

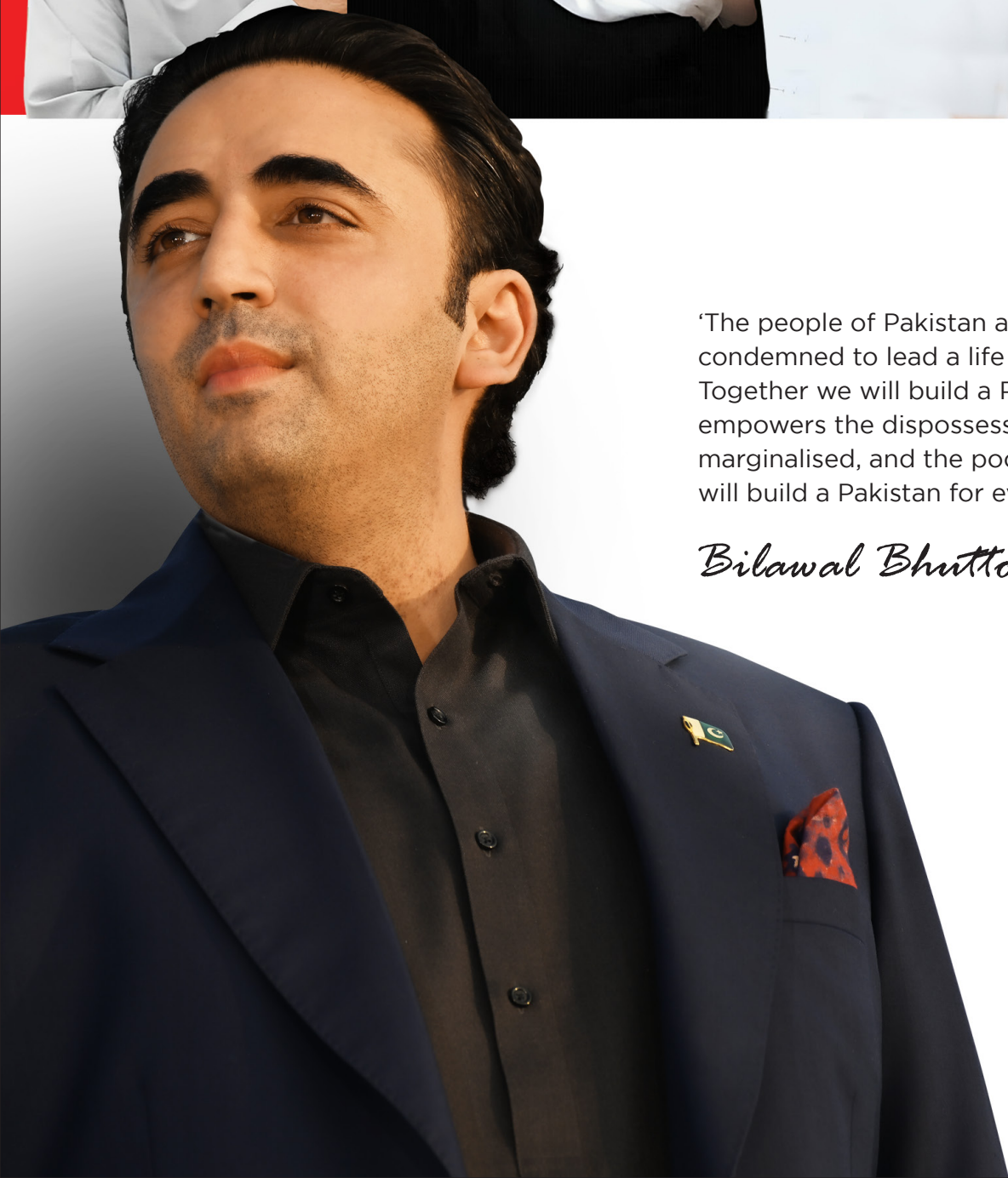
# CHUNO NAI SOCH KO

»»» Manifesto «««

2024



PAKISTAN  
PEOPLES  
PARTY



'The people of Pakistan are not condemned to lead a life of exploitation. Together we will build a Pakistan that empowers the dispossessed, the marginalised, and the poor. Together we will build a Pakistan for everyone.'

*Bilawal Bhutto Zardari*

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# PREAMBLE

The prevailing economic conditions in Pakistan demand immediate attention, as they have reached a state of instability, intolerance, and unsustainability. Of utmost concern is the exclusionary nature of the existing economic landscape.

The lower half of our population finds itself in an increasingly precarious situation, juxtaposed with the soaring fortunes of profiteers and contractors. Short-sighted solutions catering to a tiny elite have not only compromised the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable but have also jeopardized our economic sovereignty.

Efforts aimed at devolving power for more equitable and transparent resource distribution have been subverted, halting the momentum for further reforms. The original intent of devolution was to enhance accountability, yet all institutions meant for this purpose have been compromised. The Parliament, reduced to a mere bystander, faces major crises that threaten both the state and the economy, revealing a disconcerting state of affairs for Pakistan.

Despite the country's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism, it remains isolated globally, struggling to project a positive image. This prevailing drift must cease, necessitating a redirection of government policies focused on serving the people.

