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Aurat Foundation

Inclusive Development in Pakistan: Memorandum of Action

We, Club de Madrid and Aurat Foundation,

having met with elected members of the National and Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan, conveners and members of Parliamentary Taskforces on SDGs, ethnic & religious community leaders, media, labour and civil society organisations, in multiple virtual sessions from January to March 2021, issue these recommendations for inclusive and participatory development in Pakistan.

Appreciating the high-level political will and ownership of the Government of Pakistan to adopt Agenda 2030 as the national agenda, developing National SDGs Framework 2018 and establishing Parliamentary Taskforces on SDGs and the SDGs Units at the national and provincial levels and urging the Government of Pakistan to adopt a Shared Society approach to ensure inclusion and contribution of every individual and group in Pakistan, with the freedom to express their differences while integrating their voices within the broader population and calling for the need of pluralism, tolerance, inter-faith and ethnic harmony and respect for and celebration of diverse multiculturalist and multi-ethnic Pakistan society.

Recognising the “Leaving No One Behind” as core objective of the Agenda 2030 and the fact that inclusion, ownership and participation of diverse social groups is key to effective implementation Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Pakistan and considering that participation of the most vulnerable groups as key to the equitable and just planning, development, monitoring and reporting of Agenda 2030; we

- 1. URGE** the Government of Pakistan to implement an inclusive institutional framework at all levels, where all Pakistani religious and ethnic minorities groups are consulted to develop strategies and plans to achieve the SDGs through cooperation, consultation and coordination, call for enhanced political participation of women and under-represented religious and ethnic minorities at all levels and ensure their access to the leadership roles, as envisaged in Goal 5 and 16 of the Agenda 2030.
- 2. CALL ON** the Parliament of Pakistan to further integrate SDGs in their parliamentary debates and interventions, policy documents, legislations and to use their oversight powers to ensure the inclusive, equitable and participatory development for everyone, everywhere.
- 3. URGE** that Women’s issues should be heard and included at all steps of the implementation of Agenda 2030 in Pakistan. As the country braces for post-COVID recovery and a renewed impulse towards the SDGs, women’s rights must top the social agenda in Pakistan, and Pakistani women – including women from poor and marginalized communities, religious and ethnic minorities and rural areas – must be given voice and agency in that process
- 4. URGE** the government to ensure equality of opportunity for all, including working, poor, trans, women with disabilities and women from the religious and ethnic minority groups. Equality of opportunity



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includes the opportunity to have good quality affordable education, to enjoy health facilities, to have a comfortable old age based on social protection and to have protection from gender based and other forms of discrimination, harassment, violence and abuse.

5. **SEEK** the coordination and cooperation between different levels of the Government and the private sector, CSOs, academics to consult and transfer their experiences to the public policy forums, build relationships/networks/alliances and collaborate in a dialogue for the best inclusive public policies.
6. **CALL ON** Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives and other relevant federal ministries to recognize the need and importance of ensuring the inclusion of voices of most marginalised religious and ethnic communities in monitoring and reporting of Agenda 2030 through Voluntary National Reviews including VNR 2021 and encourage an ongoing dialogue with such communities to ensure that their concerns are being heard and addressed.
7. **URGE** the Federal Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to build space for an interfaith (and an intersect) dialogue where religious leaders can come together to discuss issues, cooperate, learn from each other, develop consensus, understand each other's points of view and mobilize common values such as human dignity, respect for the sacred, peace and justice.
8. **URGE** to implement the Human Rights Committee recommendation for the Government of Pakistan to review textbooks and curricula for removal of biased contents and incorporate human rights education, therein.
9. **URGE** the Pakistan Government should address problems with all discriminatory policies and laws in existence. State policy should officially treat and respect all religions faiths equally and should fight against all false assumptions and rumours that fuel violence against particularly vulnerable religious and ethnic minorities. An inclusive journalism and public narratives towards these groups should be promoted by the Pakistani Government.

We strongly believe in the international cooperation being critical and consider the role of past and current government leadership very important to extend mutual cooperation in achieving the common agenda of sustainable development and urge the need of international best practices, knowledge sharing and exchange of views, especially between the global north and south as vital to learn around inclusive and participatory development.

 **117**
Members

 **74**
Countries

Club de Madrid is the world's largest forum of democratic former Presidents and Prime Ministers, who leverage their unique leadership experience and global reach to strengthen inclusive democratic practice. Counting with more than 100 Members, the alliance stimulates dialogue, builds bridges and engages in advocacy efforts to strengthen public policy and effective leadership through policy recommendations that tackle challenges such as inclusion, sustainable development and peace at the national and multilateral level.

Aurat Foundation is a registered non-governmental national outreach-based women's rights organization with its countrywide presence in all four provinces as well as in AJK and Gilgit Baltistan through its own offices, as well as, offices of its partner organizations and network groups. AF has reached out to 1,230,512 community women networks through 43,887 women leaders in 35 district-based groups