

People's Charter of Demand adopted by participants of Pakistan Peoples' Assembly held at Islamabad dated September 23,2021 apropos to Global Week of Action & Global Peoples' Assembly

Every year, during the second half of September, United Nation's General Assembly meets to review success, challenges to the world and sets future directions for more peaceful and sustainable development in the world. CSOs from all across the globe also mobilize masses and organize weeks of action to highlight the challenges and suggest solutions for the attentions of heads of states gather at the forum of UNGA. Like previous years, Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD) and many other global forums joined hands together to organize national, regional and global Peoples' Assemblies for mass sensitization, mobilization and demand creation on pro-people agendas. As national coalition of GCAP and A4SD, Pakistan Development Alliance also joined the global movement in solidarity and organized the Pakistan's People Assembly at Islamabad on September 23, 2021. The Peoples' Charter of Demand was adopted by 72 representatives of CSOs from all across Pakistan including members of Pakistan Development Alliance, Ujala Network, Parliamentarians and private sector organizations to re-affirm their strong commitments towards the achievement of a more democratic, peaceful and inclusive society.

We Assert our identity as CSOs, NGOs, CBOs, private entities and public representatives as well as women & human rights defender organizations / platforms from all across Pakistan including Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan

We Further Assert our indispensable role in the promotion & protection of women / human rights, addressing SGBV and demanding rightful spaces and choices of all life for all that are built on the foundations of Constitution of Pakistan and other universal/ global human rights instruments signed and ratified by government of Pakistan.

We acknowledge the historic struggles of the political parties for the promotion and protection of democratic values and culture in the country

We also acknowledge the commitments made by the political fraternity and their parties in their respective manifestoes regarding the freedom of expression, assembly and civic rights

We expect from all political parties to utilize all their energies in future to safeguard the life, freedoms, property and dignity of the people and to improve the standard of their lives.

We appreciate that the national and provincial governments have taken appropriate policy and structural initiatives towards the implementation of SDGs

We are Alarmed by the rapid increase in human rights violations as well as sexual & gender based violence instances against most vulnerable communities including women and children, transgenders, minorities and even people living with disabilities in Pakistan

We are Concerned over the delays at the end of government towards timely legislations and policy interventions to address violent extremism, rising inequality, increasing poverty, restricted civic spaces, SGBV against women & children including Domestic Violence Bill, Early Marriage Restraint Acts and to ensure SRHR for all in Pakistan

We are also Concerned over the dysfunctionality of National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women (PCSWs) for the last three years

We are deeply Concerned over the non-compliance of the orders of Supreme Court for holding local government elections in all the 136 districts of Pakistan which are actually non-functional for the last one decade.

We Stand in Solidarity with victims of SGBV and their families and **Appreciate** their firm stand against culprits and perpetrators

We Condemn victim blaming and releasing misogynistic statements on women / girls physical appearance especially dresses

We also condemn cramping legislations against media/ social media and CSOs in the recent times including charity commissions and draconian Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA)

We Note that pandemic has exacerbated the extent and dynamics of VAW&C both at domestic & societal level

We also Note that many people have lost their livelihoods due to COVID-19 pandemic and now poverty and inequality has been increased with god speed in the country.

We Further Note with Concerns that pro-women and girls legislation especially the latest bill on ending domestic violence is being delayed.

We remind the government and ministries that nothing is being asked beyond the commitments made by them at Global and National level through various human rights treaties, accords, especially under UDHR, ICPD, CEDAW and most recently SDGs.

We Further Reminded to all political parties and their legislatures including federal and provincial governments that nothing is being asked beyond their commitments made by them in their respective political party manifestoes as well as by the Parliament. SDGs were adopted as National Development Goals by Parliament of Pakistan in March 2016.

Therefore, We Call for

1. Immediate and effective legislation to End Domestic and Spousal Violence that include provisions regarding prevention of violence against women, protection and support for the complainant/survivor, and prosecution and strict punishment of the perpetrator.
2. Implementation mechanisms to end gender based violence such **as enhanced budgetary support on SDGs 3,4,5,10 and 16 related targets & indicators**, the creation of **specific centralized institutional mechanisms to monitor implementation and for the collection of comprehensive & sex-disaggregated statistical data of Rape and Violence against Women and Children cases.**
3. Gender sensitive budgeting including other all allocated resources be matched with the requirements of national policies to end violence against women & SRHR for all.
4. Legislation with minimum age of 18 for marriage across Pakistan.

