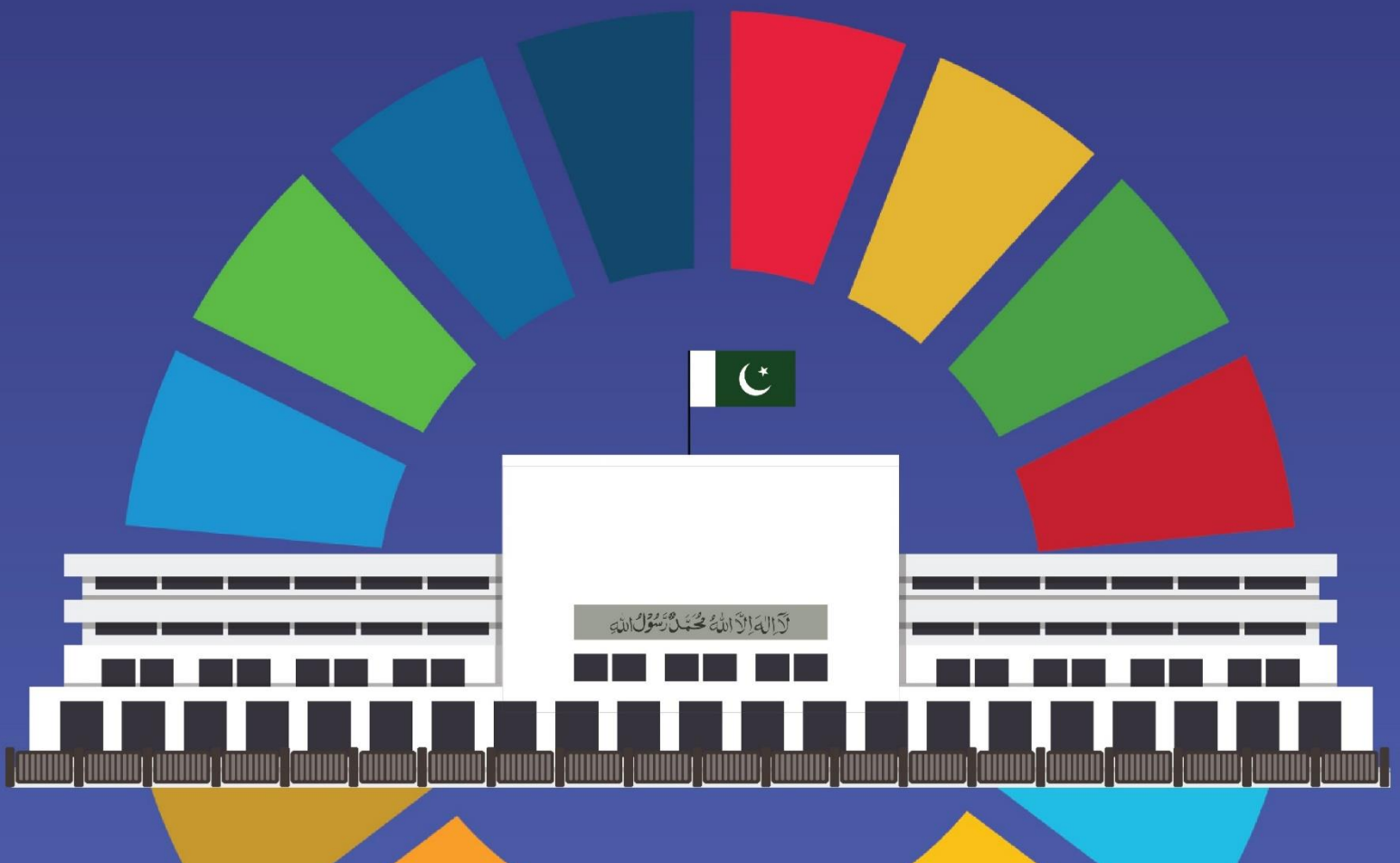


# QUARTERLY REPORT (JAN – MAR 2020)

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
SECRETARIAT



# Table of Contents

<b>OBJECTIVE.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>QUARTER UPDATE.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Consolidation of Child Rights Laws (Federal).....	4
Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Regional Seminar on SDGs.....	4
Multi-stakeholder Consultation of Sub-Group SDG-8 (Economic Growth).....	5
Pak-Afghan Women MPs Dialogue on Sustainable Peace.....	5
Meeting of the Sub-Group on SDGs Scorecards.....	6
Child Rights Special Committee Consultation on Online Child Safety.....	7
Sub-Group on SDG-5 (Gender Equality) .....	8
<b>Mental Health Summit.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>9</b>



## OBJECTIVE

The objective of the National Parliamentary SDGs Secretariat is twofold; first, to develop a sustainable framework that focuses on establishing a burning platform through dispensing relevant and comparable data to Parliamentarians & the Executive and provide them with critical insights along with technical assistance to them.