The shortcomings in government service become evident when considering the widespread prevalence of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, unemployment, and harsh working conditions. Millions residing in shanty towns without essential services, urban informal settlements, or under the influence of rural powerbrokers continue to grapple with unfulfilled basic needs. Health services are strained, pushing families facing health crises towards extreme poverty, while education, once seen as an escape from poverty, has become increasingly expensive and questionable in quality.

It is incumbent upon the government to protect citizens not only from external threats but also from the multifaceted challenges of poverty, hunger, climate stress, disease, unemployment, and hazardous living conditions. The government's duty is to ensure stable, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth, providing decent jobs and living wages for ordinary citizens. To fulfill this duty, the government must wield authority and legitimacy while constantly engaging in democratic reforms to better serve the people.

The Peoples government brought reforms that were discontinued, and today, Pakistan is institutionally paralyzed. The current perception of the government as distant, motivated by personal gain and corruption, reflects a patronage model that urgently needs to change.

## Legacy Reforms of the Peoples Government:

The Pakistan Peoples Party has consistently taken a leading role in addressing vital issues crucial to the well-being of the citizens of this nation. Whether it be the establishment of the inaugural democratic constitution in 1973, the empowerment of the masses through democratic processes, the advocacy for constitutional governance, economic sovereignty, justice for hard-working individuals, the empowerment of women, or the provision of social protection for the weak and vulnerable, we proudly claim the mantle of pioneers in these endeavors. Throughout the decades, our vision of fostering peace, prosperity, and progress for all citizens, especially those who have endured injustice and exploitation, has served as our guiding principle.

We have demonstrated unwavering commitment by making sacrifices for the greater good of the country. In the face of violence and provocation, we have consistently pursued the path of reconciliation. Our steadfast defense of the state and the integrity of its institutions has remained resolute, even in instances where our leaders, workers, and voters faced injustices at the hands of those heading these institutions. Our endurance stems from the beating hearts dedicated to the weak and vulnerable, drawing strength from the hardworking women and men across this land.

During the period of 2008-2013, we spearheaded the first generation of constitutional, political, fiscal, institutional, and social protection reforms, aiming to fortify democracy and strengthen the federation. Historic milestones, such as the 18th constitutional amendment, the 7th National Finance, the Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment Order, and the establishment of the Benazir Income Support Programme, bear testament to our achievements. However, the momentum generated by these reforms has been lost and necessitates recovery. Much more needs to be accomplished. Consequently, we shall embark upon a second generation of reforms aligned with our party's ideology of social and people's democracy. This endeavor aims to rebuild our country, encompassing all segments of our population and reclaiming our esteemed position in the world. The government, under our guidance, shall be for all, eliminating privilege for the few.

## Our Pledge to the people of Pakistan

- To rebuild and build an economy through major structural reforms for inclusive and sustainable growth and development that works for all our people, now and into the future. This includes first and foremost those voices that go unheard. This includes men, women and children, particularly women and children. This includes people of all faiths, ethnicities, provinces, and regions. This includes rural and urban workers, and the millions of women whose work is not recognized, as well as the millions who are searching for work, and those who are unable to work. This includes the young but also the elderly, those in good health as well as those who are infirm. This includes relations between and among individuals, families, and communities, based on equality, rights, respect and compassion.
- To free all our people from the threat of hunger and extreme poverty: freedom from deprivations such as hunger, ill-health, and lack of secure shelter, and the displacements and deprivations from climate stress, which form the very basis of human survival.
- To unlock opportunities for all our children and youth to excel, and to become active



citizens of Pakistan and confident members of the global community. This is not limited to acquisition of academic and vocational skills, but the inculcation of self-confidence, socio-emotional wellbeing, rootedness as well as openness.

- For unlocking the full potential of Pakistan's IT sector, particularly in exports in IT and IT-enabled services (ITES), a comprehensive strategy, in line with the PPP's economic policy will be put in place. This will include substantial investments in IT infrastructure, particularly in underserved areas, to bridge the digital divide.
- To secure rights and peace – for our state and for all our people; This is not only the absence of violence but also the active pursuit of peaceful measures for resolving conflicts before they can become violent. We mean security not only from external threats, but also threats based on gender, class, ethnicity, caste, faith, and political views.
- To deepen democracy by fostering harmony among our people, between our people and our state, and among institutions of our state; to make government accountable and answerable to the people by strengthening parliament and other institutional frameworks for open government. Our emphasis will be on fostering a culture of accountability and transparency in public money and enhancing access to an answerable, open government.
- To build resilience against the existential threat of climate stress, environmental degradation, pollution and waste. Our priority will be to not just adapt and shock-proof our people from the risks of extreme weather, but to educate and mitigate against the dangers of such global threats. Our policies will also aim to leverage renewable resources for cheap, clean energy to power the homes and schools and workplaces of the most vulnerable, protect our forests and wildlife, and to lower air and water pollution, as a priority for our cities and rural waterways while retaining our reform focus on gender inclusion.
- To reclaim Pakistan's rightful place in the world by centering our engagement on the collective aspirations of the people, trade-driven growth and economic prosperity, and the fruits of geo-economic policies.



01

## PEOPLE'S AGENDA: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

The Pakistan Peoples Party bases its economic policy on protecting the poor, empowering the vulnerable, and creating conditions that allow the government to make sovereign, people-centric choices in the best interests of the nation.

As it stands, Pakistan is currently beset with irresponsible economic management, leading to multiple crises. The burden of these crises falls on those who bear the least responsibility for causing them in the shape of high rates of inflation and unemployment. There are deeper structural problems which have been neglected for far too long; low levels of investment, and the wrong types of investment, misdirected subsidies, consuming more foreign exchange than earning.