5. Parliamentarians and Commissions to use their oversight powers to monitor violence against women.
6. Parliamentarians and Commissions to speak up, explain the laws, and call the media, civil society organizations, the private sector and others to join in public education programmes.
7. Parliamentarians and Commissions to ensure that information and updates on VAW & SRHR related laws are easily accessible and translated into local languages.
8. Parliamentarians to show strong political will in order to address Domestic Violence, Rape and Early Age Marriage issues as a matter of priority.
9. National strategies to mainstream gender should be developed and supported to secure a coordinated approach and response to violence against women and to achieve SDG5.
10. Parliamentarians and Commissions to hold public hearings on VAW&C issues.

We also call for;

11. Strengthening advocacy and oversight efforts within National Parliament/ provincial and regional legislative assemblies to further discuss and sensitize the Parliamentarians / Legislatures on SDGs agenda and therefore urge the National Parliament/ provincial and regional legislative assemblies to hold exclusive parliamentary sessions for setting priority development agendas dedicated to 17 SDGs.
12. Ensuring greater partnership, meaningful participation and inclusion of all tiers of government, SDGs Task Forces, international organizations (I) NGOs, CSOs and other stakeholders to develop and implement National/ Provincial/ Regional/ District level priority framework on SDGs.
13. Ensuring inclusion of SDGs targets and indicators as mandatory in Public Sector Development Programs (PSDPs) and Annual Development Plans (ADPs).
14. Increased budgetary allocations for the realization of SDGs in upcoming financial years to advance effectively towards the achievement of agenda 2030.
15. Review National Development Framework on SDGs and identify priority areas on basis of provincial and regional priority frameworks.
16. Formulate Rules of Business and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and plan of action related to SDGs for the parliamentary SDGs Task Force in order to streamline and synergize overall efforts for development.
17. Commence monitoring and evaluations of initiatives under SDGs at all levels to track progress.
18. Ensure availability of reliable data for all particularly on national, provincial and regional priority targets and indicators of SDGs for appropriate tracking of progress and reporting.
19. Ensure accessibility of CSOs on reliable data sources and public reports for the purpose of advocacy & lobbying initiatives, mass sensitization, citizens' engagement and greater social accountability measures.
20. Functional and empowered Local Government System at district/ sub-districts level to ensure localization and implementation of SDGs with extended outreach.
21. Enabling environment for CSOs for the implementation of SDGs ensuring inclusion of Women, PWDs, minorities, human rights defenders, et.
22. Adherence of Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) to ensure social engagement norms and allocate 10 % air time to sensitize masses on SDGs.

23. Formulation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy at national level to align CSR Funds with the SDGs agenda and making sure the utilization of CSR funds in a transparent and accountable manner.
24. Institutionalization of the role of civil society in planning of national, provincial and regional development frameworks and ensuring adequate representation of civil society at all public development forums/ commissions and departments.
25. Establishing a National Commission/ Council on SDGs to review existing and proposed legislation in relation to SDGs agenda; carry out research and advise on policy matters pertaining to national development frameworks; contribute to awareness raising and advocacy initiatives regarding SDGs in the country, and review and report on the national/provincial/regional Task Forces' performance and monitoring of the progress on SDGs in the country.
26. Strengthening the SDGs Task Force Committee on Child Rights to adopt uniform legislation on child marriages across the country and its implementation in letter and spirit.
27. Revamp education system in Pakistan while keeping the life skills based education system central to the curriculum to ensure sustainability of 2030 agenda in long run.
28. Legislative reforms on domestic violence and child abuse, and provision of inclusive youth friendly health policies and services across the country on emergency basis.
29. Put cash into the hands of people who need it the most, including excluded and marginalized communities, women headed families, minorities, transgender community and those unable to work and individuals who face gender discrimination.
30. Allocate the resources needed to strengthen existing entitlement programmes like Ehsaas and fund a social protection floor for all. The most efficient way to realize people's rights may be paying a Universal Basic Income Support for all poor in the country.
31. Ensure access to social protection to all citizens and residents, including vulnerable groups and refugees, by removing bureaucratic hurdles and prioritizing ground-up practices.
32. Education is often the best way to break the poverty cycle. Ensure internet connectivity for low-income families and marginalized communities, particularly as COVID-19 necessitates home-based education, and provide scholarships for individuals who face discrimination based on work and descent.
33. Overall enhancement in coordination and networking among all the stakeholders on SDGs.
34. Create storage system for agricultural produce along with a system to curb hoarders and make sure the availability of food items and required medicines, sanitizers and other necessary items
35. There are various issues on which struggles are going on in different parts of the country. The government need to address all protestors and give an assurance to each and every one of them that it will keep all continuous issues out till the Corona Virus emergency is over. The government should also keep aside all decisions that might create fear or antagonism in the minds of the people for now. The entire government machinery of the people should work to keep the people of the country together.

Endorsed by:

