

## March 2017

*NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MARCH 27TH TO APRIL 2 ND 2017*

### **LAWMAKERS FOR IMPLEMENTING SDG-2**

Business Recorder, 1 April 2017

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentarians from different political parties made commitments on Friday to end hunger and malnutrition from the country by ensuring implementation of Sustainable Development Goal-2 during a national dialogue organised here by Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance Pakistan (SUN-CSA, Pak) and Micronutrient Initiative.

Opening the discussion, Dr Tanveer Ahmed, chairman of SUN-CSA Pak, said that this dialogue will provide an opportunity to parliamentarians and policymakers to discuss the role of different stakeholders, challenges, opportunities and way forward to address the issue of malnutrition and food insecurity.

Sharing the role of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, Chief Nutrition Planning Commission/SUN Focal Person Aslam Shaheen said Pakistan signed the global SUN (Scaling up Nutrition) movement in 2013. Scaling up Nutrition is a unique movement founded on the principle that all people have a right to food and good nutrition. It unites people from governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses and researchers in a collective effort to improve nutrition. He said, "Unfortunately we missed many MDGs and could not achieve nutrition and health related goals. However, the Sustainable Development Goals provide another opportunity to improve our development indicators."

Secretary SUN-CSA Pak, Dr Naseer Muhammad Nizamani said Pakistan is facing a malnutrition crisis that is amongst the worst in the world and has not improved for decades. This needs to be urgently addressed in order to safeguard the country's future development and prosperity. It's a simple fact that nearly half of all children in Pakistan are malnourished, and this undermines their mental and physical growth as well as the country's prospects.

Discussing the role of parliamentarians in implementation of SDG-2, Head of Nutrition at the World Food Programme (WFP) Pakistan, Cecilia Garzon stated that malnutrition is one of the major issues in the country. "About 67% of the households cannot afford a minimum nutritious diet," she said.

Explaining the human impact of malnutrition, she stated, "By year 2030, out of 34 million children under five years of age, approximately 15 million children will be stunted, 5 million will be wasted and 21 million will be anemic."

She further said that role of parliamentarians is of crucial value in addressing the menace of malnutrition through policy and decision-making. Nutrition should be the top priority and actions should be taken and policy implemented which is required in the short, medium and long term.

"We should work together to address issue of malnutrition keeping away political differences," said MNA Dr Ramesh Kumar.

Saira Iftikhar, Member Provincial Assembly Punjab, said that she is working with different MPAs to form a parliamentarians group that will specifically work on issue of malnutrition. She said the

government of Punjab has adopted a multi-sectoral nutrition strategy and now developing a stunting reduction programme for 11 affected districts of Punjab.

Dr Meher Taj Roghani, Deputy Speaker of Provincial Assembly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said that SDG-2 aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. It also commits to universal access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food at all time of the year. “This will require sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices, equal access to land, technology and markets and International cooperation on investment in infrastructure and technology to boost agricultural productivity,” she said.

Dr Abdul Baseer Achakzai, Director Nutrition at Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, said the economic consequences emerging from current prevalence, as documented in NNS (2011) and PDHS (2013) are \$7.6 billion annually which is nearly 3% of the GDP.

“We have to invest in nutrition if we want to avoid demographic nightmare,” he said, adding that Pakistan’s leaders must urgently recognise and respond to this challenge of malnutrition and hidden hunger, and must prioritise the evidence based policies and programmes which can address these crisis.

<http://epaper.brecorder.com/2017/04/01/3-page/862767-news.html>

### ***NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MARCH 20TH TO MARCH 26TH 2017***

#### ***WILL SDGS FAIL, AS DID MDGS?***

The Express Tribune, March 24th, 2017.

Dr Pervez Tahir

Pakistan’s high growth and poor social performance till the 1980s was described as a puzzle. The fear that such growth could not be sustained over the long run has come true. The first serious effort to address this imbalance was made in 1992-95. Called Social Action Programme (SAP), it was a modest initiative covering primary education, basic health, population welfare and rural water supply and sanitation.

A dedicated team of professionals in the Planning Commission, led by the professionally oriented secretary, Dr Akhtar Hasan Khan, prepared the programme. It aimed at increased spending, but not without improving the effectiveness of service delivery. There was an intense involvement of line ministries and provinces to overcome the obstacles presented by cross-subsectoral and cross-regional nature of the programme. As the programme was part of the normal development budget conceived without the advice and money of the donors, its ownership was never an issue.

