



Law & Justice Commission  
of Pakistan



Ministry of National Health  
Services, Regulations and Coordination

National Conference on  
**Resilient Pakistan**  
Calibrating Population  
& Resources



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Resilient Pakistan  
Calibrating Population & Resources**



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I would also like to acknowledge the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan and Chairman, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial, for his constant guidance and patronage. Without his support, the National Conference would not have been possible.

I am also grateful to the Hon'ble Judges of the Organizing Committee: Mr. Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan; Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar; and Mrs. Justice Ayesha A. Malik for their visionary leadership which ensured the Conference was a resounding success.

Further, I extend my gratitude to the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for collaborating with the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan in organizing the National Conference in this pressing area of concern for Pakistan.

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I sincerely thank everyone who contributed in any capacity for making both the National Conference and this report an informative resource for the people of Pakistan.

Riffat Inam Butt  
Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan

## Synopsis

The National Conference on Calibrating Population and Resources took place from 14th to 15th July 2023 and was organized by the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), under the auspices of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The conference witnessed a significant gathering of participants, including retired and sitting Judges from the district and superior judiciary, diplomats, academics, civil society members, representatives from the executive branch of the government, and experts on population growth, both national and international.

The primary objective of the two-day conference was to discuss the impact of and developments following the Human Rights Case No. 17599/2018. Additionally, the event aimed to chart a path forward, considering the challenges faced in achieving sustainable development goals. During the conference, speakers from diverse social and professional backgrounds deliberated on Pakistan's challenges resulting from resource scarcity and its implications on the citizens' quality of life. Special attention was given to how the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters, like the 2022 Floods, exacerbated these issues. Each speaker concluded their remarks by offering recommendations to expedite Pakistan's demographic transition and meet resource-related objectives.

During the opening ceremony, a short documentary by the UNFPA was played for the guests to highlight some of Pakistan's population challenges. These encompassed issues such as unintended pregnancies, maternal mortalities, and child marriages.

The documentary highlighted government initiatives for education, women's empowerment, and youth development at the Federal and Provincial level. It stressed education, female workforce participation, and healthcare access as avenues for sustainable growth. A corollary effect of such growth would be the mitigation of urbanization, deforestation, and climate change impacts. However, achieving this requires efficient programs, public-private partnerships, and ample funding. The documentary emphasized the need to adhere to the National Action Plan in order to create a flourishing and resilient country.

The Honourable Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Umar Ata Bandial, emphasized on multiple occasions that the growing population could become Pakistan's greatest asset through effective planning and management. However, if left unaddressed, it could transform into the country's most pressing problem, rendering it increasingly vulnerable to social and economic pressures.

Another significant aspect of the conference was the profound impact of the rapidly growing population on women and children. Several speakers highlighted the adverse effects on these vulnerable groups, while also highlighting the potential for women to become the nation's saving grace. Dr. Luay Shabaneh aptly expressed that 'women constitute a missed opportunity in Pakistan.' This sentiment was echoed by Mr. Iftikhar Shallawani who emphasized the urgent need to provide women with basic health facilities and education to reduce the fertility rate and enable a smooth demographic transition. Hon'ble Justice Ayesha Malik powerfully emphasized the imperative to enhance the

overall quality of life and education for women, asserting that the empowerment of women and protection of women's rights should not be viewed as a privilege but a fundamental necessity.

Utilizing and involving the youth was another focal point of the conference, with speakers such as Dr. Adil Najam emphasizing the need to tap into the potential of the youth, while uplifting women, describing this as pivotal for Pakistan's advancement. Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri advocated for creating avenues for the youth to contribute meaningfully, all the while

educating them on ways to develop sustainably.

At the end of the event, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination presented the Conference Recommendations wherein the participants of the Conference reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to attaining the objectives set by both the Council of Common Interests and the National Action Plan, while setting out a comprehensive strategy to achieve sustainable development goals.

## The Judgment

### *Explaining Human Rights Case No.17599/2018 and its impact*

Considering Pakistan's international obligations and recognizing the significance of safeguarding the fundamental rights of its citizens, the Supreme Court of Pakistan, in 2018, took cognizance of the Alarming High Population Growth Rate in the Country during the Human Rights Case No. 17599/2018.

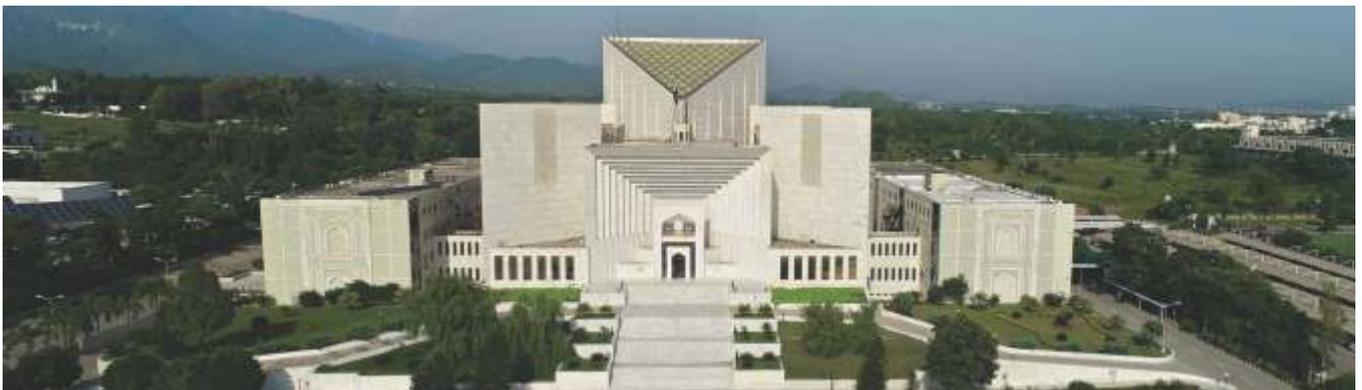
In pursuit of formulating an effective mechanism to address population growth and devising actionable recommendations, the Supreme Court established a National Task Force comprising representatives from all Provinces and the Federation. This Task Force diligently worked and presented its findings, leading to the formation of a Committee that submitted a comprehensive report containing vital recommendations to tackle the alarming population growth rate. These recommendations were subsequently approved during a meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

Furthermore, the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan collaborated with the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination (Population Programme Wing) and other stakeholders to organize the National Symposium on Alarming Population Growth in Pakistan: Call

for Action on 05.12.2018. The primary objective of this symposium was to encourage open discussions and debates on the issue, while also charting out a course of action to address the challenge. Distinguished participants from various backgrounds, including academics, experts, religious scholars, and social activists, attended the symposium.