Second objective is to develop a Parliamentary forum, in the form of Parliamentary Task Force driving ownership of development targets from all Provincial Assemblies including Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK). This task has been particularly challenging due to the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan in 2010 - after the devolution of almost all apparatus of Government such as education, health, climate change and the development sector from a federal mandate to the independent provinces.

Hence, for the federal and provincial SDGs Task Force, the objective is to effectively and efficiently highlight challenges, share successes and lessons, and provide an enabling environment for line-ministries and departments to work collaboratively. 131 members Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs, with robust representation from Parliament and all Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan has been in place. The parliamentary Task Force is also responsible for tracking and overseeing progress on the goals committed by the Government of Pakistan within the SDGs. Valuable insights from the Task Force are assembled, analysed and communicated with the Parliament, Provincial Assemblies and key stakeholders such as civil society, development partners, think tanks and experts, academia, media etcetera.

While oversight sits at the heart of the Secretariat's agenda, the Secretariat works in close collaboration with the Executive arm of the Government. Together with all stakeholders, the Secretariat has developed a structured framework articulating annual targets, focused work plans with clear goals and accountabilities focusing on prioritizes such as economic growth, health, education, gender equality, climate



action, child rights, routine immunisation and with the passage of time the list is sure to grow.

A team of UNICEF consultants that ensures research, technical assistance, coordination and liaison between stakeholders and the Task Force leads the Secretariat, for legislative analysis and gap identification as well as community engagement and mobilization at constituency level. The Secretariat acts as a center for credible, authentic, and comparable data that is critical in tracking, monitoring and evaluating social sector reforms to take informed decisions. The team not only facilitates regular vertical coordination between the Federal Parliament and provincial assemblies, but also enables horizontal coordination and knowledge sharing. Further, UNICEF and Federal Secretariat have designed a collaborative work plan based on priority SDG targets.

## QUARTER UPDATE

In line with the work plan, multiple interventions and activities have been undertaken in the Jan- March 2020 quarter. Key highlights were the preparations for the International Conference on SDGs (scheduled for March 2020, cancelled due to growing regional concerns of COVID-19 in mid-February 2020). During the same quarter, the Child Rights Special Committee took up the significant work of consolidating child related laws for Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), in collaboration with the Standing Committee on Law & Justice. Sub-Group on SDG-5 (Gender Equality) and Sub-Group on SDG-8 (Economic Growth) were formally launched.

### Consolidation of Child Rights Laws (Federal)

One of the mandated tasks assigned to the SDGs Task Force Special-Committee on Child Rights (CR) was to work on a legislative review aimed at identifying gaps in legislation and prioritization of the actions for every child to realize their rights. In collaboration with UNICEF, the Special-Committee completed a legislative review of child related laws. It was observed, that most laws in Pakistan focus on prohibition of certain anti-child practices. Very few laws provided state guarantees for the provision



of free services to fulfill basic needs of the child - crucial for their balanced and holistic development like nutrition, medical services, and early childhood care and education (ECCE). It was felt that comprehensive and inclusive legislative framework relating to child rights is missing. Legal inconsistencies, overlaps and gaps were identified. In January 2020 the CR Special-Committee, alongside the Standing Committee on Law and Justice was tasked to draw together different enactments on similar topics into a single Act. The new legislative instrument would address lacunas, and replace provisions in different Acts passed over the years. Chairperson CR Special-Committee Hon. MNA Mehnaz Aziz Akber is leading the process.

### Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Regional Seminar on SDGs

During the Jan-Mar 2020 quarter, major efforts and time was directed to ensure an effective international multilateral engagement on SDGs to be hosted by the Secretariat. Over 36 Parliaments of the Asia Pacific were sent invitations. While working papers were developed, thematic sessions designed in consultation with partners, travel arrangements and logistics were managed – the conference had to be called off (on February 18, 2020), given growing regional concerns on COVID-19. The conference shall be re-scheduled at a suitable time.



Jan-Feb2020: Weekly preparatory meetings of the International Conference on SDGs

### Multi-stakeholder Consultation of Sub-Group SDG-8 (Economic Growth)

The National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs Sub-Group on SDG 8 – Decent Work & Economic Growth, aims to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, productive employment and decent work for all. In this regard, a



consultation was held on February 13, 2020 to formally involve stakeholders from the government and private sector. The focus of the meeting was the introduction of process of carrying out a legislative review of the existing laws, bills and amendments related to SDG-8. Furthermore, it was decided to develop a roadmap for partnering on the subject with relevant custodian ministries, government programmes and prospective partners. The Sub-Group is chaired by Hon. MNA Sajida Zulfiqar.



February 13, 2020: Members of the National Assembly and Senate in a meeting with private sector and businesses at the Parliament House – Islamabad.

