



National Meet on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals “Reassessment of the SDGs Post COVID -19”

Serena Hotel, Islamabad, Pakistan
27th & 28th July, 2022

Partners



TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Arrival

Arrival of delegates

Day 1: 27th July 2022

10:00-11:00

Inaugural session

Welcome Remarks by **Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Convener National Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs**

Introductory remarks:

- H.E Dr Riina Kionka, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan
- Mr. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan (TBC)

Key Note: - Mr. Ahsan Iqbal (TBC)

Group photo

11:00-11:15

Setting the scene: SDG implementation in Pakistan

With only 8 years left in the Decade of Action, this presentation will provide an overview of progress with the implementation of the SDG agenda in the Pakistan, highlighting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and emerging challenges in the social, economic and environmental spheres.

11:15-11:30

Tea Break

11:30-13:00

PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Session I: Envisioning inclusive development: Socio-economic challenges in Pakistan

This session will discuss how COVID-19 recovery can enhance economic resilience, adopt an inclusive approach, and ensure resources are not diverted from sustainable development.

Presentation by Punjab

Session II: Ending hunger and malnutrition

The aim of the debate on this topic is to discuss ways to successfully address population needs (Specifically targetting vulnerable groups) through the promotion of adequate policies and laws across sectors, including health, agriculture, education and gender equality, and to implement the SDGs by maximizing the available resources for nutrition. Food insecurity, malnutrition and obesity, independently, represent three of the most complex conditions threatening the livelihoods of populations/vulnerable groups in nearly every country, making them leading causes of poor health in Pakistan.

Presentation by Balochistan

Session III: Sustainable and Eco-Tourism

Sustainable Tourism focuses on the re-focusing of principles of the environmental, economic, socio-cultural aspects of tourism development. Sustainable tourism development requires the informed participation of all relevant stakeholders, as well as strong political leadership to ensure wide participation and consensus building. Achieving sustainable tourism is a continuous process and it requires constant monitoring of impacts, introducing the necessary preventive and/or corrective measures whenever necessary. Sustainable tourism and ecotourism efforts contribute greatly to the Sustainable Development Goal of improving life on land. These efforts directly affect the preservation of national heritage, wilderness areas, culture as well as the employment of locals and directing of profits into the local communities.

Presentation by AJK & GB

13:00-14:00

Lunch and prayer break

14:00-15:30

PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

Session I: Re-Defining Corporate Social Responsibility for the achievement of SDGs

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are well-known concepts in the business world. Effective implementation of CSR can bring a wealth of benefits to an organisation in regards to reputation and employee satisfaction, while contributing to the SDGs. Corporate Social Responsibility relates to the social and environmental initiatives that an organisation incorporates into its 'business operations and interactions with its stakeholders' to build a sustainable future.

It's a business management concept where organisations pay substantial consideration to their business morals and ethics, and examine how they can contribute value to the local community and environment through their business practices while achieving sustainable growth. Many businesses action CSR on a basic level by donating money to charities or by choosing a 'charity of the year' to support. While this has short-term benefits, we must acknowledge the distinction between charitable giving and strategic CSR, which has a long-term impact on social and environmental prosperity.

Session II: Ensuring equitable access to health

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on health systems and national budgets, with countries facing challenges in ensuring equitable health outcomes and sustaining efforts towards universal health coverage. Inequitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations between and within countries and vaccine hesitancy are further limiting countries' ability to contain the virus and focus on making progress towards health targets.

With only 8 years left to achieve SDGs targets, Parliaments should now take steps to improve access to health for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Presentation by KPK

Session III: National dialogue on climate change and the impact of heatwave

Pakistan has endured heightened heatwaves since 2015 and is in the grip of a blistering heatwave currently, with parts of the nation already scorched by temperatures of nearly 50C as officials warn of acute water shortages and a threat to health. Swathes of Pakistan have been smothered by high temperatures since late April. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has warned Pakistan regarding the intensity, duration and the frequency of these heatwaves which are only increasing. Pakistan's key waterway – had shrunk by 65 percent “due to a lack of rains and snow” this year. There is a real danger of a shortfall in food and crop supply this year as well. Quickly melting glaciers swell lakes which then burst their banks and unleash torrents of ice, rock and water in events known as glacial lake outburst floods. All these factors contribute to the severity of climate change impact in Pakistan, therefore a timely and efficient strategy is required to mitigate the rising risks to sustainable and ecological development.

Presentation by Sindh

Key note: Ms. Sherry Rehman Minister of Climate Change (TBC)

Day 2: 28th July, 2022

09:30 - 11:00 AM

SESSION: Integrating the SDGs into national policy

Parliaments have a key role to play in ensuring that funding and resources are invested effectively to support sustainable development and make sure that national budgets address the needs of all, especially the most vulnerable. The session will cover how Parliaments can advocate for a coherent integration of the SDGs into budgets and how to ensure that governments are held accountable from an SDG perspective for how resources are spent. This session will focus on domestication of the recommendations made after the parallel breakout sessions. It will cover the integration of the SDGs into national policies and how legislation can support the implementation of these policies.

It will also highlight the importance of reviewing legislation proposed by governments in order to ensure that it contributes to the achievement of both the national development action plan and the wider 2030 Agenda, as well as guaranteeing that the needs of marginalized and vulnerable populations are taken into consideration.

Recap of previous sessions

11:00- 11:15 AM

Tea Break

11:15-12:45 PM

Closing plenary: The way forward – Conclusions of the parallel breakout sessions

Closing remarks by Chief Guest (TBC)

Outcome document: Presented by Hon. Convener Romina Khurshid Alam

Group Photo

01:00

Networking Lunch hosted by Hon. Convener Romina Khurshid Alam

Departure of Guests