This needs to change.

Pakistan Peoples Party is committed to economic empowerment and inclusive growth for its citizens, and we will initiate comprehensive, multipronged and urgent measures to regain macroeconomic stability, accelerate structural reforms, increase investment where it is most needed, and protect the vulnerable through enhanced social safety nets.

### 1.1 Five Pillars of a New Peoples Economy

A New People's Economic Plan is needed to address both chronic structural and emerging issues with bold steps that put Pakistan on the path to prosperity and inclusive growth. This will include the following:

- 1. Regaining Economic Stability and Sovereignty:** We will take the tough decisions necessary for ensuring economic stability and regaining our economic sovereignty through a home-grown stabilization plan which tackles inflation and external imbalances.
- 2. Investing in Change:** The core guiding principle of economic management over the next five years will be to increase public and private investment and to ensure that these are directed where they matter most for sustainable and inclusive growth. We will establish a new policy framework for greater public and private investment being directed towards local communities, local infrastructure in rural and low-income urban areas, human capital, climate mitigation and resilience, and sectors and regions of high growth potential at the bottom of the economic pyramid.
- 3. Protecting the Vulnerable:** We will develop a comprehensive and adaptive social protection system to eradicate extreme deprivation, ensuring food security, access to housing, and economic inclusion of the working poor and women. The BISP is just one of



our internationally recognized legacy programmes for social protection and will be enhanced and expanded to include new instruments and capital.

**4. Addressing Fiscal Imbalances:** Realizing that a much higher resource base needs to be mobilized to match public spending needs, we will address fiscal imbalances through eradicating the huge burden of untargeted subsidies and tax expenditures and undertake major tax reforms leveraging the potential of provincial and local taxation. The aim would be to take the Tax-to GDP ratio to 15% over a five-year period.

**5. Managing Debt and External Resources:** We aim to maintain the Debt-to-GDP ratio in accordance with the Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitations Act. We will institute strategic mobilization of debt resources towards viable projects, to prevent the routine transfer of debt servicing burdens and losses from showcase projects onto the shoulders of the least economically empowered yet most exploited. We will put in place effective caps on government borrowing and leverage new sources of external investment through the emerging global green economy.

The pledges made to the people of Pakistan include the following:

## 1.2 Pledges of the New Peoples Economy

### • Real Incomes for Wage Earners

We will double **Real Incomes for Wage Earners** by ensuring growth, investments and job-creation as a real-time priority:

- Minimum Wage will be increased in real terms by 8 per cent every year to take it to the Living Wage.
- Large scale increase in employment opportunities will be created to reduce unemployment and underemployment through doubling public investments.
- All investment and job-creation initiatives will focus first and foremost on the needs of local communities.
- Public-private partnerships in social and productive sectors at the provincial and local levels will be initiated and supported.
- A big push to increase private home ownership thus boosting private investment in housing at the bottom of the pyramid will be made.
- Investments and reforms in agriculture and small growing businesses will be leveraged to spur growth and job-creation.

### • Green New Deal: Climate Resilient Futures

**A Green New Deal** will include building **Climate Resilient futures** on the ground by climate-proofing all investments and infrastructure and by ensuring all upcoming energy solutions are clean, peoplefriendly and generate jobs for local communities. The Party sees access to affordable electricity as a right and will prioritize local investments and energy pricing accordingly with new solutions.

- Climate change investments will be undertaken in the public sector, in the public-private partnership mode and by encouraging foreign direct investments.
- Investment in Pakistan's public sector infrastructure including roads, communication,

health, irrigation, agriculture will all be made with a focus on climate resilience.

- Indigenous and Green Energy investments will focus on providing sustainable solutions to the energy crisis by providing electricity through indigenous sources and renewables.
- Green energy parks harnessing solar power will be set up via the Public Private partnership mode all across Pakistan to generate the cheap electricity needed by those unable to afford it, with emphasis on the poorest households to unlock free electricity up to 300 units.

## • Education for All

To move forward with the promise on the challenge for Education for All as a fundamental right, the PPP will

- Will ensure schooling for all girls and boys of school-going age and implement Article 25A of the Constitution in letter and spirit.
- Ensure the provision of quality primary schools within 30 minutes travel -time and make provision for quality middle/secondary school within 60 minutes travel-time in all communities.
- Create a stipend fund for school-going children in rural and low-income urban communities.
- Establish a university in every district of Pakistan.

## • The Health of the Nation: Sehat Ek Naimat

We believe that there is nothing more important than the health of a nation. To this end, we will extend health initiatives already in place in Sindh, across Pakistan:

- Provide free primary healthcare and medicines across the country.
- Ensure all Basic Health Units are fully operational.
- Provide free treatment for chronic diseases of the heart, liver, and kidney through the public sector as well as through the public-private partnership mode.

## • Housing as a Right

The PPP has always seen Housing as a Right. To make this dream a reality, we will provide home ownership for the most vulnerable. Modelled on the success of historic initiatives such as the PPP's Punjab Marla Schemes, and ongoing Sindh Peoples Housing Programme for flood affectees, the following will be initiated:

- Large-scale housing for the poor, the landless, and the working classes.
- The scheme will cover rural and low-income urban areas in all provinces/regions.
- At least 3 million women heads of household will get legal titles of their property with the resilient housing programme in flood-affected areas.
- Katchi Abadis will be regularized and inhabitants to get ownership.
- People living in Katcha area will be brought into the mainstream with tenancy rights and ownership of municipal services.
- The public and private sector will be tapped for home loans and easy settlement mortgages for the working people and lower middle class.



