

Report
National Policy to Action Forum
for the
Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals
(SDGs)

March 30, 2018

At Marriott, Islamabad

Organized by



Supported by



Background:

The Pakistan Development Alliance (PDA) led by AwazCDS-Pakistan, is an alliance of 83 national level NGOs/Networks working together on developmental and rights based approaches to address issues in governance and accountability across the country. After the completion of more than two years since the announcement and adoption of agenda 2030 for transformation and sustainable development by 193 countries under the aegis of United Nation's General Assembly on September 25, 2015. PDA was teamed up in January 2018 to assess the accomplishments, opportunities, gaps and challenges in implementation of SDGs across Pakistan with the support of VSO and UK Aid. A comprehensive questionnaire was developed to get first hand information from elected representatives, members of Parliamentary Task Forces on SDGs at provincial and national level, SDG Units at Planning Commission at national level and Planning & Development Departments at all the four provinces. The questionnaire was also filled by representatives from media, academics, private sector organizations, local governments, chamber of commerce and industries, legal fraternity and civil society organizations. Based upon the information received through questionnaire analysis was done and then various in depth interviews were also conducted to validate the information and analysis. Later on, policy to action forums were conducted to highlight the accomplishments, opportunities, gaps and challenges at all the four provincial headquarters during the first three weeks of March 2018. Finally, a national level policy to action forum was organized at Islamabad by inviting representatives of Parliamentarians, government departments, academics, media, private sector, INGOs and CSOs.

Activity	National Forum
Date /Time and Venue	March 30, 2018 at Marriott Islamabad, between 2 pm to 6 pm
Key Speakers / Chief Guest	Justice (Rtd) Ali Nawaz Chowhan, Chairman National Commission for the Human Rights, Chief of Poverty Section/ Head of SDG Unit Planning Commission of Pakistan Director General – SDG Unit, Planning & Development Department Government of Pakhtunkhwa Advisor, Higher Education Commission Islamabad Policy Advisor – SDG Unit Islamabad Lead – Pakistan Humanitarian Forum-PHF's Working Group
# of Participants	34 representatives and key decision makers and leaders from government, Planning Commission, SDG Units Islamabad and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, heads of INGOs, UN agencies, Commissions, academics, media, private sector, provincial chapter coordinators of PDA from all the four provinces and CSOs.

Ms. Maryam Amjad, Focal Point Pakistan Development Alliance, welcomed the participants on behalf of AwazCDS-Pakistan, PDA, NCHR and VSO. She shared the following objectives of the forum with the participants

- Sharing the mapping of existing efforts of national/ provincial governments and other related stakeholders for the gap analysis in implementation of SDGs
- Enhance understanding of related stakeholders about SDGs and on how SDGs are important for the lives of marginalized/ socially excluded groups



- Increase participation of common citizens, marginalized groups, political & legal fraternity and private sector in the implementation and accountability processes of SDGs through their respective local and provincial, national governance systems
- Mobilize local / provincial and national governance structures to invest in the implementation of SDGs particularly related to social services like education, health, water and sanitation etc.

Proceedings of the Forum:

Welcome Address by Chaudhry Muhammad Shafique, Commissioner, National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR):

He welcomed all the guests of honor and participants. He also termed the forum as timely activity and need of the hour. He said that SDGs were adopted in the continuation of MDGs. Though commitments under MDGs were mostly related to services yet the right's perspective was missing. Now SDGs are mainly based on rights and also focus on leaving no one behind. NCHR's mandate falls under the ambit of Goal 16 and we have been taking special measures to do the the follow up of ur government's commitments under UPR and SDGs. Gap analysis carried out by AwazCDS/PDA is very important to keep all of us alert on our commitments and roles. He further said the agenda of SDGs have been ignored at every level. A serious policy debate was not initiated by State and the development sector level and we could not domesticate the agenda and could not do anything about it. SDGs are directly linked with the rights and it is the right time to internalize the goals and work seriously about it.

