

Media Update

16 April 2019

UNDP

PRESS RELEASE

National Parliamentary Consultation on Sustainable Development Goals

Islamabad, 16 April 2019 — A two-day National Parliamentary Consultation on SDGs organized by SDG Taskforce of National Assembly of Pakistan in collaboration with Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), UNDP & UNICEF commenced at PIPS on April 16, 2019. The aim of consultation is to provide an opportunity for members of National and Provincial Assemblies and delegates from civil society, experts and academia to discuss and formulate strategic vision and way forward in effectively taking up the imperative matters of country's horizontal and vertical sustainable development with respective federal and provincial governments. The National Parliamentary Consultation on SDGs will help bringing new legislation if required; and most importantly plan for robust scrutiny and oversight through all available parliamentary tools in respective Houses to enhance the much needed sectors of health, education and sanitation while overall leading country's efforts in poverty alleviation.

Chief Guest of the National Parliamentary Consultation was Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Asad Qaiser who appreciated the efforts of Convener SDGs Task Force, Riaz Fatyana for effectively activating the Taskforce since in-charge. He also applauded the role of Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services and UN agencies for the support and cooperation they have provided during the course. Speaker National Assembly highlighted that the process of devolution in the wake of 18th Amendment has significantly increased the role of the federating units. He further emphasized that by agreeing to the international convention pertaining to the SDGs, Pakistan has committed itself to work in the identified areas with set goals. In his concluding remarks, he ensured his full support to SDGs Taskforce as the



custodian of the National Assembly of Pakistan as well as the Patron of the SDGs Parliamentary Taskforce.

Executive Director PIPS Zafarullah Khan welcomed the participants and underscored the importance of the two-day intellectual discourse bringing together legislators as well as officials from all the legislative houses at National as well as Provincial level. He reiterated the international commitments of Pakistan and gigantic task ahead for SDGs taskforces for effective and efficient delivery of those commitments.

Convener National Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs, Member National Assembly Riaz Fatyana also shared his remarks with the august gathering. He welcomed the participants and shed light on the importance of implementation and delivery of SDGs that matches the very essence and vision of Pakistan's welfare state. He further stressed that the National Parliamentary SDGs Taskforce envisions to work together with counterparts in provincial and legislative assemblies to robustly oversight the respective governments viz – a - viz policy, administrative, resource allocation and implementation of essentials to achieve the country's SDGs without fail.

Ms. Naoko Takasu, Deputy Resident Representative - Programme, UNDP Pakistan while sharing her remarks underlined that Pakistan has made a good start in localizing SDGs agenda and commended the Parliament's commitment to the attainment of SDGs, particularly through active National and Provincial SDG Task Forces. She highlighted three key roles of parliamentarians in accelerating the progress of SDGs; being voices of the most marginalized and vulnerable; translating initiatives to support SDGs into laws; and ensuring priority SDGs are sufficiently budgeted. She requested participants to think what can be done to reduce inequalities in Pakistan when discussing the way forward.

Ms. Aida Girma-Melaku, Country Representative – UNICEF, in her address emphasized on the responsibilities of provinces and provincial taskforces in deliverance of SDGs and the support National Taskforce could provide. The inaugural session concluded with a group photo of participants with the Chief Guest of the occasion Mr Asad Qaiser, Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan.

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UNIDO

PRESS RELEASE

Consultative session held on Energy Efficiency arranged by UNIDO jointly with Prime Minister's task force on energy reforms

Islamabad: A consultative session on Energy Efficiency arranged by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) jointly with Prime Minister's task force on energy reforms was held in Islamabad. Officer In-charge of UNIDO, Mr. Badar ul Islam welcomed all the distinguished guests from government, academia, industry, development sector and described that the main aim of this workshop is to come up with solutions and policy recommendations that could be incorporated in the National Integrated Energy Plan being developed by the PM Task Force on Energy to achieve a long-term energy security in the country which is of vital importance for sustainable economic growth.

The chief guest of the session was Federal Minister of Energy, Mr. Omar Ayub Khan. He applauded this effort of UNIDO and Prime Ministers task force on energy and reiterated the government of Pakistan's desire, dedication and commitment to solve the energy crisis and government is very keen to encourage and support Energy efficiency projects as it is the need of the hour. Chairman of Prime Minister's task force on Energy Reforms, Mr. Nadeem Babar highlighted the role of PM task force and also described the four basic principles of the PM Task force i.e. Sustainability, Affordability, Responsibility and Availability of energy. He also appreciated the role of UNIDO in launching and supporting renewable energy projects in the industrial sectors of Pakistan. UNIDO international consultant Mr. Frank gave international shared his international experience related to energy efficiency in multiple countries. National Project Manager of UNIDO, Mr. Masroor Ahmed Khan described the present and future activities of UNIDO with reference to energy efficiency, renewable energy and related facets.



The session was followed by a panel discussion where panellist from different fields related to energy efficiency like policy, grid issues, building codes, industry 4.0 and energy issues gave their expert opinion and made grounds for the participants to give more input in the form of group exercises revolving around the same themes. All the participant participated in group discussion and gave presentation on the basis of their SWOT analysis of the matters related to energy efficiency. All the suggestions and opinions of the participants were well noted and would become part of integrated plan on energy efficiency of the government of Pakistan.

UNODC

MEDIA ADVISORY

Public Private Partnership Conference on Trafficking in Persons

**At Crystal Ball Room, Marriott Hotel Islamabad, on 17th April 2019 at
09:45 hours**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is organizing a public-private partnership conference on trafficking in persons in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) of Pakistan, with the support of United States Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (US J/TIP).

UNODC has been assisting the Government of Pakistan for over 35 years with the objective to enable Pakistan to overcome common challenges when it comes to trafficking in persons and in addition, meet the international obligations. With this objective, this conference aims to extend collaboration among key government stakeholders and private sector that includes civil society, non-government organizations and private corporation.

Numerous senior government officials, law enforcement officers, members of civil society, private sector organization, non-government Organizations, media, and other UN agencies are invited to recognize and collaborate with the struggle to combat trafficking in persons.



Representatives from US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, along with representatives from US Embassy in Pakistan, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Vienna, international donors and partners and senior officials from Federal and Provincial government will attend the event.

We cordially invite you to attend the conference at Crystal Ballroom, Marriott Hotel Islamabad tomorrow on 17th April 2019 at 09:45 hrs.

For more information, please contact: Ms. Rizwana Asad, Communications Officer, Email: Rizwana.asad@un.org

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