Neil Buhne, the current resident coordinator of the UN, would remember those days. He was then a youthful presence at the UNDP in Islamabad. Even his boss, the aggressive Hons von Sponeck, had a hard time getting past the front office. Of course external input was sought once the team felt sure in its footing. Professor Graham Pyatt is a worthy name to remember.

As the first such indigenous effort, the programme was reasonably successful. Its continuation in the learning-by-doing mode would by now have brought a perceptible improvement in our social

indicators. Alas, this was not to be. Donors came in droves to fund and drive its successor, SAPP II. The programme was abandoned midstream amidst charges of corruption, ineptitude and institutional failure.

Around the turn of the century, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) presented another opportunity. Again, in the absence of reliable data in many critical areas, an unaided coordination committee in the Planning Commission worked hard in 2002-03 to fix achievable targets for the seven MDGs. Unlike the Social Action Programme, the MDGs could not be mainstreamed into the planning process.

Poverty reduction, with strategy papers written by consultants sitting in donor-funded units, offered cut-throat competition to the MDG school. These units provided opportunities to government functionaries to either outsource their normal functions or jump the bandwagon themselves to keep doing what they were doing, but at a premium. The finance ministry, interested mainly in funding, took over the PRSP process.

For its suddenness, what should have been a boon became a bane: the devolution of the social sector under the 18th Amendment in 2010 derailed the MDG process even further. No eyebrows were raised when the results were announced in 2015. Most targets were missed by wide margins. Based on suspect data, the target related to poverty reduction, was declared overachieved!

Now Pakistan, together with the other participants at the Sustainable Development Summit, has now adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as its national development goals. With 17 goals and 169 targets, this is a much wider agenda than the MDGs.

Most of the action lies in the provinces. So far the SDG process has been federally focused, with donors vying to set up units in the provinces. Punjab, the most advanced province, has included SDGs in the guidelines for preparing the development programme, but not on the recurrent side.

In actual plan formulation, however, one does not see a coherent set of targets, allocations, policies and programmes. The citizens budget just mentions the SDGs as an add-on to a defunct growth strategy. What the other provinces are doing is anybody's guess. Mainstreaming, acceleration, reporting and policy support cannot be achieved by "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Albert Einstein called it "insanity". And so it is.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1364128/will-sdgs-fail-mdgs/>

### ***NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MARCH 13TH TO MARCH 19TH 2017*** ***SINDH WILL ACHIEVE SDGS, SAYS MINISTER***

The Express Tribune, March 17th, 2017.

Karachi: Minister Planning and Development Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani said that Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2000-2015 are still pending due to inconsistent policies and weak institutional structure.

However, he said the present Sindh government is fully committed to achieving the targets set in sustainable development goals (SDGs) 2030. Therefore, a support unit is being created in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to obtain said targets.

He said this while speaking at a seminar identifying priorities for Sustainable Development Goals 2030 frame work for Sindh jointly held by UNDP and Planning and Development Sindh.

According to Bijarani, eradication of poverty and hunger, provision of basic health facilities, standard education, clean drinking water, energy and environment are the top priorities of the Sindh government included in SDGs 2030.

Bijarani informed that from procedural planning to resource management, all necessary preparations to achieve the SDGs have already been finalised by the Planning and Development Department Sindh.

He lauded the role of UNDP for their genuine cooperation and support in various projects. UN resident coordinator Paul Martin, renowned economist Kaiser Bengali, Secretary Planning and Development Rehana Memon and many others participated in the seminar.

[tps://tribune.com.pk/story/1357415/sindh-will-achieve-sdgs-says-minister/](https://tribune.com.pk/story/1357415/sindh-will-achieve-sdgs-says-minister/)

## April 2017

**NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM APRIL 24TH TO APRIL 30TH 2017**

### **PAKISTAN WAY OFF TRACK ON MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

The Express Tribune, April 24th, 2017.

Riazul Haq

ISLAMABAD: Despite spending Rs4.06 trillion since 2012-13, Pakistan has failed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in health, education, social welfare and other areas, as progress on 24 indicators was way off track with only four appearing achievable.

