

Media Update

11 September 2019

United Nations

SECRETARY- GENERAL'S MESSAGE

International Day for South-South Cooperation

12 September 2019

“Recent decades have demonstrated the power of South-South cooperation to advance sustainable development. Across the developing world, more children attend school, child and maternal mortality rates have been cut by nearly half, and extreme poverty has been sharply reduced. Indeed, driven by a spirit of solidarity, respect for national sovereignty and equal partnership, South-South cooperation has offered concrete solutions to shared challenges, with many countries becoming sources of support and inspiration for innovative development approaches.

However, large pockets of poverty remain in the Global South, even in fast-growing economies. Progress is not fast enough to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and prosperity needs to be more broadly shared. In addition, the climate emergency threatens decades of progress. Indeed, countries in the Global South are already being severely affected by the worsening impacts of the climate crisis.

South-South cooperation can never be a substitute for official development assistance or replace the responsibilities of the Global North set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement. But South-South cooperation continues to offer a promising pathway to accelerate progress that leaves no one behind. To leverage that potential, we must coordinate these efforts and establish sustainable strategies for scaling up impact. On this International Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to achieve the 2030 Agenda by drawing from the lessons of the South and sharing them widely through enhanced South-South and triangular cooperation.”



UN HABITAT

PRESS RELEASE

Urban Thinkers Campus at Comsats University Islamabad

Islamabad, 4-6 September 2019: A two day session of Urban Thinkers Campus was organized to deliberate on urban challenges, and opportunities as well as to review Master Plan of Islamabad and Way forward. The UN-Habitat co-hosted the event in collaboration with COMSIAN Consulting and Department of Architecture and Design, COMSATS University.

The World Urban Campaign launched Urban Thinkers Campus. The event was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Climate Change, Ms. Zartaj Gul. She noted that the problems of urbanization are augmented by encroachment and violations of City Master Plans which could only be resolved by better governance and planning. The Dean of Architecture and Design COMSATS, Prof. Dr. Samra Mohsin Khan remarked that urbanization challenge can also provide an opportunity to turn the cities into well planned cities and highlighted the need to revise the Master Plan of Islamabad according to the changing needs of the city. The Rector, COMSATS University Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar (T.I), said that Urban environment is deteriorating due to inefficient use of natural resources and highlighted the need to come up with solutions for raising awareness for efficient resource use. The President of the Institute of Architects Pakistan, Mr. Jahangir Sherpao, highlighted that new cities should be developed near each Special Economic Zones and along CPEC.

The UN-Habitat Program Manager Pakistan, Mr. Jawed Ali Khan said that UN Habitat aims to lay the foundation of Pakistan Urban Thinkers Campus to be used as platforms for action bringing together all partners for deliberating on sustainable urban development in the country.

The second day of the event commenced with three presentations made by:

- Ms. Sana Khan on “ Comparison of Master Plan of Pakistan with other World Master Plans”
- Ms. Anila Yasin presented on “Safe and Walkable Neighbourhood”
- Mr. Adnan Amin, made presentation on Green Roof Details”



The participants highlighted the importance of safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities. Problems of growing numbers of vehicles increasing in the cities due to lack of public transport system and need for safe and walkable neighbourhoods. The participants highlighted the importance of modern urban design and called for development of new cities. It also covered a number of issues pertaining to city planning and modern architecture. It was emphasized to focus on macro and micro urban planning issues.

At the end of the session following decisions were taken:

1. Establish Urban Thinkers Campus- Pakistan, jointly hosted by COMSATS and the UN-Habitat, Pakistan linking it to Ministry of Climate Change to convene periodic meetings and promote implementation of New Urban Agenda and SDG 11.
2. Master Plans of Cities should have strong legal cover so that no changes can be made by any authority.

Following short term three innovative projects were decided to be designed and launched.

1. Designing of Pedestrian friendly Central Business District of Peshawar
2. Designing of safe and walkable neighbourhood
3. Design and demonstrate Green Roof at the Ministry of Climate Change building