### Pak-Afghan Women MPs Dialogue on Sustainable Peace

Recognizing the joint commitment to improve sustainable peace and security in the region, women parliamentarians, civil society representatives, academicians and civil service officers from Afghanistan met with SDGs Task Force Members on February 17, 2020. The delegates agreed that in order to achieve peace, promotion of women in all spheres of society is fundamental to development, and acknowledged that elected women representatives have a vital role to play in shaping the socio-economic and political empowerment of women in their respective countries. Supporting women parliamentarians by providing them with access to networks, information, and examples of best practice will help to enhance their profiles within their legislatures and will enable them to influence and encourage women in their countries to become active in the political and economic processes. Participants from both sides showed willingness to explore opportunities to collaborate on international programmes and activities that benefit women and





child welfare of both countries.



February 17, 2020: Afghan delegate alongside Women Members of the SDGs Task Force and Secretariat team.

### Meeting of the Sub-Group on SDGs Scorecards

One of the key strategic intents of the Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs is to develop district-wise, comparable data scorecards for each priority SDGs target. The scorecards will serve as a tool to monitor overall development framework of Pakistan. The scorecards will provide Parliamentarians and Provincial Assembly members with a detailed development profile of their constituency in relation to SDGs, enabling them to formulate and push for effective and informed legislation and oversight. Therefore, the Sub-Group aims to establish an online tool of linkages and bring together various available data sets to provide requisite data and analysis to parliamentarians as and when needed, preferably at the constituency level. This will not necessarily collect its own data but using and bringing together various datasets and information.





February 25, 2020: Meeting of the Sub-Group on SDGs Scorecards, presentations from provincial SDG Units.

In this regard a meeting was held on February 25, 2020 to consult with provincial SDG Units. Given the wide magnitude of the task at hand, the Federal Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms has joined to technically assist the Task Force. The scorecard will be a one- window information solution on SDGs at the constituency level, while simultaneously ensuring a feedback mechanism. Former Provincial Minister for Finance, Hon MNA Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha, chairs the Sub-Group.

### **Child Rights Special Committee Consultation on Online Child Safety**

Given the growing concerns about child exploitation in Pakistan and increasing number of child abuse cases coming to the light, the SDGs Secretariat arranged a consultation meeting with Parliamentarians on 'Online Child Safety' in collaboration with the Facebook Asia-Pacific HQ team on March 03, 2020. The meeting was chaired by Convener Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs Hon. MNA Riaz Khan Fatyana. The meeting was attended by Members of the Task Force, and Dr. Rubina (newly appointed) Child Rights Commissioner.







March 03, 2020: Members of the CR Special Committee along with Facebook team at the SDGs Secretariat.

### Sub-Group on SDG-5 (Gender Equality)

The Sub-group of the SDGs Parliamentary Taskforce on Gender Equality (SDG-5) organized a Stakeholders Consultation on March 10, 2020 at SDGs Secretariat. The consultation aimed at working on strengthening oversight of gender sensitive legislations and



March 10, 2020: Hon MNA Shandana Gulzar opening the consultation on SDG-5

policy and to create linkages with institutions working on Gender Issue. The Members of SDGs Parliamentary Task Force and senior officials from the National & Provincial Commissions on Status of Women from ICT, KPK and Punjab attended the meeting. Hon. MNA Shandana Gulzar Khan chairs the Group<sup>1</sup>. The Parliamentary Group provides an opportunity for partnerships across the board to ensure effective coordination amongst all bodies working on SDG-5. The meeting included detailed presentations by the representatives of various organizations including federal and provincial National Commissions on the Status of Women



(NCSW) and UN Women. A workplan is being developed in this regard.

### Mental Health Summit

Growing global evidence about mental disorders suggests that social factors are strongly related to mental health. Mental health conditions are one of the most common causes of disability worldwide. There is limited awareness and great stigma attached to mental illness. This is a challenge across the world, in particular in South Asia where literacy rates are lower.

<sup>1</sup> Hon. MNA Shandana Gulzar Khan is the elected Chairperson Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians. Given these constraints, the SDGs Task Force hosted a Parliamentary Mental Health Summit on March 12, 2020 at the Presidency. The aim of the Summit was to learn and share experiences to bring about a legislative intervention for the protection and promotion of mental health education across the country. Besides parliamentarians, diplomatic missions, civil society, international partners, academia and media attended the event.