## • **Ghurbat Mitao - BISP expansion**

We will expand the Benazir Income Support Programme Network to provide much needed support to the additional citizens who have fallen below the poverty line because of the unprecedented inflation and unemployment we are experiencing. In addition to poverty-based cash transfers, we will expand the following:

- Waseela-e-Haq (WEH) programme to provide micro loans to women with a view to enhancing small businesses and entrepreneurship among the underprivileged to break out of the debilitating poverty cycle. We have successfully implemented this in Sindh with the Peoples Poverty Alleviation Programme through implementation partners like the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO)
- Waseela-e-Taleem (WET) programme will provide a top-up cash transfer per eligible child in the household, with no upper limit on the number of children per household who are eligible for the programme. Receipt of the WET transfer will remain conditional on maintaining a minimum 70% attendance rate that will be monitored on a quarterly basis.
- Waseela-e-Rozgar (WER) programme to provide vocational training to a selected member of a beneficiary family. The target beneficiaries will be offered up to 1 year training options that match their personal circumstances, and self-employment opportunities that exist within their districts.
- Waseela-e-Sehat (WES) programme to provide protection against catastrophic health expenditure to registered beneficiary families.

## • **Khushhaal Kisaan**

In many ways Agriculture is the backbone of our economy. We believe we need to invest heavily in the farming sector with an emphasis on small farmers. To this end we will commit

- To promote diversity in crops, we will ensure crop support prices for various crops to the small farmers.
- In this plan, women and men, small farmers, kisaan, haari and agricultural workers will be treated as stakeholders in the agricultural sector through registration with the Haari / Kisaan Card.
- Targeted interventions will be made through the Haari / Kisaan Card for enabling access to the following inputs and building capacity with higher access to resources and services:
  - Subsidies for high quality seeds
  - Subsidies for inputs such as DAP/Urea
  - Marketing of produce
  - Land improvement and water management
  - Livestock extension services
  - Climate smart agricultural practices
  - Crop Insurance
- At the same time a reform of tenancy and labor laws will boost agricultural investment, leading to inclusive growth.

### • **Mazdoor ko Mehnat ka Sila: People's Labour Initiatives**

Pakistan's informal sector workers continue to lack job security and structured access to social protection. To facilitate them we aim to:

- Guarantee a wage commensurate to their work.
- Registration of workers in the informal sector and those in self-employment for social protection through the Mazdoor Card, which they will be able to avail.
- School fees for their children.
- Health insurance for themselves and their families.
- Social Security/Pensions
- Old age benefits.
- Disability benefits.

### • **Jawaan Mustaqbil: The Youth Card**

Pakistan has one of the largest young populations in the world. To best utilize this demographic and facilitate their seamless entry into the workforce, we will introduce the Youth Card which will provide:

- One-year stipend for educated, deserving young women and men to transition to work.
- Student loan opportunities for higher education.
- Link-up with internships and trainee jobs in the public and private sectors.
- Opportunities for youth-led startups in all sectors for which we will provide the required IT infrastructure to guarantee high speed connectivity across the country.
- Youth Centers to be established across the country for accessing libraries and digital libraries with free Wi-Fi; sports, culture, and recreational facilities; vocational training; skill and language development classes; career and employment facilitation services.

### • **Bhook Mitao: Ensuring Food Security**

To directly address the needs of the food insecure, we will aim to make nutritious food available at affordable prices, boost domestic production, subsidize local producers, and connect women with the market economy as active entrepreneurs. We will also:

- Employ a rights-based approach and promulgate the Right to Food Act in Parliament. Under this Act, every eligible household will be entitled to purchase essential food items at subsidized rates.
- Provide a free 1000-day nutritional programme for expectant/new mothers to decrease stunting, wasting and infant mortality.
- Begin the journey of providing free meals to all school-going children.

## 1.3 Supporting the New Peoples Economy

In addition to and in support of the Ten Pledges plan, the New Peoples Economy will include following actions in line with our party's principles and priorities:

• **New Policy Framework for Public and Private Investment:** We aim to double the rate of investment and to direct public and private investment towards the bottom of the pyramid, focusing on human capital and inclusive growth.





- **Agriculture at the Core:** We will ensure that the true potential for agriculture in meeting the basic needs of the population and in generating export earnings is realized through urgently needed institutional reforms around equity and sustainability of land and water resources.

- **Diversification of the Manufacturing Sector:** We will promote diversification in manufacturing by identifying sectors with the potential of creating niche markets for value-added exports, provision of credit line to these sectors and introduction of time-bound and performance-based incentives for diversification.