Detailed Presentation by Zia ur Rehman- AwazCDS/PDA on Accomplishments, Opportunities, Gaps and Challenges of the SDGs Implementation:

Addressing the participants, Mr. M. Zia-Ur-Rehman (National Coordinator- Pakistan Development Alliance) said that Leave No One Behind is a Nation-wide key ask to sensitize masses as well as related stake-holders for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals with a special focus to ensure the participation of marginalized communities. He appreciated that Government has already inculcated the SDG agenda in the Vision 2025 and Punjab growth strategy 2018. Furthermore, the establishment of SDG unit is also a positive move and reflects the seriousness of Government for the delivery of SDGs at grass roots level. However this is interesting to know that local governance in Pakistan is most weak and do not have powers and capacity to deliver sustainable development goals. After the 18th amendment provincial governments are responsible for social development whereas the rules of business to operate has yet not prepared even after the passage of more than five years. Indicators like basic education, health, sanitation, water and energy are worsening day by day, he lamented. Government should make SDGs part and parcel of National curriculum so as our young people have detailed information regarding global and regional commitments made by Government at various levels demanded, Zia-Ur-Rehman. Most of the members of the Parliamentary Task Forces at national and provincial level were not aware of the efforts being made by the governments. Data availability is very weak and its difficult to monitor the progress is extremely challenges. Voluntary National Review of SDGs has yet to be announced by government of Pakistan whereas all other countries in the region have already



submitted their VNRs during High Level Political Forums of United Nation during 2016 & 2018. The government has yet to formulate the national priority framework for the SDGs. Once the federal government decides about the priority framework at national level, the provincial government will follow and set their respective provincial priorities. Later on, he shared the detailed presentation comprised of major findings of the gap assessments conducted in the course of implementation of SDGs in Pakistan. The detailed presentation is attached as **Annexure 1**.

Participants appreciated the detailed gaps identified and shared in such a professional manner by AwazCDS/PDA. They raised questions regarding allocation of resources regarding SDGs if any. They asked if we have separated the targets and indicators required to be implemented at national, provincial and local levels. Mr. Zia responded that out of 244 set of indicators 44 indicators are required to be implemented at global level, 45 at national level, 90 at provincial level and 60 at local government level. In Pakistan after 18th amendments provinces are getting ample resources under National Finance Commission-NFC- Award, therefore unlike MDGs now SDG are more of provincial government's responsibility than Federal.

Justice (rt'd) Ali Nawaz Chowhan, Chairperson-NCHR -The way forward on how to address SDGs implementation gaps with rights based approaches



Chairman NCHR Justice Ali Nawaz Chowhan said that SDG's Agenda is an all-encompassing and that is all what mankind needs. I am happy to know that at least people are talking about the issues like strong institutions, justice and rule of Law. Clean drinking water and education is very important. AwazCDS has taken the debate forward and it is good to know the gaps and challenges



are identified and this is the time to address them. NCHR is all available to support the efforts of civil society at all levels. We will try our level best to engage with relevant ministries and departments to consider the rights based agenda at priority level. SDGs is the agenda of people and people of this country should come forward to safeguard their rights.

Panel discussion- Moderated by Zia ur Rehman



- **Mr. Ali Kamal, Policy Advisor -SDGs Unit, Planning Commission of Pakistan**

Government of Pakistan is the first to establish Secretariat at Parliament House for Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs. These Task Forces are notified at all the four provincial as well as at AJK and GB levels. SDGs Units are working in collaboration with Planning and Development Departments however the coordination with other provincial departments and CSOs is little bit weak and require improvements. He said that government of Pakistan has already created Prime Minister SDGs Program that is providing matching grants to provinces for the implementation of SDGs. He said the data available is a biggest challenge however a data gap analysis has already been done at federal level and provinces are also following the path for doing data gap analysis. A centralized data base is being created at national level. SDG Unit will launch its dedicated website for a complete information on the compliance and implementation processes of SDGs. He also said that Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission of Pakistan Mr. Sartaj Aziz has already got approval for the national priority framework on SDGs during the last meeting of National Economic Committee on march 7th 2018. The NEC was attended by the Chief Ministers of the



provinces. The framework is available at the website of NEC.

