

Call to Meaningfully Engage Civil Society in Decade of Action to Accelerate SDGs Implementation

September 2023

We the below CSOs, NGOs, CBOs, and representatives of political parties, media, academia, students and representatives of socially excluded, minority groups, women rights, sexual minorities, elderly people and human rights defenders, members of Pakistan Development Alliance, Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE), Ujala Network, NACG, Child Rights Movement (CRM) etc. hereby endorse the Call to meaningfully engage civil society in the decade of action to accelerate SDGs implementation in Pakistan.

We assert our identity as people's organizations and human rights actors and defenders from all across Pakistan

We further assert our indispensable role in promoting and protecting marginalized communities demanding rightful spaces and choices of life for all including women, PLWDs, transgender community & other sexual minorities, socially excluded groups, minorities, elderly people, children and youth etc.

We appreciate that since the adoption of SDGs as national goals by the Parliament of Pakistan, the government has taken various policy and structural level actions to implement SDGs including the establishment of Parliamentary Task Forces, SDGs Secretariat at Parliament House and SDGs Units at the national and sub-national level

We further appreciate the approval of national and sub-national priority frameworks towards the implementation of SDGs

We acknowledge that the government of Pakistan has presented two Voluntary National Review-VNR reports at United Nations High-Level Political Forum-HLPF in 2019 and 2022.

We further acknowledge that government is aware of policy and structural level challenges as well as data and reporting gaps towards the achievement of SDGs

We are concerned that Pakistan has yet to go long way to achieve priority SDGs commitments in due time

We are further concerned that the localization process of SDGs has yet to be initiated in the absence of functional local government bodies in the country

We are deeply concerned that civic spaces are shrinking as well as democracy and human rights are at constant risk whereas religious extremism, poverty, inequalities, inflation, fuel and electricity prices are rising day by day in the country

We warn that Pakistan may fail to achieve priority SDGs in due time in the absence of enabling a policy environment for meaningful engagement of CSOs and creating rightful spaces for the inclusive participation of citizens at large.

We further warn that Pakistan may also fail to achieve priority SDGs in due time without the appropriate allocation of resources and finances

Therefore, we call for

1. Meaningful engagement of civil society, private sector, academia and other related stakeholders in the decade of action to implement SDGs
 2. Localization of priority SDGs at the district and sub-district level for meaningful participation of citizens at large
 3. Transformation of national and sub-national priority frameworks into action strategies
 4. Launch of a reliable national data portal against all priority SDGs indicators for better governance, accountability, and reporting
 5. Formation of National SDGs Council comprised of experts from all walks of life representing CSOs, HRDs, WHRDs, PLWDs, elderly people, youth, transgender and other sexual minorities, religious minorities, media and private sector etc. to accelerate the process of the midterm review of SDGs implementation in the country as well as to monitor the progress in future
 6. Allocation of ample resources and finances to achieve priority SDGs at federal and subnational levels including SDG 4,5,8,10 and 16
 7. Formulation of new laws and policies to ensure smooth implementation of SDGs in letter & spirit
 8. Commencement of inclusive process for the follow-up of commitments made under previous VNR reports
 9. SDGs Champions volunteer engagement and placement in public offices at national, sub-national, district and sub-district levels to facilitate and guide related duty bearers on SDGs priority themes and implementation mechanisms.
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