- **Putting Technology at the Forefront:** We will prioritise the spread and deepening of technology at the forefront of all our economic interventions through a strategy that encompasses the New Policy Framework for Public and Private Investment, as well as the human development plan for the country, including catalyzing the untapped potential of the youth. Our reforms of economic governance will also be based on technological solutions. Pakistan's IT sector, with the potential for significant growth and previous performances indicating IT and IT-enabled services (ITES), with exports reaching over \$ 2 billion annually, stands at a pivotal juncture. To fully harness this potential, a comprehensive strategy, in line with the PPP's economic policy, is crucial. This includes substantial investments in IT infrastructure, particularly in underserved areas, to bridge the digital divide. Streamlining bureaucratic procedures and reforming regulatory frameworks will foster a conducive environment for IT businesses, enhancing the ease of doing business. Crucial reforms should include simplifying business set-up processes and facilitating international payments and transactions to better integrate Pakistan's IT industry into the global market. Introducing targeted incentives and tax reforms can encourage IT companies to repatriate funds parked abroad, boosting domestic investment. These incentives might include tax breaks, reduced red tape for repatriated earnings, and streamlined processed for foreign exchange transactions. Emphasizing human capital development, especially among youth through nationwide high-speed connectivity and resource-equipped Youth Centres, will capitalize on the country's demographic advantage. Moreover, integrating IT solutions in sectors like green energy, education, and healthcare, will spur technological progress and innovation. With these focused measures, Pakistan can not only realise the IT sector's potential for exponential growth but also encourage the reinvestment of offshore funds back into the national economy.

- **Ease of Doing Business:** We are committed to improving Pakistan's Ease of Doing Business indicators, backed by serious regulatory reform, readjustment of tax structures, and implementation of one-window operations for setting up businesses.

- **Reforming State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs):** We will launch People's Reform Programme in partnership with workers of SOEs and provincial governments to ensure efficiency improvements, guarantee independence of Boards, effect changes in management culture and engage private sector to attract investment. A task force will be created comprising experts and relevant stakeholders to oversee and execute the reform programme on a timeline.

- **Labour Policy:** We will replicate the salient features of Sindh labour policy nation-wide in consensus with other political parties, link the minimum wage with living wage to remove arbitrary determination of minimum wage, and universalize EOBI to all (informal sector) who wish to participate in a pension fund plan with matching contributions from government.
- **Investment in Blue Economy:** Dedicated resources will be allocated towards the blue economy emphasizing responsible use of our oceans and marine resources. We will enhance capacity of Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KSEW), build a new shipyard in Ormara, Balochistan, and add more cargo ships built in Pakistan.
- **Solar Park for Industrial Zones:** To ensure uninterrupted electricity, we will establish dedicated solar parks for each industrial zone and incorporate wheeling charges in the tariff when the solar park is located outside the designated zone.
- **External Economic Relations:** Conscious and proactive efforts will be made to promote trade within the region by separating trade from other geo-political issues, while making full use of international laws to protect interests of local producers and manufacturers. In addition, the bilateral trade roadmap established in September 2012 during the PPP government will be diligently implemented.
- **Review Trade Agreements:** All Free Trade and Preferential Trade Agreements will be reviewed to create a level playing field for Pakistan's agricultural and industrial sectors, and to address trade deficit.
- **National Finance Commission:** We will announce a new NFC Award within six months of the formation of the NFC. The new Award will further rationalize the horizontal distribution of resources across provinces. The new Award will be based on correct population figures; further broaden the criteria for horizontal distribution.
- **Tax Collection:** We will leverage the good performance of provincial governments in collecting GST on Services by assigning the collection of GST on goods to provinces also on behalf of the Federal Government. This will not only enhance the tax-GDP ratio but will also harmonize the collection of GST on services and goods.
- **Re-visiting Mechanisms for Straight Transfers:** Re-visit the mechanisms for straight transfers to the provinces for oil and gas royalties, excise duties on oil and gas as well as net hydel profits.
- **End Wasteful Spending:** End untargeted subsidies and untargeted tax expenditures, which will yield savings of over Rs 1.5 trillion to the public purse.
- **Use of Social Marketing System:** We will utilize the potential of social marketing to ensure the availability of essential basic needs in cost-effective ways to consumers at the bottom of the pyramid.



02

## EDUCATING OUR PEOPLE: A PROGRESSIVE PAKISTAN FOR ALL

With a renewed commitment to building the nation's human capital as well as the importance of education as an entitlement, the Pakistan Peoples Party champions a transformative vision for overcoming the challenges that stand in the way of providing a quality education to all. We not only recognize the significance of education as a cornerstone of social progress but also strive to address the crisis of 22 million out-of-school children as a priority, both in terms of enrollment and quality of education. Rooted in the principles of equality, inclusivity, gender parity and accessibility, our manifesto outlines a comprehensive plan to revolutionize education for a peaceful, progressive and prosperous Pakistan.

With the current state of challenges in mind, the PPP pledges to allocate at least **5 percent of GDP (USD 17 billion)** to education, including 1 percent of GDP on research and innovation that will come from devolving the finances of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to the provinces. This is a **194 percent increase** from the current allocation of 1.7 percent of GDP (USD 5.8 billion).

We will therefore aim for the following:

### 2.1 Universal Access and Compulsory Education

- Enforce free and compulsory education for all children, aligning with Article 25A of the Constitution.
- Implement targeted strategies to increase enrollment, with a particular emphasis on marginalized communities with programmes like “Beti Parhao, Kismat Jagao” & “School Jao, Hunar Barhao”. The inclusion of girl-children will be prioritized, and constraints families faced will be addressed.
- Ensure the provision of essential resources for schools in remote areas, addressing geographical disparities.
- Prioritize hybrid learning systems, school clustering, and transportation for equitable access.

## 2.2 Quality Education & Career Development

- Enhance access to quality education for every child, irrespective of socio-economic background, gender, physical or mental needs.
- Aim towards building a primary school within a 30-minute radius & a secondary/higher secondary school within a 60-minute radius.
- Regulate and monitor private schools to maintain a high standard of education and prevent exploitation of students or teachers.
- Invest in modern teaching, monitoring and evaluation methodologies through cultivating digital literacy, adaptive learning platforms and teacher training programmes.
- Integrate global citizenship education and sustainability development goals (SDG's) to build awareness and cultural tolerance for social inclusion.

## 2.3 Infrastructure & Technology Development

- Invest substantially in school infrastructure and internet provision. Provide well-equipped and inclusive classrooms, libraries, laboratories, computers and sports facilities.
- Implement e-learning platforms for blended learning and access to a wide range of educational resources.
- Prioritize the provision of sanitation facilities, ensuring a clean and healthy environment for students.
- Leverage public-private partnerships for the development and maintenance of school facilities.

## 2.4 Curriculum Reforms

- Modernize the curriculum to align with 21st-century demands, emphasizing critical thinking, creativity, and practical skills.
- Promote an inclusive curriculum that respects cultural & social diversity, gender parity and fosters a sense of national identity.
- Introduce subjects such as environmental literacy and civic education to prepare students for responsible citizenship.
- Ensure that Provinces have full autonomy over core curriculum formation and review.
- Conduct a backward mapping of the education curriculum by seeking gap analyses from universities for the student body to use in improvements for future revisions.

## 2.5 Teachers' Training and Professional Development

- Invest in comprehensive teacher training programmes, ensuring educators are equipped with modern teaching methods.
- Foster a culture of continuous professional development, with an emphasis on subject knowledge and pedagogical skills.
- Introduce merit-based incentives to recognize and reward exceptional educators.



## 2.6 Technical, Vocational & Skill Development

- Collaborate with industry experts for skill development programmes that enhance employability. (“**School Jao, Hunar Barhao**”)
- Align technical and vocational education curriculum with industry needs.

## 2.7 Gender Parity

- Promote gender equity by addressing disparities in education and **empowering girls and women** through educational initiatives.
- Conduct regular assessments to provide opportunities based on merit and potential, especially for university admissions.
- Implement policies and programmes to encourage and retain girls’ enrollment in schools. (“**Beti Parhao, Kismat Jagao**”)
- Lady healthcare workers (LHWs), already established successfully by SMBB, will be empowered and trained for house visits on advocacy for the value of educating girls on informal training/education.

## 2.8 Inclusive Education

- Ensure a diverse and equitable learning environment for everyone’s physical and mental needs.
- Develop support systems and resources for students with special needs in sports and skill development.
- Promote classroom and extracurricular activities that foster inclusivity and collaboration among all students.

## 2.9 Parent and Community Engagement

- Actively involve parents and local communities in the educational process.
- Organize regular forums for dialogue and collaboration between parents, teachers, and community members.
- Encourage community ownership of schools to enhance accountability and local support.
- Initiate a programme in which bachelor’s students from well reputed universities in the country dedicate a semester to teaching in government schools.
- Involve the youth in policy making through conducting surveys and interviews to better understand their views and build policies around them.

## 2.10 Assessment and Evaluation

- Revisit the assessment, examination and board system to emphasize a holistic and formative approach.
- Evaluate students based not only on academic achievements but also on practical skills, critical thinking, and overall personality development.

## 2.11 Research and Innovation

- Encourage educational research for continuous improvement of the education system.
- Promote innovation in teaching methods, curriculum development, and the use of technology.



- Establish research and development centers to drive collaboration with industry leaders and startups.
- Integrate **entrepreneurship training** into the school curriculum through setting up incubators that foster startup culture and innovation to empower students.

## 2.12 Languages and Culture Preservation

- Promote multilingual education for preserving local languages and cultures while ensuring proficiency in the national and official languages.
- Utilize technology, such as language learning apps for higher mobility and access to global tools and opportunities.

## 2.13 Wellbeing of Teachers and Students

- Prioritize a healthy educational system by enhancing teachers' wellbeing, improving promotion mechanisms, and strengthening parent-teacher relationships.
- Focus on students' wellbeing, fostering improved learning outcomes and a positive school climate.
- Conduct emergency drills related to disaster awareness and preparedness.

Through these comprehensive commitments, the Pakistan Peoples Party envisions a true education revolution that empowers every child with the tools to succeed, contribute meaningfully to society, and propel Pakistan into a brighter, more progressive future. Foster international partnerships, encourage participation in programmes like the Model United Nations, and engage in joint initiatives for global awareness and collaboration.



03

## PEOPLES HEALTHCARE: A RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE

The Pakistan Peoples Party has always championed accessible and quality affordable healthcare facilities for all regardless of gender, race, political or religious backgrounds. Pakistan has made several commitments internationally and to its people for the provision of health care, particularly to the most vulnerable. The country and party have agreed to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to health and family planning, but more importantly, made commitments to bring transformational reforms that will make healthcare accessible for all.

From the introduction of Lady Health Workers (LHWs) Programme, the PM's Polio immunization programme, revitalization of Basic Health Units (BHUs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs), to the enactment of landmark legislation that focuses on healthcare as a right, the PPP has been moving towards the provision of quality healthcare provision for all.

Realising that the public health crisis in the country is linked to several factors, the Party's goal is to create a realistic plan for a healthier and more prosperous Pakistan for all citizens. The PPP's healthcare vision entails a comprehensive strategy, where the focus on expanding the web of health facilities at all levels will require both higher spending as well as attention. This is why the Party aims to increase healthcare spending to 6% of GDP or USD 20 billion (current spending is only 1.2 percent of GDP).

This will include investing in climate-resilient facilities, and modern technology integration. Infrastructure will be revamped with a commitment to accountability and governance. Special attention will be given to reducing the healthcare gender gap through targeted programmes for women's health. Notable progress in healthcare infrastructure development, including strengthening of public hospitals, primary, secondary, tertiary healthcare facilities and access to medicines will be an immediate goal, while a replication of the state of the art "free of cost" health facilities already established in Sindh (NICVD & GIMS) will be made a priority.

### 3.1 Resilient Health Governance

- **Increasing Health Spending:** The Party commits to gradually increasing healthcare expenditure by 500 percent.
- **Right to Healthcare Act:** Enact legislation for Right to Healthcare for accessibility to quality universal healthcare.
- **Financial Devolution:** Implement financial devolution at the facility-level, ensuring transparency and affordable medicine prices.

- **Standardization of Medical Education:** Conduct a comprehensive review of medical and dental colleges for standardization and international accreditation.
- **Professional Development:** Regular registration of licenses for health professionals with mandatory training for continuous skill enhancement.
- **Availability of Qualified Nurses:** Increase the number of Nursing Colleges and Schools to produce internationally qualified nurses.

### 3.2 Equitable Accessibility to Maternal & Child Healthcare

- **Improved Maternal and Child Health:** PPP aims to lead the region in maternal and child health outcomes, with specific targets for reducing infant and maternal mortality, stunting prevalence, and increasing immunization coverage.
- **Dedicated Centers for Unique Healthcare Needs:** High-quality maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health centers will be established in tertiary and secondary hospitals.
- **Midwives Facility in Rural Areas:** Skilled community midwives will be deployed in remote rural primary healthcare facilities to ensure optimal services for normal deliveries.

### 3.3 Emergency Services

- **Strengthening and Expansion of Ambulance Services:** Ambulance services will be equipped with Basic Life Support System (BLIS) and Advanced Life Support System (ALIS), functioning under a single command and control center accessible through Emergency Number "1122".
- **Rapid Response Centers:** Established Rapid Response Centers along major communication arteries to provide first aid in emergencies.
- **Strengthening of Emergency Units:** All emergency units in secondary and tertiary facilities will be strengthened to provide quality and efficient services.
- **Linkage between ICUs and Trauma Centers:** Fully equipped intensive care units will be established, linked with major trauma centers in provincial capitals.
- **Connecting Pediatric Healthcare Facilities:** Establish Pediatric and Neonatal ICUs in all relevant hospitals, connected to central units in provincial capitals.

### 3.4 High-Quality Accessibility to Primary Healthcare Services

- **Rehabilitating BHUs and THQs:** Dispensaries, BHUs, RHUs, and THQ hospitals will be rehabilitated, refurbished, strengthened, and reconstructed.
- **Free Medication:** Primary healthcare facilities will provide free medicines, diagnostics, and services by doctors.
- **Strengthening of EPIs:** Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) facilities will be branded and strengthened.
- **Introduction of New Vaccines:** Vaccines for Human Papilloma Virus and Malaria, will be introduced.
- **Expanding Coverage of LHWs & CHWs:** Presence of LHWs and Community Health Workers (CHWs) will be ensured in all areas.
- **Nutritional Support for PLWs & Children:** Will be ensured for pregnant women, lactating women and their children at primary health facilities.
- **Free Treatment against Hepatitis:** Resources will be allocated to expand screening, vaccination, and free treatment against hepatitis B, C & D.



- **Prioritizing Universal Health Coverage:** PPP will prioritize universal health coverage at all primary health facilities, including free treatment for chronic diseases like hypertension & diabetes.

### 3.5 Access to Quality Treatment against Infectious Diseases

- **Access to Quality Treatment against Chronic Diseases:** Improve access and quality of treatment against HIV, TB, vector-borne diseases by strengthening surveillance, diagnosis, and treatment.
- **Establishment of ART Centers:** Ensure the provision of HIV treatment at all tertiary care hospitals through establishing ART centers nationwide.

### 3.6 Transformational Improvement in Secondary and Tertiary Healthcare Services

- **Integrated Healthcare System:** Nationally connected Tomotherapy and radiotherapy units, trauma and emergency response care systems, burn units, and mental health centers will be established for improved healthcare service delivery.
- **Network of Cardiac & Pediatric Centers:** A network of cardiovascular centers, children's hospitals, and pediatric centers will be launched in each province.
- **Blood Bank Authority:** A National Blood Bank Authority will be established to manage and monitor donations.
- **National Registry of Organ Donors:** A National Registry of Organ Donors and Recipients will be developed, with counselors deployed at the district level to increase public awareness of organ donations.
- **National Registry of Cancer Patients:** A comprehensive national registry for cancer patients will be established for better tracking and management.
- **Leveraging Modern Technology for Transplantation:** Modern technology, such as stem cell techniques and gene therapy, will be leveraged for transplant services.
- **Improve Treatment of Thalassemia:** Availability of plasmapheresis technique for the treatment of Thalassemia patients will be improved, with the establishment of Plasmapheresis Units for plasma collection.
- **Posting of Missing Special Cadres:** Efforts will be made to post missing special cadres, such as dietitians, diabetologists, endocrinologists, psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, respiratory therapists, intensivists, and breast milk therapists.
- **Establishing IVF Centers:** Specialized In-vitro Fertilization (IVF) Centers will be established to provide infertility treatment services.
- **Deployment of Family Planning Counsellors:** Family planning counselors will be deployed to all obstetric gynecology OPDs, antenatal wards, postnatal wards & labor rooms.