- **Mr. Ali Raza Director General - SDGs Unit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa-Peshawar**

He appreciated the efforts of AwazCDS/PDA for doing this assessment and also said that it has come in to his knowledge for the first time that Punjab has added annexure III in the PC1 for the compliance and alignment with SDGs. He said that KP government will also take up the similar action soon. He said that KP has done a lot for the inculcation of SDGs at Local Government level and more resources are being provided at the grassroots level through village and ward councils. Right to Information -RTI Commission is very active in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and we provide information to every body as and when desired. He said KP government has provided ample resources to the SDG Unit and now we are in the process of recruitment. We are closely with Planning Commission at Islamabad and we will perform under their guidance. He said, KP has multiple challenges regarding FATA and extremism however we are right to track in education, health and water & sanitation sector in rest of our areas.

- **Ms. Ajeeba Aslam, CD- HelpAge International, Representative - PHF Working Group on SDGs**

She was asked what she thinks about the role of INGOs in the implementation of SDGs in Pakistan. She said that both local and INGOs have much role in the implementation of SDGs in Pakistan however the policy environment and regulations of NGOs are main hurdles in holding the governments and private sector accountable. She said her INGO HelpAge focuses on the rights of elderly people who have been left behind in Pakistan. We work on social protections whereas in Pakistan only 2% of the elderly people get financial support in the form of pensions. She said, PDA is playing marvelous role by sensitizing us on the gaps in the implementation of SDGs, it will help us revisit our strategies and take appropriate measures in future.

- **Mr. Mahmood Butt Advisor -Chairperson Higher Education Commission - SDGs inclusion in the mainstream Curriculum**

Higher Education Commission (HEC) was never given ample financial support yet we are providing technical expertise to 188 universities in the country. Our universities are doing a lot of research and thesis on SDGs. We have organized many sensitization seminars on SDGs for youth and our faculties. We also intend to inculcate SDGs in the curriculum but it requires more resources and time. Curriculum in our country required to be changed in the contemporary context. We will extend all our support to PDA for the sensitization of youth on SDGs

During the question answer session, Mr. Muqtadar Shah from UNFPA criticized the approval of national framework on SDGs by NEC. He said that SDG Unit should have invited all the stakeholders for consultations, whereas UNFPA had already offered to facilitate SDG Unit in devising the priority indicators for population as fertility indicator was missing in the UN set of indicators. Mr. Ali Kemal responded that another round of consultation is being planned and we will definitely invite all related stakeholders.



Conclusion and Key Note Speech:

Dr. Zafar ul Hassan, Chief Poverty Section/ Head of SDGs Unit Planning Commission of Pakistan

Zafar ul Hassan while sharing the progress on the agenda of SDGs said that government is planning for all the goals. SDGs agenda has been seriously taken up by the Planning Commission of Pakistan and Sartaj Aziz and all the top hierarchy is directly involved in making the agenda work. There is a need for integrated effort and problems like lack of coordination and communication should be resolved. He said that NEC has already approved that national priority framework for SDGs which is available at the website of NEC. We will invite the stakeholders for another series of consultation on setting the prioritization. He said that Goal 16 is at our priority however our approach is not cherry picking but to prioritize the targets /indicators on the basis of need and multiplier impact. We will identify the leverage points under one goal/ target / indicator to build space for other. We really appreciate that AwazCDS/PDA has take up this initiative and we really look forward to work together soon. We also invite all the related stakeholders to join hands to implement this agenda. Pakistan has already requested the UN through its Permanent Mission at New York for Voluntary National Review submission in 2019. We will soon initiate the consultative process for VNR in the country.



Vote of thanks and Hi-Tea

In the end all the participants and guests were thanked by the organizers and Hi-tea was offered.

Annexure -1 Presentation on accomplishments, opportunities, gaps and challenges on the implementation of SDGs - Where Pakistan Stands after more than two years

Annexure -2 Attendance Sheet/ List of participants

Annexure -3 Press Clippings (not yet available will be provided later on)

Annexure -4 Invitation and agenda of the event

Annexure -1



Pakistan SDGs
30-03-18.pptx

Annexure -2

Sr.#	Name	Organization	Designation	Email/Contact number	Signature
1	Prof. Mahmood Butt ED HEC Representing	HEC	Consultant	mh.butt@hec.gov.pk	MButt
2	Ajeeba Aslam	HelpAge Int.	Country Director	ajeeba.aslam@helpagesa.org	Ajeeba
3	Syed Moez ud Din	HelpAge Intl.	Head of Program	Syed.moez@helpagesa.org 0345-5024458	M
4	Mohammad Yaqub	Takhleeq Foundation	Executive Director	myaqub.tf@yaho.com 0333-2110863	Mohammad Yaqub
5	PERVEZ IQBAL	WESS	Chief Executive	pervez@wess.org.pk 02333 7805354	Pervez Iqbal
6	Qamar	Blue Veni	Program Coordinator	0333-9114448	Qamar