Documents and statistics of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms and the Ministry of Finance portray a depressed picture of the country, as it failed to achieve most of the goals despite spending trillions of rupees by the incumbent government and its predecessor.

The MDG targets come from the Millennium Declaration signed by 189 countries, including 147 heads of state and government in September 2000. The MDGs have officially ended in 2015, but MDGs acceleration framework will continue till 2018.

“Pakistan adopted 16 targets and 41 indicators against which progress towards achieving eight goals of MDGs is measured,” the planning ministry documents suggest.

It adds Pakistan’s progress in 24 indicators was way off track and it had only achieved four targets. “Seen in the regional context, Pakistan’s performance on MDGs remained less satisfactory as compared to other countries,” it states.

According to the Ministry of Finance, since FY2012-13, a total of Rs4.06 trillion have been spent in five major sectors at the federal and provincial levels till the ongoing fiscal year.

The governments have spent Rs206.7 billion for water supply and sanitation; Rs2.58 trillion – the highest amongst all sectors – for education. About Rs974.3 billion has been spent on health; Rs47.5 billion for population and planning – the lowest – and Rs244.9 million for social security and welfare.

Despite the failures, as per the figures, the governments have been increasing the budget to achieve the goals as the expenditure was Rs707 billion for the said areas in FY2012-13 that had surged to Rs1,144.2 billion in FY2015-16 while the current government has spent Rs473 billion till December 2016.

Provincially, Punjab had the highest number of expenditure in the said period at Rs1,592 billion followed by other provinces with total expenditure of Rs663.6 billion.

Of the seven goals the government had set nationally, it was on track for only four targets. Provincial-wise, Punjab has achieved one-third of the universal primary education goal and one-fifth on reduction of child mortality while it missed the rest of the goals.

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh have also achieved marginal achievement in those goals. Sindh was one-fifth successful in achieving the goal of reducing the child mortality rate while it was off track in the rest of the goals.

Interestingly, the data of two important goals — combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases and ensuring environment sustainability — was not provided by all the four provinces, as per the document.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1391752/depressed-data-pakistan-way-off-track-mdgs/>

## May 2017

**NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MAY 29TH TO JUNE 4TH 2017**

**PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS KEY TO ACHIEVING SDGS**

The Express Tribune, May 29th, 2017.

Junaid Zahid

Seventeen goals. One hundred and sixty-nine indicators. A population of over seven billion people. One deadline.

That's what Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are. Implementing the UN's 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, if realised as an integrated policy package, will also lead to long-term economic prosperity, human and environmental development.

The SDGs cut across all areas of government – from health and education to ending poverty and achieving gender equality, through to tackling climate change and utilising natural resources sustainably.

The objectives underpin good governance and integrate three dimensions of sustainable development – economic development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

These are ambitious and complex goals requiring clearly mandated institutions and unflinching commitment to provide resources from the national exchequer for a decade and half. And this implies commitment that is as strong as that for acquiring nuclear technology.

Pakistan is a long way from realising the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to which it became a signatory to in September 2015. How serious is this claim can be easily verified from a few aligned sectors of SDGs in the budget documents. If trend of sectors like climate, education, health, social protection and energy of the past few years are compared, the trend shows no certain change in budget allocation.

In the Federal Budget 2017-18, the government announced Rs30 billion for Prime Minister's Global SDGs Achievement Programme. But is this amount enough to make an impact towards achieving SDGs? The answer is no.

The SDGs goals are all issues that demand greater attention from the government than they are presently being accorded. Now with this situation it is very hard to assume that Pakistan is serious to achieve these.

Pakistan has already miserably failed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. However, if the government is failing to provide sufficient funds for the SDGs, it must not hesitate to join hands with the private sector, especially in areas where the private sector is well placed to come up with a meaningful contribution.

In order to realise the SDGs effectively, well defined coordination mechanisms among the four provinces are needed. The federation will be strengthened by promoting inter-provincial and federal-provincial communication and co-ordination so that national and provincial priorities are aligned, and the federal and provincial governments work together to advance the sustainable development agenda.

In short, everyone needs to be on board. The vision of achieving these goals needs to be shared collectively. This will enable the process to move forward quickly towards achieving sustainable development and hence a brighter future for all of Pakistan.