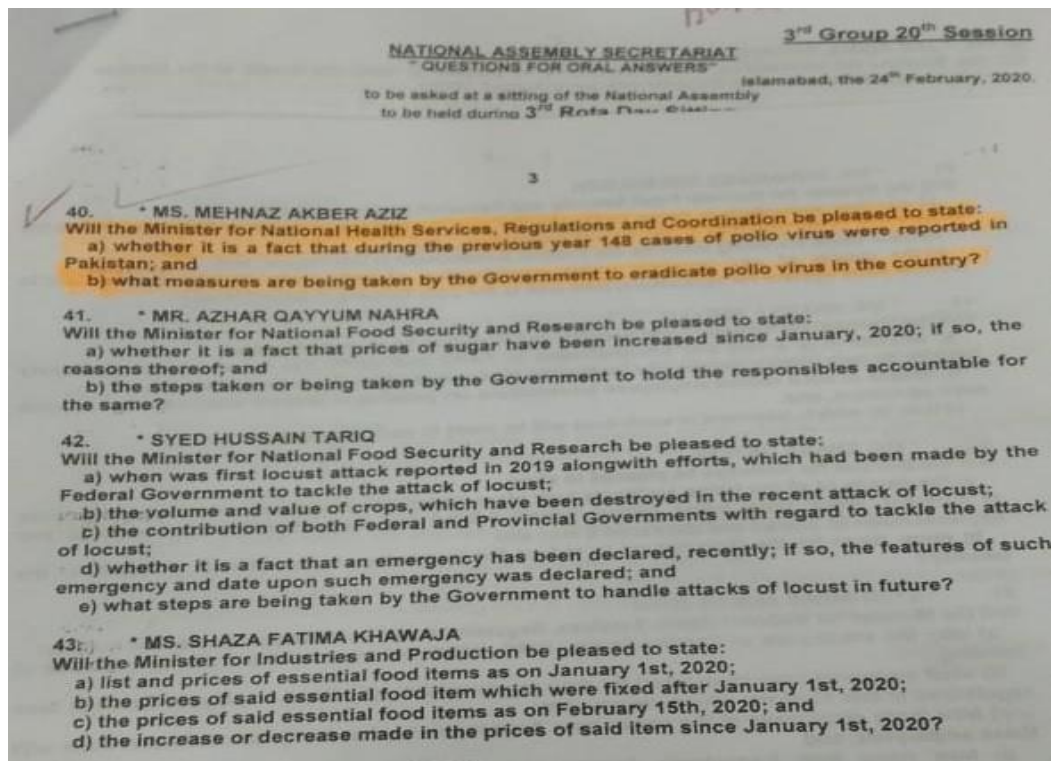


March 12, 2020: President Dr. Arif Alvi inaugurating the All Parliamentary Mental Health Summit.



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

SDGs Secretariat plays a key role in supporting the legal framework that enables the goals to be achieved. During the Jan-Mar 2020 quarter, through evidence-based research and data, the team has assisted Task Force members in multiple legislative and oversight tool including amendments, Questions/Calling Attention Notices on education, child protection, climate change and multiple other SDG target areas. Besides this, the team has been tracking these instruments and following up with the National Assembly Secretariat.



February 24, 2020: Supported by the Secretariat team, Questions from the SDGs Task Force Member MNA Mehnaz Akber in the National Assembly 20<sup>th</sup> Order of the Day

Task Force Members including MNA Riaz Khan Fatyana, MNA Ms. Nafeesha I. Khattak, MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah, MNA Ms. Mehnaz Akber Aziz, MNA Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha, MNA Ms. Naureen Ibrahim, MNA Ms. Zahra Wadood Fatemi and various others are frequently assisted with research and coordination for Questions and Calling Attention Notices during every parliamentary session.





## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT**

### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

for the meeting of the National Assembly to be held on Tuesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 at 11.00 a.m.

1. *Tilawat, Naat* and national anthem.

### **CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE**

2. **MR. FAZAL MUHAMMAD KHAN**  
**MALIK MUHAMMAD EHSAN ULLAH TIWANA**  
**MR. SHER AKBAR KHAN** to invite attention of the Minister for Energy to a matter of urgent public importance regarding shortage/non-recruitment of staff in power companies, causing grave concern amongst the public.

### **MOTION UNDER RULE 259**

3. Further discussion on the following motion moved by Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020:-

"This House may discuss the prevailing situation in the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir."

### **MATTERS OTHER THAN POINTS OF ORDER**

4. Raising matters under Rule 18 which are not Points of Order.

### **CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE**

5. **MR. MUHAMMAD AFZAL KHOKHAR** **CH. MAHMOOD BASHIR VIRK**  
**MR. MURTAZA JAVED ABBASI** **CHAUDHRY ABID RAZA**  
**DR. NISAR AHMED CHEEMA** to invite attention of the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination to a matter of urgent public importance regarding discontinuation of free provision of medicines to Cancer patients, causing grave concern amongst the public.

February 4, 2020: Supported by the Secretariat team, Calling Attention Notice on Health from SDGs Task Force Member and Former Deputy Speaker MNA Murtaza Javed Abbasi in the National Assembly Order of the Day.