Sr.#	Name	Organization	Designation	Email/Contact number	Signature
7	Taimur Kamil	PJVO	ED	0300-5862104	[Signature]
8	Haseeb Khawaja	Activists Journalist, Filmmaker & * Pakistani Men against Rape	HKS & * Chief Coordinator	haseebdigital @yahoo.com 03335915176	[Signature]
9	Doraz Ahmad Rana	NLHR	Fellow	0345-8035313	[Signature]
10	ALI RAZA KHAN	D.G, SDU K.P, Planning & Dev. D-24	Director General Sustainable Dev. unit,	091-9211053	[Signature]
11	Syed Sulaiman	Concern women	S-Emergency and DRR Advisor	syed.sulaiman@ concern.net 0300838081	[Signature]
12	SULTAN BASHI	PAKISTAN OBSERVER	Editor	0314-5709008	[Signature]
13	SOFIA NOREEN	Freelance Consultant.		0333-4243404 sofia.noreen@ gmail.com	[Signature]
14	Atiq Abbas	trainers@salut.org SAHIL	N.F.C	trainers@salut.org	[Signature]



Sr.#	Name	Organization	Designation	Email/Contact number	Signature
15	Mugaddar Shah	UNFPA	Prog Analyst	sshah@unfpa.org	Mugaddar
16	Ch-Shafiqe	NCHR	Member	0334/8555570	Ch-Shafiqe
17	Zafar Hussain	M/o Planning, Dev & Ref	Chief (SOG)	03005395160	Zafar
18	Kaukab Jehan	PODA	executive director	ed@poda.org.pk	Kaukab Jehan
19	Muhammad Ullah	VSO	M&E Officer	0333 8425151	Muhammad Ullah
20	Sheryar Khan	VSO	Sr. Program Manager	0300-8551625	Sheryar Khan
21	HASHEM BILAL	VSO	Country Director	0300-8557370	Hasheem Bilal
22	Haron Baloch	BYA	PM	0321-5196702	Haron Baloch



Sr.#	Name	Organization	Designation	Email/Contact number	Signature
23	Zoya Shahabiy	NCTR	Coordinator	03479231567	Zoya
24	Ghulam Muhammad	NCHR	Resumer	03337848443 ghulam.mahmood@nchr.org	Ghulam
25	Ahsan Kazmi	NCHR	Coordinator	—	Ahsan
26	Waqar Ahmed	SDPI	Project assistant	0332 5122821 Waqar.ahmed@sdpi.org	Waqar
27	Sabeena Gul	UCLG ASPAC	SSW Area Coordinator	—	Sabeena
28	Sajjad Cheema	SPARC CRM	Manager Programme	0333 6900605	Sajjad
29	IRFAN AHMED	SIF SECOURS ISLAMIQUE FRANCE	MEAL MANAGER	m.officer@islamshah@secours-islamique.org 03320851861 0336-9908208	Irfan
30	Safdar Raza	Plan Int'l	Advocacy Manager	Safdar.raza@plan-international.org 03215167758	Safdar



Sr.#	Name	Organization	Designation	Email/Contact number	Signature
31	Mariyam Anjad Khan	AWAZ/PDA	Focal person PDA	maryam.anjad @awazcds.org pa	Mariyam
32	Ifra Kiran	AWF Pvt. Ltd	R. A	ifra.kiran90@gmail 0309-7783898	Ifra
33	Ali Kemal	SDG Unit/undp	Policy Advisor	ali.kemal@undp.org 032533398	Ali Kemal
34	Zia ur Rehman	AWAZ/CDS-PDA. C.E.		zia@awazcds.org WhatsApp 03006301215	Zia ur Rehman

Annexure 3: Press cutting will be shared on Monday.

Annexure 4:



Islamabad- Policy to
Action Forum Invite.c

