



PRESS RELEASE

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National Consultation held for sensitization of stakeholders on SDG-4/ Education 2030 and its alignment with the national and provincial/ area policy imperatives

The workshop helped building the understanding and knowledge of key education sector stakeholders on SDG-4 to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030

Islamabad: UNESCO Islamabad, UNICEF and the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Government of Pakistan jointly organized the first national consultation workshop on Sustainable Development Goal – 4 (SDG) “the Education 2030 Agenda” in Islamabad. The workshop aimed at developing a common understanding on SDG-4 and devising a roadmap and effective strategies for attainment of quality education and goals set for 2030 which were adopted at the World Education Summit in May 2015 in Incheon Republic of Korea this year.

The workshop is drawn upon the Framework for Action (FFA) Education 2030 adopted in November 2015 by the UNESCO Member States that aims at supporting all countries to realize their own vision and ambitions for education within the framework of the global SDG-4 and its targets. The FFA also proposes ways of implementing, coordinating, financing and monitoring Education 2030 to ensure equal education opportunities for all. The implementation of the 2030 Education Agenda at national level requires country-led actions to drive change, supported by effective multi-stakeholder partnerships and financing.

The event was attended by over 150 participants including officials of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFE&PT), provincial/ area education departments, civil society organizations, academia, media, United Nations agencies and donor community.

The Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Mr. Muhammad Baliugh ur Rehman in his inaugural speech while terming education as future of Pakistan reiterated government firm resolve to do away with deficiencies to have prosperous and democratic Pakistan. He mentioned that during UNESCO General Conference in November this year, Pakistan fully committed to these goals and they have declared and adopted these goals as the national development goals 2030. He expressed that during the last two years, a phenomenal increase in budgetary provision for education is made. Resource allocations for tertiary education which were just Rs. 40 billion has been enhanced to Rs.80 billion. The resources for education are being gradually enhanced in line with tax to GDP ratio. The Minister also added that more than 400 schools in the Capital Territory are refurbished with all state-of-the-art facilities to have more and more children enrolled and attract many students from private schools.

He said that educating every child is the responsibility of the government. Lack of provision for and non-availability of proper facilities in educational institutions are serious issues. Despite these challenges, the government is committed to overcome the problems. The Minister said that the one day Consultative Workshop is a manifestation of government’s ownership to sincere actualization of education related to SDG-4. He informed that the Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) has approved formation of a Core Committee on SDG-4 with equal representation. In the conclusion, the Minister emphasized that we need to create awareness to know these goals by heart and also create synergy on SDGs implementation.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Ms. Cris Munduade, Deputy Representative UNICEF said that the national consultation is an important event for all of us. She said the new SDGs goals state a clear commitment to quality, inclusiveness and lifelong learning with a focus on childhood education. She said UNICEF strongly supports early childhood development and learning process at national as well as provincial and areas level. She said UNICEF is working to strengthen the local partners and the education departments for completing the unfinished agenda of education for all.

“The journey of education is exciting and challenging, children cannot wait and the right to education must be seen as a basic human right. UNICEF is committed to strongly support the country led policies, actions and priorities for education to meet the 2030 new targets”, Ms. Cris Munduade emphasized.

Giving the global perspective on SDG-4, Ms. Vibeke Jensen, UNESCO Representative to Pakistan highlighted the whole consultative process of developing SDGs based on the learnings and lesson learnt from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Education for All (EFA) goals. She explained about SDG-4 goals and targets with an expectations from the countries to localize, contextualize and devise an implementation strategy to its attainment. She mentioned that the SDGs goals were endorsed by Education Ministers of the Member States including the Minister of State for Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. She expressed that the SDGs goals were holistic, aspirational, transformative, inclusive and interlinked with all other SDGs.

Representatives of the United Nations in Pakistan and development partners including, Ms. Tracy Vienings, Deputy Country Director, UNDP; Mr. Jamshed Kazi, Country Director, UNWOMEN; Mr. Stephen Gluning, Deputy Country Director, WFP; Mr. Johann Pierre Siffointe, Deputy Representative, UNHCR; Ms. Umbreen Arif, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank; Mr. Saeed Ul Hassan, Head of Education, OXFAM GB; Ms. Julie Reviere, Country Director GIZ Pakistan and representative of the National Education Development Partner Group (NEDPG) and representatives of ILO; and UNFPA in their remarks deliberated on the issue and reaffirm their commitment towards promoting and supporting the education agenda.

At the concluding session, education experts participated in panel discussion on Quality Education, Inclusive and Equitable Education, and Financing imperatives and shared their views in light of the SDG-4, the 2030 Education Agenda.

For more information on SDG-4, [Click here](#)

For more information on World Education Forum 2015, Incheon, Republic of Korea, [Click here](#)

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