But the budget to coordinate with provincial plans is still missing. Scholars and academics need to be brought to the table. The government, civil society, think tanks and development partners in Pakistan must join hands to strengthen the parliamentarians to understand the SDGs./

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1421669/public-private-partnerships-key-achieving-sdgs/>

### ***NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM MAY 22ND TO MAY 28TH 2017***

#### ***PUNJAB FALLS SHORT ON MDGS TARGETS***

The Express Tribune, May 22, 2017

Ammar Sheikh

LAHORE: Despite being the most populous and developed part of the country, Punjab is failing to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), according to the documents of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform and the Ministry of Finance.

The MDGs are internationally recognised goals adopted by the countries and are aimed at addressing extreme poverty rates and hunger, ensuring universal primary education, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing global partnership for development.

The MDG targets were adopted from the Millennium Declaration signed by 189 countries, including 147 heads of state and governments in September 2000. The MDGs have officially ended in 2015 and work on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been started internationally, but MDGs acceleration framework will continue until 2018.

According to the documents and statistics of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform and the Ministry of Finance, Pakistan had adopted 16 targets and 41 indicators which would gauge progress for achieving the eight goals of the MDGs. According to the documents, Pakistan's progress in the overall 24 indicators was way off track and it was only able to achieve four targets. According to the documents, Pakistan's performance on MDGs seen in the regional context, remained less satisfactory as compared to other countries.

According to the documents, Punjab was off track in 2 out of the 3 indicators to end poverty and hunger and there was no data available for the third. On achieving universal primary education, Punjab was off track in 2 of the 3 indicators and on track on just 1.

Punjab was able to perform well on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and all 4 indicators were on track, better than other provinces. In the goal to reduce child mortality, Punjab was off track on 3 indicators, on track on 1 and had achieved 1 of the indicators. On improving maternal health, Punjab was found to be off track in all 5 of the indicators.

On goals combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases there was no data available for Punjab, however, according to the statistics, Pakistan was off track in 2 out of 5, on track on 1 and achieved 1. Similarly, on ensuring environmental sustainability, there was also no data available for provinces, but nationally, Pakistan was off track on 2 and on track on 4 of the 6 total indicators.

According to the documents, Punjab spent Rs288.8 billion in 2012-13, Rs321.2 billion in 2013-14, Rs357.2 billion in 2014-15, Rs417.8 billion in 2015-16 and Rs207.9 billion for until December 2016. Punjab had spent a total of around Rs1.59 trillion to achieving the MGDs up till December 2016.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1415715/punjab-falls-short-mdgs-targets/>

## **June 2017**

***NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JUNE 12TH TO JUNE 18TH 2017***

***MAKING PAKISTAN'S CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION SUSTAINABLE***

The Express Tribune, June 12th, 2017.

Dr M Amanullah / Myra Mufti

LAHORE: Stress on resource consumption has tremendously increased across the world in recent decades. A similar trend is also reflected in Pakistan with increased demand for energy, food, water and other resources, resulting in resource depletion, pollution, and climate change.

The current patterns of development across the country are not sustainable. A key element for achieving sustainable development is transition towards adopting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) with increased resource use efficiency in the value chain, producing less waste and pollution to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

A paradigm shift is required to mainstream SCP in crosscutting elements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) goals. It requires a policy framework and the engagement of stakeholders.

Pakistan is currently the sixth populous country in the world with approximately 200 million of which Punjab has a share of 101.4 million. According to the United Nations 2015 World Population Prospects Report, Pakistan's population is expected to reach 300 million by 2050. Parallel to a swelling population, Pakistan's GDP growth was reportedly the lowest among the developing Asian countries between 1970 and 2015.

This unprecedented and uncontrolled trend would come at the cost of a plethora of negative implications for the socio-economic development at large, hence also pushing the demand of the populace for energy, food, water and other resources to increase.

In the recent SDG Index and Dashboard Report, Pakistan ranked 115th in performance towards the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets across areas including health, economic growth and climate action.

The best performing countries on the index include Sweden (1st), Denmark (2nd) and Norway (3rd), and the lowest ranking countries are the sub-Saharan African countries of Democratic Republic of Congo (147th), Liberia (148th) and the Central African Republic (149th). India sits at 110th, Myanmar (117th), Bangladesh (118th), Sri Lanka (97th) and Nepal (103rd).

