

Thank you, Chair.

We, the representatives of civil society from Pakistan, congratulate the Government of Pakistan, for presenting its VNR report.

While we acknowledge the Government's efforts in setting up institutional structures for the implementation of the SDGs, we note widening inequalities in the country, led by trade liberalisation policies, unequal resource and land distribution, unregulated corporate action, and public resource capture by private entities that continue to leave many behind.

We are disappointed to note that the report discusses only three of the six HLPF review themes and excludes Goals 4, 10 and 16, which are pivotal to the 2030 Agenda. The review process has failed to capture citizens' voices collected through stakeholder consultations in 42 districts of Pakistan.

Recent trends also indicate an economic downturn; high levels of inflation; rising food and water insecurity; loss of livelihoods; rising debts, evaporating resources for public goods and services (particularly for sexual and reproductive health, and life skills based education, girls' right to quality secondary education); shrinking civic spaces and freedom of expression; pervasive gender based violence and discrimination; lack of access to justice and lack of effective access to information.

Given these trends, we ask:

1. How is the Government going to ensure meaningful engagement of all stakeholders - Government, Civil Society, the Private Sector, Trade Unions, International Organisations, UN agencies and others, in implementing the SDGs?
2. How are the SDG Task Forces connecting with all Ministries and stakeholders to educate them on the Agenda 2030, and what are the plans to streamline data collection on targets and indicators, to ensure alignment between local and global development processes?
3. Five years into the Agenda, how is the Government going to achieve policy coherence on these issues across provinces, and ensure robust implementation, monitoring, accountability and transparency of at the district level?