On 29.12.2018, this concerted effort to launch a nationwide population planning campaign, accompanied by the endorsed recommendations, received unanimous endorsement from elected representatives of all Provinces, major political parties, and religious scholars at a national dialogue hosted by the Population Council of Pakistan.

In the present year, the Conference titled Resilient Pakistan: Calibrating Population and Resources aims to assess the progress made at both the Provincial and Federal levels, five years after the Council of Common Interests approved the recommendations. The conference aims to identify any obstacles encountered during the implementation process and forge a way forward to ensure a more prosperous Pakistan.



## Inaugural Session

Day-1 | 14th July, 2023

The Conference welcomed esteemed members of the judiciary, including the Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court, Federal Shariat Court, and High Courts, along with international dignitaries, lawyers, and experts. Presenters Barrister Maryam Khan and Mr. Saad Rasool provided an overview of the proceedings from Human Rights Case No. 17599/2018, while Ms. Riffat Inam Butt, Secretary of the Law and Justice Commission Pakistan emphasized the Conference's significance in relation to international commitments. Mr. Iftikhar Shallwani, acknowledged advancements in Federal Government policies but stressed the need for integrated federal and provincial approaches. Dr. Luay Shabaneh highlighted the shift in population discourse toward human rights. The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Umar Ata Bandial, underscored the importance of enforcing basic rights, collective responsibility, and private sector involvement for productive populations.

The sessions explored themes of progress review, international perspectives, and inclusive engagement. The first session,

chaired by Hon'ble Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan, evaluated provincial advancements, challenges, and recommendations. The second, chaired by Hon'ble Justice Yahya Afridi, discussed international views, normalizing family planning dialogue, and women's empowerment. Engaging Ulema (Islamic scholars) and educating youth emerged as vital strategies. Dr. Tauseef Ahmed and Dr. Sabina Imran Durrani emphasized effective resource allocation and funding, citing examples from countries like Iran, Bangladesh, and Indonesia, while Dr. Syed Azizur Rab advocated for public-private partnership to ease financial burdens. Successful strategies were shared, highlighting the role of funding, resource allocation, and public-private partnerships in achieving family planning goals.

The day ended with an appeal for promoting sustainable advancements in family planning programs, accompanied by a rise in funding allocations for this purpose. The importance of effective communication and collaboration among various agencies, at both the national and regional levels, was also highlighted.



# Opening Ceremony







## Welcome Address: Ms. Riffat Inam Butt

*Secretary Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan*

The Conference commenced with an inspiring opening ceremony, featuring Ms. Riffat Inam Butt, Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, as the initial speaker to set the tone for the Conference. The opening remarks articulated the gravity of the situation and the urgency for collective action emphasizing upon the critical importance of addressing population-related challenges in Pakistan in terms of the far-reaching implications for the nation's socio-economic progress and the well-being of its citizens.



The Secretary, LJCP drew attention to the burgeoning global population, surpassing 8 billion, and highlighted that Pakistan, with a population of around 240 million, constitutes nearly 3% of the world population, and highlighted grave consequences of rapid population growth on the nation's economic and social fabric, stating, "...rapid population growth erodes the economic and social gains a country painstakingly achieves." Depleting natural resources, slower economic growth rates, rising unemployment, and disparities in access to higher education emerge as pressing concerns in the face of an increasing youth bulge. She emphasized that these challenges demanded urgent attention and effective measures to safeguard the future of the nation.

However, amidst the concerns, Ms. Riffat shed light on the inherent potential of the population with its demographic features, and the underpinning ideas on viewing population as a hidden treasure in the form of human capital vis-à-vis, a burden. However, realizing this potential requires strategic planning and concerted efforts determining the right direction of development for the sake of future generations.

The Secretary highlighted that the imbalance between Pakistan's population and its resources negatively impacted the well-being and basic human rights of its people. She reiterated the importance of adhering to international commitments, including Family Planning 2030 (FP2030), the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Climate Actions, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Finally, Ms. Riffat Inam Butt expressed her appreciation for the participants' active involvement and dedication to the conference's objectives. She emphasized upon the need for active collaboration and a sense of urgency in driving sustainable development initiatives, and involvement of all the stakeholders to work together as a united nation, demonstrating unwavering commitment to the pursuit of balanced and inclusive growth.



## Secretary

### *Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination*

Mr. Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, an accomplished Pakistani civil servant and administrator, shared his insightful perspective on the imperative aspects of resource and population management. Currently serving as Secretary at the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination, Islamabad, Mr. Shallwani's extensive career spans diverse roles in administration, policy-making, and international relations.



In his discourse, Mr. Shallwani highlighted Pakistan's historical efforts in resource and population management. Despite pioneering visionary policies ahead of many nations, effective implementation remained a challenge. He acknowledged the success achieved by countries that diligently translated their plans into actions.

With Pakistan's population projected to reach 403 million by 2050, Mr. Shallwani stressed the potential of the country's substantial young demographic as a future workforce. He underlined the importance of empowering front-line workers at all levels to ensure successful policy implementation stating, "[c]hange will only start if we empower and facilitate our front-line workers; they are the pivot, and we must strengthen them so they may implement these policies."

Mr. Shallwani lauded the collaborative achievements under the National Action Plan 2019, recognizing the instrumental role of the UNFPA in aiding Pakistan's resource and population management endeavours. He emphasized the need for a unified approach between Federal and Provincial authorities, showcasing the Ministry's initiatives in policy execution.

Mr. Shallwani encapsulated his vision with by stating that "a well-nurtured population is an asset; if it is the other way around, it becomes a liability."



## Dr. Luay Shabaneh

*Country Representative, United Nations Population Fund*

Dr. Shabaneh began his speech by expressing heartfelt gratitude to the people of Pakistan for extending such a warm and welcoming reception to him and his family. He acknowledged the honour and privilege he felt to stand before a distinguished audience comprising academics, political figures, social and legal activists, lawyers, judges, and government representatives. Dr. Shabaneh emphasized that the gathering was a significant opportunity to address a pressing concern that he considered of utmost importance for Pakistan. He noted that the conference holds global significance resonating with regional and national trends for demography. He pointed out that these trends create anxiety across the globe, and it also has significant implications for Pakistan's social and economic landscape.

He reaffirmed the strong UNFPA-Pakistan relationship, highlighting Pakistan's significant role as a United Nations ally. Mr. Shabaneh mentioned Mr. António Guterres' visit to Pakistan in September 2022 and his support during the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-27) in Egypt. This dedication was further evident at the 2023 International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan in Geneva. He also paid tribute to Dr. Nafis Sadiq, former UNFPA executive director, for her global impact in advocating women's rights and equality.

He emphasized Pakistan's position as the world's fifth-most populous nation, projected to grow by nearly 50% by 2050. Driven by this, he urged conference attendees to take immediate and impactful measures. He stressed the political significance of the conference, acknowledging the awareness and concern in Pakistan. Drawing from personal experience, he noted a strong sentiment for action. However, he observed that this political concern has yet to translate



into concrete policies or political consensus. He asserted the need for a shared visionary approach, involving all stakeholders, prioritizing the issue, and mobilizing a multi-sectoral effort with effective strategies. He highlighted the missed opportunities in Pakistan's social and economic development due to the underrepresentation of women in the workforce.

*“Women constitute a missed opportunity in Pakistan. It is very important to invest in the capacity of women as they are an important accelerator for economic growth.”*

Mr. Shabaneh emphasized the importance of utilizing democratic processes effectively, including dynamic and inclusive mechanisms involving all stakeholders, such as civil society and private industry. He stressed the necessity of comprehensive engagement at all levels with targeted programs to achieve genuine growth. He highlighted the significance of census and data support, viewing discussions on census as a potent tool for political engagement and growth. He underlined the need for accessible population data to enhance knowledge and awareness in Pakistan. Despite the initial complexity of his opening remarks, he reiterated the purpose of the conference as an accountability platform, evaluating past actions and future requirements.

minimum of 5% women candidates for general seats, and stressed the importance of ensuring the implementation and monitoring of these laws.

Ms. Fauzia stressed that the key to resolution lies in transforming societal mindsets. She referred to a survey where 82% of men supported women working, but 85% believed women needed permission before doing so. Similarly, 40% of women acknowledged seeking permission to work. She highlighted

the universal right to pursue material and spiritual development, as outlined in the International Labour Organization's Declaration of Philadelphia, regardless of gender, race, or caste.

Ms. Fauzia concluded by prompting participants to consider why discussions on a woman's intellectual and economic growth, as well as her spiritual development, are often overlooked or disregarded.

## No Exception, No Exclusion: Women Reproductive Health and Rights

*Dr. Rubina Ali, Assistant Country Representative, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*

Dr. Rubina Ali commenced her speech by highlighting the significance of women in building resilient communities. She emphasized that women possess the potential to foster strong and resilient societies through their roles as healthy mothers and providers of healthy children. However, she expressed concern over prevailing narratives that depict women's bodies and reproductive choices as 'both the problem and solution' to issues of overpopulation. These narratives need critical examination, with a shift towards embracing demographic resilience by adapting to population changes rather than controlling them. Central to this is creating an environment where individuals have the freedom to make their own reproductive choices.

Expanding on this notion, Dr. Ali pointed out that the global population reached 8 billion in



November 2022. While Pakistan, as the fifth most populous country, faces concerns of 'too many,' other regions like Europe are grappling with negative population growth, leading to concerns of 'too few.' Dr. Ali challenged the problematic framing of 'too many,' arguing that it wrongly portrays human survival as a problem rather than an achievement. She connected challenges such as economic instability, climate change, and

resource conflicts to notions of overpopulation, highlighting the misconception of "too much demand – not enough supply." She noted that this narrative often unfairly blames marginalized and poverty-stricken communities, perpetuating the idea that some people are more worthy of surviving and reproducing than others.

Dr. Ali highlighted the historical importance of upholding human rights in addressing population challenges, emphasizing that focusing on human rights is crucial to supporting a healthy and empowered population. She criticized the commodification of women's bodies for corporate gain and cultural norms, advocating instead for a society that respects and upholds the rights and autonomy of all individuals in their reproductive decisions.

She debunked the misconception that controlling fertility rates would automatically build demographic resilience. Dr. Ali explained that demographic change is inevitable and that immediate impacts on population growth from fertility rate changes are limited, as much of the projected increase in population by 2050 is driven by past growth momentum. Blaming global issues solely on population growth perpetuates the notion that some deserve to survive and reproduce more than others and hampers proactive solutions.

Dr. Ali proposed that reframing questions is essential for solving global challenges. Rather than solely focusing on fertility reduction, she urged considering resource management for equitable distribution, advocating for gender equality, and holding corporations accountable for environmental impact.

Acknowledging the historical misuse of women's bodies for control, Dr. Ali argued against interventions aimed at influencing fertility rates, highlighting that the right approach fosters resilient societies regardless of fertility rates. She emphasized that leaving no one behind is the core promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing that women and girls are disproportionately affected by inequality, posing a hurdle to sustainable development.

Dr. Ali presented stark statistics, showcasing Pakistan's challenges in human development and gender equality. She contrasted Bangladesh's success in reducing gender inequality through education and entrepreneurship investment, Iran's efforts to increase women's participation in higher education and employment, Indonesia's promotion of women's economic empowerment, Tunisia's progressive laws for women's rights, and Egypt's empowerment initiatives. Highlighting the benefits of investing in women's rights, Dr. Ali stressed the positive impact on economic growth, productivity, social indicators, and climate change adaptation. She concluded that transforming women's status from burden to accelerator is pivotal for inclusive and equitable societies.

In conclusion, Dr. Ali emphasized the urgency of investing in women's rights for sustainable development in Pakistan. This transformation requires political commitment, a strong legislative framework, women-centered programs, and advocacy efforts. Sustained funding, education, skills development, and entrepreneurship opportunities are crucial for shifting women's status and challenging gender norms, thus paving the way for lasting positive change at the grassroots level.

## Global Discourse on Women Rights and Development

*Dr. Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala, World Health Organization (WHO) Representative & Head of WHO Mission, Pakistan*

Dr. Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala, leading the WHO mission in Pakistan, highlighted crucial socio-economic aspects of women's lives in the country. He provided insights into the global discourse surrounding women's rights and development, emphasizing the imperative of both recognizing and actively working towards women's empowerment in today's complex 21st-century landscape. Dr. Mahipala highlighted the necessity of taking proactive steps to advance gender equality and uplift women in society.

Dr. Palitha eloquently stated that women have consistently served as the bedrock of progress, resilience, and innovation throughout history, however despite their substantial contributions to society, women continue to face marginalization and lack of access to fundamental rights. He strongly criticized the squandering of valuable resources that result in decline and significant losses for nations. He passionately advocated for a collective shift away from the current state and towards the creation of a more inclusive society, emphasizing the need for society to acknowledge the granting of these rights not merely as a distant goal, but as an essential prerequisite for progress. He enunciated that women rights, including their rights to equality, education, accessibility, economic opportunities, political participation, control over their bodies and life decision, among others cannot be given token importance but has to occupy the main stage during policy consideration and implementation.



women, Dr. Palitha highlighted the stark reality that half of the population is excluded from accessing development prospects. He made specific reference to the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action, a comprehensive framework that outlined strategic mechanisms and policy guidance for addressing a multitude of challenges pertaining to women's rights. This landmark declaration provided a roadmap to foster progress in twelve pivotal domains, aiming to create a more equitable and inclusive society. Dr. Palitha presented a comprehensive overview of Pakistan's standing on the Gender Gap Index. He emphasized that achieving gender equity in Pakistan requires substantial investments in education, addressing economic disparities, and improving healthcare. Alarming statistics were shared, painting a concerning picture of women's quality of life in the country. These statistics showed approximately 18.9 million cases of underage and forced marriages, a mere 49% literacy rate, and a troubling 37% of women lacking decision-making power over important life and health matters.

Addressing the disparities in opportunities for

Drawing global comparisons, Dr. Palitha

emphasized the urgent need to address sexual and reproductive health indicators comprehensively. He stressed the necessity of ensuring access to well-regulated public health facilities that go beyond reproductive health services. These facilities should also focus on promoting awareness about protective measures, mental health, and other diseases that disproportionately affect women. Notably, he highlighted the staggering rate of Human papillomavirus (HPV) infections in Pakistan, which is five times higher than in other countries, with limited access to treatment.

Dr. Palitha's recommendations include enhancing healthcare services in remote areas through a public-private partnership, utilizing modern technology for comprehensive care and awareness. He emphasized educating the population about maternal health, child spacing, and family

planning, supported by legal and financial measures. Additionally, Dr. Palitha called for the judicial sector to consider the presented statistics while making decisions, emphasizing a comprehensive approach to address gender disparities in Pakistan.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Palitha highlighted that this gathering is more than just a conference; it's a unified effort to overcome obstacles and create a world where gender equality is not a distant dream but an attainable reality. He urged the judiciary, both non-state and state entities, to work together alongside the international community in a joint endeavour to create an inclusive society and drive transformative change. Dr. Palitha concluded the speech by citing Muhammad Ali Jinnah's famous quote "No struggle can ever succeed without women ever participating side by side with men".

## Women's Education as a Transformative Tool – Individuals to the Society

*Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali, President, SZABIST*

Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali started her speech by building upon the foundation laid by the preceding speaker. She reiterated the significance of education for women and emphasized the need to complement this education with sustainable employment opportunities, ensuring fairness and equal prospects compared to their male counterparts. Addressing the panelists and the audience, she highlighted a crucial inquiry that warrants our attention – what impedes us from attaining a more inclusive society, and how can we effectively overcome



this hindrance? She astutely identified that this obstacle permeates through both societal norms and institutional structures, deeply

ingrained within our system. To nurture progress, she advocated for a deliberate and methodical approach in dismantling this barrier. This involves directing resources and attention towards investing in initiatives that actively combat the hindrance and formulating policies that facilitate its eradication. By targeting this challenge at its roots, we can pave the way for a more equitable and inclusive society.

Ms. Shahnaz emphasized eradicating pervasive stereotypes, advocating equality as the movement's core. She stressed that from birth, irrespective of gender, socio-economic status, or caste, everyone must be seen as equal. These societal and gender stereotypes, she said, pre-determine pathways for a child; hinder personal growth and stem from historical oppressive systems such as child marriages and feudalism. Her call was to challenge these norms and allow individuals to forge their paths.

She acclaimed that inclusivity in the workforce is hindered by quality education and geographical constraints. Often, families refrain from educating girls if schools are distant, unlike boys. This lack of a safe, secure and supportive environment limits opportunities and connections. Referring to Article 25A of the Constitution, guaranteeing the right to equality, life, and education, Ms. Shahnaz questioned why girls are deprived of their entitlement to equal education and inclusion in society. She stressed that education must be a transformative agent and empower girls from a young age.

She appealed to both the private and public sectors to collaborate in reshaping societal norms that often manifest as policies infused with inherent misogyny. This bias is further

entrenched when a majority of decision-makers are male, despite women constituting 52% of the population. She stressed the significance of elevating women to decision-making roles. Emphasizing the need for a reevaluation of attitudes, values, and societal constructs, she asserted that this transformation would foster progress in the nation's social and political economy.

Referencing the data provided by esteemed panelists at the conference, Ms. Shahnaz highlighted Pakistan's disheartening gender disparity situation. She reiterated that educating women and girls is not solely a societal notion; it profoundly impacts the nation's economic advancement. The untapped potential of the female workforce represents a significant opportunity that can be harnessed through empowerment. To achieve this, she stressed the importance of not only enacting legislative measures but also actively shifting the detrimental social constructs in place.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Shahnaz presented compelling data to the attendees, shedding light on a key factor contributing to the disempowerment of women. She revealed that among the total children lacking primary education, a staggering 65% are young girls. This represents a significant loss: 65% of potential, 65% of the workforce, and 65% of potential growth go untapped. Within the education sector, she pointed out that out of the 230 million people, only 5 million students are enrolled in universities, and among them, a mere 40% are women. This stark reality emphasizes the need to harness the potential of these 40% of women in a productive manner.

## Women Reproductive Rights: Silencing the Myths

*Mr. Asif Iftikhar, Fellow, Al-Mawrid Foundation for Islamic Research & Faculty Member, LUMS*

Mr. Iftikhar's speech commenced with a powerful statement, highlighting that many of the societal challenges we confront today are because we close inquiry to the things that we do not understand or fear. He emphasized the pivotal role of academic engagement and stressed that our lack of vocal advocacy, vigilance, and openness to diversity has hindered our progress. Drawing attention to a notable aspect, he pointed out that Muslims have often treated scholarly consensus as unassailable, however the reality is that interpreting the Quran is a task rife with complexities, highlighting that many of our current interpretations of the Quran stand to be challenged. Concepts like birth control, spacing and the like have been treated as anathemas based on restrictive interpretations of the Quran. He added that it is not easy for any community to accept ideas from outside, especially in Muslim majority communities which often adopted a logocentric deontology to ethics, meaning thereby that moral values and ethics are considered to emanate solely from the text, thereby restricting progress

*“When we give veneration to past opinions, to the extent that we equate them with the Quran and Sunnah, the possibility of bringing about change is minimized in a detrimental way.”*

Mr. Iftikhar further expounded on the diversified nature of Islamic intellectual



tradition. He shared that his initial exposure to Islamic academia unveiled its lack of monolithic rigidity. Amidst this, he highlighted a vital truth: the Quran envisions continual human development and open discourse, refuting any notion of stagnation. He remarked that discourse among the *Ulema* (Islamic Scholars) has driven more transformative shifts than secular discourse, a principle emphasized within Islamic academia such as Muhammad Qasim Zaman's book, *The Ulema in Contemporary Islam: Custodians of Change*. To drive his point home, he provided a significant illustration from another Islamic academic involving *zina bil jabbar* (rape), revealing that the Quran never explicitly mentions this term; it was coined by society to tactfully describe the abhorrent crime. This example brought to light an astonishing truth: in Arabic, *zina* means 'consensual', and, unquestionably, crimes like rape do not fall within this category. He noted how the evidentiary

standards from laws related to *zina* have been wrongly transferred to rape cases, inadvertently disadvantaging victims. This diversity in Islamic thought, he emphasized, didn't stem from external influences; it emanated organically from within Islam's own realm.

Mr. Iftikhar underlined the significance of education, both religious and secular. He demystified the notion that education solely thrives within academic institutions; engaging in open dialogues and forums equally constitutes learning. Furthermore, he pointed out the profound responsibility that rests on the judiciary to uphold justice and equity. He recounted a poignant conversation with Hon'ble Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, asking the Hon'ble Judge 'do you know the pedestal on which you have been placed?' He then informed the Hon'ble Justice that the Prophet Muhammad (S) was the first Judge within the Muslim community, and today's Judiciary

worked in the Prophet (S)'s stead. He humorously remarked that in the times of *Banu Ummayah* people would offer condolences to Judges upon their appointment, highlighting the heavy burden cast by the role.

Continuing his discourse, Mr. Iftikhar deemed it imperative to establish a conducive environment for knowledge, interaction, and progress. He emphasized the urgency of women participating fully in these realms.

In his closing remarks, he resonated deeply with the female audience members by referencing *Surah At-Takwir* (Verses 81:8 to 81:10) from the Quran wherein it is stated that on that day of reckoning the infant girl buried alive will be asked what was the sin for which she was killed; adding that he often wondered whether the oppressed woman will not be asked who was there who helped her and lifted her out of oppression.



## Concluding Remarks by Co-Chair

*Ms. Khawar Mumtaz, Women's Rights Activist & Chairperson Emeritus,  
National Commission of the Status of Women*

Ms. Khawar Mumtaz concluded the session by acknowledging the Supreme Court's intervention through the *suo moto* case, which catalyzed the establishment of a task force and subsequent committee. This procedural evolution marked a transition from a focus on population control to a more expansive human rights development agenda, with a primary emphasis on advancing women's rights and empowerment. The discourse then delved into the realm of women's health and its integral connection to the population dynamics. It explored key factors like the ideal number of children per woman, the spacing between childbirths, the educational opportunities afforded to women, and the evolving paradigms surrounding marriage.

Ms. Khawar Mumtaz cited notable provisions within the Constitution, including Article 9 (right to life), Article 14 (right to dignity), Article 15 (right to movement), Article 25 (equality), and Article 25A (right to free and compulsory education). She emphasized that these constitutional rights are not gender-biased and are equally applicable to both men and women. Ms. Mumtaz highlighted the significance of the current moment, which falls 30 years after the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), particularly in relation to gender equality, equity, and the empowerment of women.

She referenced Chapter 7 of the ICPD programme of action, focusing on reproductive rights and health, and emphasized the conference's relevance and timeliness. Ms. Mumtaz stressed the crucial role of justice and equity as vital indicators for achieving the goals set forth by the ICPD, with



a specific focus on advancing women's rights. Her speech shed light on the importance of aligning these principles with Pakistan's constitutional framework to ensure the rights and well-being of women.

She noted that various dimensions of society and women's rights have been extensively discussed, including women's status and the profound impact of their contributions in society. She reiterated the belief that the global transformation being pursued, a change that all of us are striving for, is intrinsically linked to the active involvement of women. Ms. Mumtaz emphasized the importance of effecting change through transformative actions, specifically focusing on overcoming the stagnant contraceptive prevalence rate data. She highlighted that a key approach is to harness the untapped potential of the female population and address pressing challenges like arranged marriages, teenage pregnancies, and barriers to education and employment. These issues, she highlighted, have been a hindrance to national progress and require concerted efforts to bring about meaningful change.

## Q&A Session

**Ms. Mumtaz (Co-Chair):** The first question is directed towards Ombudsperson Viqar and states that harassment in education institutions, particularly in higher education systems is not addressed adequately, especially from management and faculty towards female students. Why is this not addressed through the harassment act or HEC's policy?

**Ombudsperson Viqar:** If you look at the law as it stands today, it is quite progressive. It was amended in 2022 whereby the definition of

employee in section 2(f) was changed to include students and the definition of workplace in section 2(n) was also amended, including educational institutions. With regards to HEC's policy on harassment, I believe it is quite reformative and more expanded than the current legislation. The issue is with implementation which arises from impunity and lack of accountability. However, one of the ways to address that is to bring more complaints. It is advised that, in such cases, if the institution does not entertain the complaint, it should be brought forth to



the ombudsperson's offices, which are located across the countries in different provinces. Getting more complaints would allow the authority to understand what's going on and it is only then the institution can be shaken into taking cognizance and to addressing the issue, because strong women's machineries or institutions, addressing these issues and rights, are fundamental to solving the issue of implementation that we see today.

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**Ms. Mumtaz (Co-Chair):** *The second question is directed towards Mr. Iftikhar. There are some hadiths by the Prophet (SAW) saying that "I want my ummah greater in number" or that "rizq is guaranteed by Allah", etc. which are often quoted by religious clerics against the efforts to control the population. How do we counter such arguments and reconcile the apparent contradictions?*

**Mr. Iftikhar:** This is one of the most often asked questions regarding any kind of birth spacing and, as I have said, if you look at the discourses, you'll realize that out of the plethora of hermeneutical approaches, one which was very atomistic focused on just the literal argument based on a certain understanding of some hadith literature, but there are other arguments as well from scholars focusing on a more holistic approach, as this is not the only area where this has happened. Everyone is well aware of what happened in one matter where a judgment was given regarding wali's (guardian) consent on marriage on the basis of a hadith, which is authentic but the way the

author of the judgment had interpreted it, in terms of a certain school of thought, to see it as a statement of Shara on the part of the Prophet (S), whereas I saw this as a statement of Qadah. It was a kind of administrative, quasi-judicial judgment, which changed the nature of the nikkah (marriage) so people did not have to declare the marriage void ab initio. The same instance applies here with this hadith; one has to realize that when you look at the text, not atomistically but holistically and look at the context and see what the verse is saying, then an entirely different meaning comes out. You have to look at verses like Wallahu Khair-ur-Razikeen, where exactly it is used? For instance, referring to an ayat in the Quran which, loosely translated, asks a rhetorical question of whether humans bring forth cultivation or does God?; essentially declaring that it is God that cultivates the land. But does this mean that the cultivator should not work on the plantation? Does it mean he is not supposed to irrigate or exercise due diligence or be prudent? That is obviously not what the verse means. There are occasions where something is at stake, the Prophet (S) himself asked his companions to make a sacrifice for religion. There is the instance of migration, where people left their houses, their business and were worried for their livelihood (rizq), and they were told not to worry but to exercise due diligence. In Arabic, we call this concept Tafweez (delegation) which is an important concept in religion along with Tawwakul (trust/faith). In the arena of not only law but also sociology, it is the ideology of doing as much as you are reasonably required to do and leave the rest to God. This hadith has to be put in its right context.

## Video Messages

Numerous impactful individuals sent video messages during the Conference, expressing their endorsement and gratitude for this endeavour, while also sharing their personal suggestions. An overview of these messages is presented as follows:

### ***Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Chairman, Council of Islamic Ideology***

Islam is essentially a religion of organization and balance. With regard to population, the same principle must be adopted. When there is break/gap for the health of the mother and the child, then the education of the children can be better managed, there can be a better housing environment for the children and then there may be better upbringing for them. So in addition to quantity, if we look at their ability and potential, balance and organization are the best ways to deal with the population.

### ***Syed Babar Ali, Founder, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)***

The current population explosion is a pertinent problem warranting immediate attention for ensuring the future development and growth of Pakistan. In 1971 our population was almost at par with that of Bangladesh, and today in 2023 our population stands at approximately 240 million, while Bangladesh stands at less than 180 million. We don't have to reinvent the wheel in terms of family planning strategies – in our neighbourhood Iran and Bangladesh, two very important Muslim Countries, have been able to organize their population growth in such a way that their population growth rate is less than 1.5% per annum and there is no reason, if we make a concerted effort, that we cannot reach that figure in a few years' time.

Education and awareness play a very crucial role in tackling population-related issues – when a people are informed about the advantages of family planning and educated about contraceptive options, they are more likely to make informed decisions that align with their aspirations and the nation's well-being. Moreover, investing in girls' education is proven to have a significant impact on population growth. Educated women tend to have fewer children and are more likely to be active participants in the workforce, contributing to economic growth and development. We must invest in girls' education and empowerment of women to this end.

The status of population in Pakistan remains a critical challenge and demands our attention and collective effort. We must prioritize family planning, education and awareness to create a sustainable and prosperous future for our nation. By empowering individuals with knowledge and access to resources we can shape a more balanced and resilient society that thrives amidst the demographic changes of the 21st century. Having conferences and passing resolutions is not enough, we have to allocate more money to healthcare and education in order to facilitate sustainable population growth.

### ***Dr. Abdul Bari Khan, President, Indus Hospital and Health Network***

It is no secret that our nation's explosive population growth is a challenge which we must begin to unravel and collaboratively solve. At this critical juncture in Pakistan's journey towards sustainable development, navigating this interplay between population growth and resource availability has now become essential if we are to experience any progress.

At the Indus Hospital, I have witnessed time and again how economic circumstances, education and welfare can impact health – factors which are almost always directly caused by rapid population growth and lead to a vicious cycle of poverty. It is inevitable that vulnerable and disenfranchised communities, or a young population with little economic participation or hope of employment in the future, cannot progress. This situation is only exacerbated by Pakistan's dismal health indicators, however, what gives me hope is conferences like these which offer a space for meaningful discussion and collaboration to occur.

As citizens of Pakistan, we all have a shared responsibility to address this dire issue. Let us unite, rise above our political, social and cultural barriers and work towards a sustainable future that ensures a high quality of life for all Pakistanis, present and future generations alike.

***Jamal Shah, Actor & Social Activist***

If we keep our wishes within the limits of our resources then life will become easier, otherwise the world will shrink itself upon us. We must keep the land of this earth wide and bountiful for ourselves. By limiting the number of children, we can easily provide healthy food, advanced and quality education and a dignified life to all. Farsighted and long-term thinking is the secret to prosperity.

Currently we are overcrowding our surroundings to the extent that resources are diminishing and making increasingly difficult to move forward. It is up to us to help Pakistan in its journey toward becoming a developed nation and let us make a collective decision that we will take care of ourselves and will enhance the resources too. This would only be possible when we will be able to play our part in population control and in addition to recognizing our rights, we recognize our duties.

## Marching Towards a Resilient Pakistan: Call for Action

*Dr. Sabina A. Durrani, Director General, Population Programme Wing, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination*

Dr. Sabina A. Durrani presented the Conference's recommendations. The preamble highlighted the challenges posed by rapid population growth in Pakistan and the origin of the National Task Force on Population & Family Planning through a *Suo Moto* Notice. This Task Force developed recommendations that formed the basis of the National Action Plan (2019-24), endorsed by the Supreme Court and approved by the Council of Common Interest (CCI). The primary objective was to lower fertility rates and population growth.

The recommendations stress the importance of adhering to CCI recommendations and the unfinished agenda of the National Action Plan. These include regular meetings of Federal and Provincial task forces to improve coordination, allocating funds to the Pakistan Population Fund, promoting the 'National Narrative on Population,' and enhancing healthcare services.

The recommendations also call for integrating population factors into development policies, meeting constitutional obligations for education and healthcare, seeking external financial resources, learning from successful international models, involving the private



sector and civil society, transforming social norms, and leveraging the youth population. Additionally, the recommendations encourage engagement with parliamentarians for legislations aligned with the CCI-approved Recommendations /National Action Plan, decentralizing population programs to district levels, reviewing pro-natalist policies, redefining NFC award criteria, planning for emergencies, and evaluating the existing National Action Plan with UNFPA's support.

The full list of recommendations is appended at the end of the report, reflecting the Conference's comprehensive strategy to address Pakistan's population growth issue.

## Concluding Remarks

*Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Chief Justice of Pakistan*



In his closing remarks, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial, expressed his appreciation for the participation of esteemed Conference members and acknowledged the organizing committee for creating a meaningful platform.

Looking ahead, the Chief Justice outlined a strategic blueprint for advancing population management efforts. He emphasized the existence of established policies and government cognizance of the priority areas discussed throughout the conference. With a nod to the progressive legislations in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he advocated for proponents of recommendations to engage respective governments in the enforcement process. Furthermore, he highlighted the significant role that courts can play in ensuring compliance with existing laws and

policies, especially those pertaining to women's Fundamental Rights. This, he believed, would foster a progressive and economically vibrant society where women are empowered decision-makers.

Shifting the focus to a constitutional context, the Chief Justice addressed Pakistan's role on the international stage. He concluded by extending well wishes to all attendees for fruitful endeavours ahead, aligning with his emphasis on promoting happy families, a sentiment he had previously discussed.

In retrospect, the Chief Justice emphasized key priorities that emerged during the conference:

- Investing in female education, particularly in underserved regions.
- Promoting increased female participation in the workforce for informed family

planning choices.

- Advocating for public-private partnerships to expand family planning and reproductive healthcare access.
- Addressing financial resource gaps and reconsidering pro-natal policies.
- Promoting a holistic, cross-sectoral

approach involving diverse stakeholders.

In conclusion, the Chief Justice emphasized the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to address the overarching issue of population management, urging unified efforts to secure a promising future for Pakistan.

## Vote of Thanks

*Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan*

Ms. Riffat Inam Butt delivered the vote of thanks, officially concluding the Conference. In her address, she extended gratitude to the organizers, speakers, and attendees for their contribution and participation in making the event a success. She also acknowledged the invaluable support provided by various organizations that played a role in ensuring the event's effectiveness.

The ceremony included a recognition segment, where plaques and certificates were

presented as tokens of appreciation. The organizing committee, comprising the Hon'ble Justices Amin-ud-Din Khan (Chair), Muhammad Ali Mazhar, and Ayesha A. Malik, joined the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan in presenting the appreciation certificates and souvenirs. The recipients included not only the speakers but also the dedicated team of organizers, LJCP and Ministry of Health teams hosting the event, rapporteurs, and interns who worked diligently to orchestrate the Conference. This gesture emphasized the collective effort and collaborative spirit that underpinned the event's accomplishments.



## Conference Recommendations

While appreciating Supreme Court's initiative of constituting a National Task Force on population and family planning, as a consequence of *Suo Moto* taken in 2018; and recalling that the Council of Common Interest (CCI) approved the National Task Force Recommendations; and reaffirming that the CCI recommendations are aligned with national and provincial population policies and international commitments; and realizing that the investment in family planning and population programs is the most cost effective development intervention, the Conference recommended to strictly pursue CCI Recommendations and implement unfinished agenda of the National Action Plan (NAP), including:

- i. Holding regular meetings of the Federal and Provincial Task Forces to be chaired by the Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers as decided in the 40th meeting of the CCI and strengthening national, provincial and district coordination and accountability fora such as CEWG, FP2030, and District Population and Health Management Boards/Committees.
- ii. Providing Rs.10 billions per year (non-lapsable) to Pakistan Population Fund, outside NFC by the Federal Government and doubling the financial allocations in the budgetary provisions of Provincial

governments.

- iii. Unpacking the 'National Narrative on Population' (Tawazan) and disseminating it effectively through a synchronized and diversified communication campaign in partnership with governmental departments, civil society organizations (CSOs), and private sector platforms.
- iv. Ensuring full thrust to implement Functional Integration Model, while redefining the role and functions of FWWs and LHWs and increasing progressively the number of health workforce especially midlevel service providers and community midwives who can deliver essential family planning, reproductive health, maternal and newborn health services and nutrition as part of the Universal Health Care Package, along with integrating data and reporting mechanisms.
- v. Strengthening best practices of Community workers (LHWs and CMWs) for providing family planning services at the door step, PFP, and universalizing Marital Counseling and testing and upscaling innovative approaches to expand access to family planning services.
- vi. Incentivizing local production of

- contraceptives and moving forward on fast track.
- vii. Protecting Finances for Procurement of contraceptives against budget cuts and creating financial ease by not imposing any taxes or duties on contraceptives.
  - viii. Ensuring that social protection programs such as BISP includes demand side financing mechanisms to reduce the unmet need for family planning of marginalized women.
  - ix. Mainstreaming population factor in all development policies and programs and to adopt an approach that addresses the Population planning in a multi-sectoral perspective i.e. addressing population issue within the larger context of Sustainable Development - an economic imperative that increases the quality of life for all people through curbing excessive consumption and generating productive growth; alleviating poverty; achieving sustainable agricultural and industrial production, energy and natural resources in harmony with the environment; and improving health care and the quality of, and access to, education.
  - x. Fulfilling the constitutional obligation of providing education to all children between the ages of 5-16 years and declare Health as a fundamental human right in the Constitution of Pakistan 1973.
  - xi. Mobilizing external financial resources through regular meeting(s) of the Government-Donor' Forum / Strategic Forum as announced during the International Donors Conference held in November 2021 to bridge the resource-gap required to accelerate the implementation of the National Action Plan.
  - xii. Fostering international cooperation to learn from best practices by creating partnerships and platforms for exchange of experiences. Pakistan requires to learn from historical success of Turkey, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Iran in reducing fertility, enhancing contraceptive use by empowering women and girls resulting into human capital formation in terms of employment, economic growth and productivity.
  - xiii. Institutionalizing the role of private sector and civil society organizations in enhancing access to family planning information and services, especially in urban, rural and peri-urban areas, thereby achieving a total market approach in provision of family planning services. The potential of private sector can be

unleashed through public-private partnership and facilitation from the government in areas like NGO registration/renewal, sales tax and duties exemption on commodity supplies, etc.