With the given scarcity of resources, the capacity of meeting public demand and expectations for a sustainable and healthy lifestyle seems to be compromised. The current level of Pakistan's material footprint per capita approximates 2.8 tons which is only one fifth of the level required to elevate Human Development. This goes to suggest that Pakistan is consuming much less at this point in time than it will ultimately have to, in order to lessen the inequality gap.

However, it is pertinent to note that an increased usage of resources is not recommended unless efforts are made to ensure an efficient use of existing resources.

The global resource use stands at 81,000 million tons, of which 814 million tons is used by Pakistan. The country extracts roughly 784 million tons from the environment and imports 62 million while 33 tons of material is exported, amounting to a material footprint of approximately 3.1 tons per capita per year.

Industrialisation is taking over Pakistan rampantly, especially with a renewed focus on Industrial relocation and establishment of Industrial zones across the country via the CPEC initiative. The



swiftly changing landscape of production to reach economies of scale is admirable, but this comes with a parallel trajectory of increasing energy and mineral use.

Statistics of the UN Environmental Program reveal that Pakistan used 4,353 Petajoules of energy in 2015 of which 37% came from renewable sources. The renewable energy has been trending upwards over the years, which is a positive step, but this increase is overshadowed by a comparatively even higher growth in the non-renewable energy, therefore declining the overall share of the renewable energy.

In terms of resource use efficiency of energy, Pakistan uses 25 MJ per dollar compared to the average of 16 MJ per dollar in the Asia Pacific. This raises several questions regarding the practices of our industries and hence leaves plenty of room to improve the efficiency in terms of energy use within the industrial sector. If we observe Pakistan's Greenhouse Gas emission profile, energy and agriculture sectors combined emit about 87% of the total National GHG emission.

Energy contributes to 46% of the total greenhouse gas emission, of which 26% comes from electricity consumption, 25% from manufacturing, 23% from transportation and the remaining 25% from other energy subsectors.

Water use efficiency in Pakistan remains quite low as well. Pakistan consumes 1,070 liters per dollar which is four times the use of 128 liters per dollar in the Asia Pacific. The Water footprint of Pakistan declined more rapidly than water withdrawal (2.6% compared to 1.4%), indicating that although Pakistan's consumption for water has declined, extraction is still in place for export purposes or that a major misallocation exists.

Since Pakistan is already facing a major water-constraint, assessing water use efficiency in relation to allocations within various economic sectors is an important facet to look at for the policy makers.

The negative impacts and adversities of our unsustainable consumption and production patterns have left little hope for a sustained and safe environment for our future generations.

In order to achieve sustainable development and ensure long term viability of resources, it is imperative for the society to transition towards sustainable production and consumption as a whole as well as account for viable activities at an individual level.

There is a dire need to devise innovative policies and specific activities to enhance resource efficiency in the value chain sectors such as energy. It is the need of the time that all efforts be directed towards ensuring efficient use of the resources in order to transition towards a more equitable society and minimize the regional disparities across the country. The Sustainable Development Goals, devised by the UN, are an exemplary guide which could pave way towards a more socio-economically viable state if accomplished.

Dr M Amanullah is chief economist and Myra Mufti is a research associate at the Planning and Development Department, Government of Punjab

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1433020/making-pakistans-consumption-production-sustainable/>

## July 2017

*NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM JULY 17TH TO JULY 23RD 2017*

### *FINANCING SDGS*

Ignacio Artaza

Dawn, July 20th, 2017

THE international community adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 as a new global development agenda, encompassing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development for all. Meeting the goals requires international, national and local commitments, partnerships and innovative thinking. But it also requires money.

To achieve the ambitious targets, estimates suggest that \$5 to 7 trillion per year will be needed globally. Pakistan also requires phenomenal resources given its population and development status, and funds are needed from multiple sources; government, private sector, international development partners and local philanthropy must combine and coordinate to find the funds.

Pakistan has already shown strong commitment to the SDGs, adopting them as Pakistan's National Development Goals. National and sub-national planning and financing frameworks are being aligned to the SDG agenda. New frameworks are being established to track related expenditures, while district-level frameworks are being piloted to highlight priorities, especially those related to health and education.

Official Development Assistance was the cornerstone of earlier development agendas. Yet, while developed countries agreed to allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national incomes to developing countries, in reality their contributions reached merely 0.32pc in 2016. Pakistan is amongst the top 10 ODA recipients globally, but ODA only accounts for 1.3pc of its GNI. While ODA will remain critical to achieving the SDGs, relying on international aid will not help Pakistan achieve its ambitious objectives. Domestic resources need to be mobilised more to finance development.

