing efforts to reduce neonatal mortality which will also help sustain the gains by the polio eradication programme. She mentioned that UNICEF’s support to the federal and provincial governments in enrolling out-of-school children has borne positive results but large number of school going age children still remain out of school.

In the framework of the country’s UN Delivering as One Programme, Ms. Girma-Melaku will head a multi sectorial operation in education, health, nutrition, child protection, water and sanitation, as well as polio eradication.

Ms. Girma-Melaku brings with her nearly 30 years of experience focusing on planning, leading and managing complex development and humanitarian assistance programmes.

She joined UNICEF in 1991 and has since worked in various capacities. In addition to being UNICEF’s Representative in Uganda, Malawi and South Africa, Ms. Girma-Melaku also served as Deputy Representative of UNICEF in Mozambique and Somalia.

Originally from Ethiopia, Ms. Girma-Melaku is a naturalized citizen of Italy. She holds a Master’s degree in Development Economics and a Certificate in Management and Financing of Health Programmes in Developing Countries from Harvard University, USA, amongst other qualifications.

About UNICEF:
UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to
translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

For further information, please contact:

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