- xiv. Ensuring transformation of social and gender norms and remove social barriers that discriminate against women and prevents their full participation in society and take actions that are needed to empower women to not only decide on the number and spacing of their children, by providing adequate and extended counselling for voluntary birth spacing and access to sexual and reproductive health care and providing violence free and secure environment for women's participation in public life.
- xv. Capitalizing the youth bulge aged 15-30 years who are in a quest for quality education, life skills, employment and decent living. It is imperative that Pakistan taps this "demographic dividend" meaningfully, through calibrating a balance between population and resources so that the lives, health and success of our future generations are not compromised by the current galloping population growth rate.
- xvi. Launching an advocacy with the parliamentarians / legislators directly and through the Parliamentarian Forum to introduce and work for the passage of the legislations outlined in the CCI approved Recommendations / National Action Plan on Population and Family Planning.
- xvii. Devolving population program at the district level and promote the active participation of local governments, community groups, and non-governmental organizations, especially women's groups, in implementing the National Action Plan.
- xviii. Reviewing national resource distribution while incorporating in it the development and women empowerment indices along with like India and Bangladesh.
- xix. Planning for and providing emergency services as part of basic human rights during natural calamities like floods, COVID-19, food insecurities and continuing adverse impacts of climate change.

## Conference Programme

First Day: Friday, July 14, 2023	
14:30 -15:30	Registration
	Arrival of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan
15:40 -15:45	National Anthem
15:45 -15:50	Recitation from the Holy Quran
15:50 -16:00	Opening Ceremony: i. Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan. ii. Secretary, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination. iii. Country Director, The United Nations Population Fund-UNFPA.
16:00 -16:30	Keynote speech by HCJP (Justice for Population)
Session One: Review of the Progress after the Human Rights Case No.17599/2018	
16:30 -18:00	i. Documentary on Population
	ii. Plenary discussions on the progress made by the Federal, Provincial departments and GB and AJK on the decision of the Council of Common Interest (CCI) and National Population Plan.
	<i>15 minutes (each speaker) to present achievements, gaps, challenges and the way forward on population dynamics.</i>
	Chair: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan
	Co Chair: Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali, President, SZABIST.
Session Two: The International Perspective on Population Growth	
18:00 -19:30	The speakers will share thoughts on global perspective focusing on policies, program, strategies adopted by their countries on population management, human capitalization, youth development, family planning and women empowerment etc. and lessons for Pakistan. Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Samukeliso Dube, Executive Director, FP2030 Secretariat, Washington</li> <li>• Dr. Tauseef Ahmed, Technical Advisor, UNFPA</li> <li>• Monica Kerrigan, MPH Interim Managing Director, the North America &amp; Europe</li> <li>• Professor Muhammad Jalal Abbasi, Tehran University, Iran</li> </ul>
	Chair: Hon'ble Mr. Yahya Afridi, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan
	Co Chair: Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Country Representative, UNFPA
20:00	Dinner

Second Day: Saturday, July 15, 2023	
Session Three: Demographic Trends and Implications for Pakistan	
09:00 -11.00	i. <b>Demographic features of Pakistan – What population statistics unfold?</b> Speaker: Mrs. Samina A. Hasan, Executive Director-NIPS
	ii. <b>Utilizing the demographic potential: the need for structural reforms.</b> Speaker: Dr. Zeba Sathar (T.I.), Country Director, Population Council.
	ii. <b>Population dynamics of Pakistan: opportunity for achieving the SDGs.</b> Speaker: Mr. Rafiullah Kakar, Member (Social Sector & Devolution), Planning Commission of Pakistan
	iv. <b>High population and economic vulnerabilities of Pakistan</b> Speaker: Dr. Durre Nayab, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics
	Chair: Hon’ble Mr. Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan
	Co Chair: Dr. Sania Nishtar (Public Policy Expert)
11:00-11:30	<b>Refreshment</b>
Session Four: Pathways to Economic and Social Cohesion	
11:30 -13:00	i. <b>Investing in the Next Generation: utilizing the youth bulge.</b> Speaker: Dr. Adil Najam, Dean, Pardee School of Governance, Boston University, US
	ii. <b>Social inclusion – re-aligning strategies for poverty alleviation</b> Speaker: Mr. Arshad Rashid, Chief Programs, PPAF
	iii. <b>Social Protection for balancing families</b> Speaker: Dr. Amjad Saqib, Akhuwat Foundation (Online participation).
	iv. <b>Growing population, climate change and lessons for Pakistan</b> Speaker: Mr. Amir Khan Goraya, Asst. Resident Representative, UNDP, Pakistan
	Chair: Hon’ble Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan (TBD)
	Co-Chair: Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI.
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
Session Five: Women Rights, Empowerment and Equality.	
14:00-15:30	Video Message: Executive Director, UNFPA
	i. <b>Global discourse on women rights and development.</b> Speaker: Dr Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala, WHO Representative and Head of WHO Mission in Pakistan
	ii. <b>No Exception, No Exclusion: Women reproductive health &amp; rights</b> Speaker: Dr. Rubina Ali, Assistant Country Representative, UNFPA - Pakistan.
	iii. <b>Economic empowerment of women: An existential necessity.</b> Speaker: Ms. Fouzia Viqar, Federal Ombudsperson against Women Harassment
	iv. <b>Women education as transformative tool - individuals to the society.</b> Speaker: Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali, President – SZABIST

	<p>v. <b>Women reproductive rights: silencing the myths.</b>                  Speaker: Mr. Asif Iftikhar, Teaching Fellow, LUMS</p>
	<p>Chair: Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan</p>
	<p>Co Chair: Ms. Khawar Mumtaz, Ex- Chairperson, NCSW.</p>
<p><b>Concluding Ceremony</b></p>	
15:30-16:30	<p>Marching Towards a Resilient Pakistan/Call for Action                  Ministry of National Health Services Regulations &amp; Coordination, and UNFPA</p>
	<p>Concluding Remarks: Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan</p>
	<p>Vote of thanks: Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan</p>
<p><b>Refreshment</b></p>	