This poses a major challenge. Despite recent improvements, Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio is only 12.6pc, amongst the lowest in South Asia. This narrow tax base, a large untaxed informal sector, a partially taxed agriculture sector, and preferential treatment continue to hamper revenue mobilisation. By addressing these, Pakistan can take the lead in financing its own development.

Pakistan has historically maintained high fiscal deficits. Public debt servicing stands at 40.4pc of revenue, constraining its capacity to finance SDG achievement. Thus, the private sector must step up to meet this national challenge. Through public-private partnerships, the private sector can become a true partner, complementing government efforts to provide essential infrastructure and public services, without increasing the government's fiscal burden. With responsible and sustainable business practices, the private sector can contribute to inclusive growth.

Cooperation among countries of the global south can help finance development by exchanging low-cost solutions, with mutual benefits for both lender and recipient. Through CPEC, for example, China

is investing billions of dollars to address Pakistan's infrastructural bottlenecks whilst promoting its own strategic and economic interests.

Innovative development financing can help achieve sustainable development. In Bangladesh, microcredit has accounted for a 10pc (2.5 million people) reduction in rural poverty over the past two decades. Microfinance there covers 32m recipients, extending \$ 7.2 billion annually. In contrast, Pakistan has only 3.6m microfinance borrowers. With a supportive policy environment and strong regulation, microfinance can be expanded to accelerate Pakistan's progress towards achieving many SDGs.

While additional resources are required, there is also a need to improve planning, budgeting and resource allocation, to target long-ignored social sectors such as education and health, geographical areas, and disadvantaged groups. Historically, Pakistan has allocated limited resources towards social sector development expenditures. Preliminary estimates from the federal and provincial budgets 2016-17 reflect improved allocations.

The Planning Commission's Multidimensional Poverty Index reveals that whilst poverty has declined overall, there are wide disparities between districts. District-level analysis through the MPI provides a tool to influence national and provincial finance commissions to increase allocations to lagging districts. In the past 20 years, outcome-based and participatory budgeting has been used globally to ensure that budgeted funds achieve their intended results. Such instruments can achieve the transformation in governance that is necessary to achieve the SDGs.

The world community has realised the need for holistic efforts to finance and adopt the SDG agenda. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) provides a foundation for implementing this road map, collecting more than 100 concrete measures to support financing for development, including domestic resource mobilisation, private investment and improved policy and regulatory frameworks for effective resource utilisation. Now is a good time for Pakistan to develop a multipronged financing approach, harnessing the potential that exists in both public and non-public sectors.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1346392>

## **November 2017**

### ***NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 20th TO NOVEMBER 26 Th 2017***

#### ***ART COMPETITION LAUNCHED TO PROMOTE UN'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS***

The Express Tribune, November 20, 2017

'We the People, We the Arts' is an initiative to inspire emerging artists to use art as an instrument to present unique perspectives and solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This was said by curator at Art Basel, Hong Kong and Artspace Sydney Executive Director Alexie Glass-Kantor at the inaugural ceremony of 'We the People, We the Arts', a nationwide competition for fine art students aimed at promoting the SDGs set by the United Nations UN) at VM Art Gallery in Karachi on Thursday.

The competition was previously held in 2016 by the Swiss Embassy and UN Information Centre. However, at the time the competition only focused on one of the SDGs – Zero Hunger. Students of

five leading art schools in Pakistan had participated in the event and produced paintings, miniatures and sculptures on the theme of hunger and how it could be eradicated. This year, the theme of the competition has been extended to all the SDGs, including No Poverty, Climate Action, Gender Equality, Affordable and Clean Energy, Quality Education among others and also invites all arts students aged 18 and above enrolled in accredited Pakistani colleges and universities to participate.

In the previous competition, three categories of art – sculpture, painting and miniature painting – were included. This year, however, another category – print making – has been added in the competition.

