

Joint CSO Statement for Pakistan VNR

Pakistan CSOs Statement
Read by representative of the Major Group for Children & Youth
HLPF 2022
15 July 2022

Thank you, Mr/Ms. Moderator

We congratulate the Govt. of Pakistan for its reported progress on the 2030 Agenda.

However, several concerns remain on critical SDG priorities in the absence of policy coherence, and effective implementation, data collection & local review mechanisms.

CSOs would like to ask:

- 1. How is the government addressing regressions and stagnation on critical goals including inequalities, hunger, justice, education, SRHR, gender equality and climate change?**
- 2. What steps has the government taken to ensure inclusion of the poorest, women & girls, transgender, religious & sexual minorities, farmers, laborers, and persons with disabilities in public sector programs?**
- 3. How is the government ensuring protection of human rights defenders, journalists and environmental activists facing persecution, cyber harassment and forced disappearances?**

CSOs observations:

- Pakistan ranked 129th on the SDGs Index. Despite COVID 19 recovery measures, the country still faces vaccine apartheid and fragility of health systems exacerbated by IFI induced conditionalities.
- The 22+ million children out of schools, mostly girls, demand holistic planning, equitable financing and stronger political will to enhance the educational outcomes prioritizing the millions left behind.
- The allocation of at least 4-6% of GDP or 20-25% of public expenditure must be ensured to protect peoples' constitutional right to education, as per Article 25A.
- Gender Equality requires gender mainstreaming based on comprehensive vulnerability assessment through data disaggregation for achieving gender-responsive social protection, health and education outcomes, protection from violence and disasters, and protection of right to inheritance, employability and political participation.
- Land grabbing, displacement through mega infrastructure projects, and corporate control have detrimental effects on farmers' livelihood and biodiversity. Agroecology and genuine land and agrarian reforms are critical to address land

degradation, deforestation and desertification. We demand a neo-liberal-free future to avoid the planetary crises and restore our rights to land and livelihood.

- Protection of civic spaces and democratic accountability require peoples' and CSOs' meaningful inclusion across agenda-setting and planning processes to avoid tokenistic representation.
- The absence of a comprehensive Animal disease, Weather and Pest Surveillance mechanism with lack of access to social security poses further threats to human health and food security in a country heavily reliant on agriculture and livestock.
- Inclusive multilateralism requires support for the countries left behind strangled by Sovereign debt, illicit financial flows and unfulfilled ODA and CDRRC commitments.

CSOs demand:

A neo-liberal-free future that protects the most marginalized, ensures equitable public services, and guarantees civil, socio-economic and political rights for all.

I thank you.