Art submissions by participating students will be judged by an international jury in two phases. In the first phase, 24 finalists, six from each art category, will be selected who will be awarded \$200. In the second phase, the winner from each category will be announced at a ceremony in Islamabad. Each of the four winners will be awarded \$500.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, VM Art Gallery Art Director Riffat Alvi said the competition was a commendable initiative to channel the talents of young artists for the betterment of the planet.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of art students. Swiss Embassy Deputy Head of Mission Bernhard Furger, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Head Stefanie Burri and Artspace Sydney Deputy Director Michelle Newton were also present on the occasion.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1562973/1-art-competition-launched-promote-uns-sustainable-development-goals/>

### ***IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS URGED***

Dawn, November 24th, 2017

**HYDERABAD:** Speakers at a moot on Thursday called for avoiding further destruction of mother nature through implementation of sustainable development goals.

They were addressing the inauguration ceremony of a three-day ‘International Conference on Sustainable Development in Civil Engineering’ held at the main auditorium of Mehran University of Engineering Technology (MUET) Jamshoro, organised by the department of civil engineering.

Speaking as chief guest, Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) chairman Jawed Salim Qureshi said engineers, especially belonging to civil trade, played an important role in the development of countries like Japan and Singapore.

He regretted that engineers of Pakistan could not be given the required position and status thus far.

“War could be waged on water tomorrow and we as experts need to conduct research on efficient use of water and find solution to this impending matter,” he said.

He said the PEC would get “the engineering services cadre 2017” approved by the federal government and give position to engineers as per demand. He said the US was working on Washington Accord where there were hundreds of thousands of jobs created. He stressed that local engineers must meet that main criterion.

“The term ‘sustainable development’ reminds us that so far we have destroyed our planet in the name of development. To avoid further destruction, we need practices in such a way that civil engineering development continues without further destroying the environment,” MUET civil engineering department chairman and conference host Prof Dr Aneel Kumar said.

He said there were over 500 registered participants and speakers from Japan, UK, Malaysia, Egypt, Turkey, Thailand and other states at the moot.

MUET Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Aslam Uqaili said that after every two years, a conference on this topic would be organised. Engineers from all over the world would discuss modern techniques and changes in civil engineering with their local counterparts, he said.

He said an engineering club would be established at MUET where eminent engineers could meet each other and exchange views as usual. He said the varsity allocated some acres of land for this purpose while the PEC would provide funds in this respect.

“We need those engineers who can help generate job opportunities. We should take up responsibility on our shoulders instead of putting burden over others,” he said.

Explaining objectives of the moot, MUET Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Tauha Hussain Ali said international and national experts would present their research papers on various topics, including efficient use of water, environment-friendly buildings, drainage, urban planning, structural and environmental engineering, construction of tall buildings and others.

Dean faculty of architecture and civil engineering Prof Dr Khan M. Brohi thanked all participants of the moot.

VCs of NED University Dr Sarosh Hashmat Lodi and Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam Dr Mujeebuddin Sahrai also attended the moot.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1372483>

## **December 2017**

### ***NEWS COVERAGE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 11th TO DECEMBER 17th 2017***

#### ***POLITICAL WILL TERMED KEY TO MEETING SDGS***

The Express Tribune, December 13, 2017

PESHAWAR: Political will is required for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as major focus of development is on infrastructure whereas the livelihood aspect still needs attention, an official of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) has said.

Speaking during a workshop, Fata Additional Secretary for Planning and Development Muhammad Zubair said the situation in tribal areas was different from other parts of the country. The major sources of livelihood of Fata residents were agriculture, livestock and non-timber forest products, he said.

The two-day workshop on integration of SDGs into agriculture and natural resources management for Fata is being held to identify gaps and help plan achievement of the targets. It is part of the United

Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) assistance to Fata officials for developing a roadmap for the integration of agriculture and natural resource SDGs into government planning. "There is also lack of capacity on the part of line departments in Fata," a statement issued by FAO quoted Zubair as saying. He also pointed out lack of baseline data related to the green sector in the region and said it was needed for effective investment.

"The SDGs need to be institutionalised and integrated into the overall development planning and their implementation needs a coherent, inclusive and integrated approach."

He also proposed that agriculture university students should play an active role in research and collection of data.

FAO Programme Coordinator for Fata Sanauallah Khan said the government adopted 17 goals last year, of which seven were related to the green sector. He said all officials concerned were invited to discuss how to identify and prioritise the SDGs and fill the gaps. "An integrated focus on the goals is a powerful tool to end poverty and hunger," he said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1582543/1-political-will-termed-key-meeting-sdgs/>