### 3.7. Population and Reproductive Health

- **National Dialogue:** A multi-stakeholder national dialogue will be initiated on the horizontal distribution of financial resources among federating units to address population issues effectively.
- **Population Planning:** A voluntary, rights-based approach to family planning will be encouraged, involving LHWs in reproductive choices and service delivery.

- **Ensuring Support at Every Stage:** Post-pregnancy and post-abortion family planning will be promoted, with a dedicated family planning cadre of counselors in all obstetric units, OPDs, antenatal and postnatal wards, and labor rooms.
- **Empowering Midwives in Remote Areas:** PPP will address the shortage of qualified gynecologists in remote areas through the activation of remote facilities, training community midwives, establishing clear referral pathways, and ensuring designated facilities for complicated cases.
- **Safe Birthing Stations:** Access to safe and qualified birthing stations will be ensured by establishing them in all healthcare facilities.
- **Strengthened Counselling:** Family Planning Workers (FMWs) will be trained to offer thorough counseling, addressing side effects, myths, and misconceptions.
- **Male Vasectomy:** Advocacy and encouragement of male vasectomy as a proactive measure for family planning will be undertaken.
- **Raising Contraceptive Prevalence Rate:** PPP aims to raise the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) to 60%, achieve a total fertility rate of 2.2 children per woman, and reduce the population growth rate to 1.1% by 2030.
- **Access to Family Planning Services:** Access to family planning services, including free availability of contraceptives, will be ensured in all public and private healthcare facilities.
- **Training on Contraceptive Injections:** Comprehensive training programmes for LHWs on the administration of contraceptive injections will be conducted.
- **Encouraging Local Production:** Collaboration with pharmaceutical companies to encourage local production units, especially for long-acting contraceptives like IUCD's, will be pursued.

### 3.8 Addressing Mental Health and Consumption of Drugs

- **Emphasizing Mental Health:** PPP will establish mental healthcare hospitals and ensure the availability of specialized professionals.
- **Extending Social Assistance:** Assistance will be extended to individuals facing mental health challenges through federal and provincial social protection programme.
- **Establishing Drugs Rehabilitation Centers:** Drugs rehabilitation centers alongside psychiatric wards will be established in all district hospitals.
- **Treating Drugs as Health Matter:** The consumption of drugs will be regarded as a health concern rather than a criminal matter.
- **Designing Curriculum:** A curriculum regarding mental health and drug abuse will be designed for teachers, LHWs, and CHWs.
- **Launching Awareness Campaign:** A comprehensive awareness campaign to combat drug abuse will be launched, targeting various segments of society, including teachers, students, law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary.

### 3.9 Transformational Reforms in Healthcare Services

- **Establishing Tele-health Services:** PPP will replicate Tele-health services (already functioning successfully in Sindh) across the country to increase access to qualified specialists and helplines for information and psychosocial support (mental health services).
- **Climate Resilient Health Facilities:** Investment will be made in building climate-resilient health facilities linked to the national disaster management system.





- **Disaster Management & Healthcare Plan:** A disaster-management and resilience plan will be developed to ensure the availability of uninterrupted healthcare services in conditions of disasters like floods, forest fires, earthquakes, droughts, and pandemics. This plan will include mobile clinics, mobile labs, and mobile boat health services.
- **Integrating Departments for Better Service Delivery:** Strategically integrate health and population departments to streamline resources and enhance coordination for improved healthcare services.
- **Public Information on Chronic Diseases:** Advocacy and information on chronic diseases will be integrated into the healthcare framework to empower individuals with knowledge on diseases for early detection and behavioral change.
- **Promoting Geriatric Care Units:** Establish dedicated geriatric care units for unique healthcare needs of older adults.
- **Solarization of Health Infrastructure:** PPP aims to solarize health infrastructure (replicating its efforts of solarization in Sindh) throughout Pakistan, focusing on improving energy efficiency in health facilities.
- **One Patient - One ID:** A digital medical records (One Patient-One ID) system will be established to better track and improve health services, including maternal, neonatal, and child health (MNCH), nutrition, and family planning.
- **Digitization of Child Registration:** Registration of children will be digitized for effective immunization via biometric technology.

### 3.10 Polio Eradication and Awareness

- **Universal Vaccination Campaigns:** Implementing regular, widespread vaccination to reach every child even in remote areas.
- **Community Engagement and Awareness:** Building community trust through engagement and dispelling vaccine-related myths.
- **Surveillance and rapid response:** Strengthening surveillance for quick detection and response to new polio cases.
- **Cross-Border Collaboration:** Collaborating with foreign governments to prevent cross-border poliovirus transmission.
- **Government Commitment:** Ensuring top-level government commitment and leadership for prioritizing polio eradication.
- **Health Workforce Training:** Training healthcare workers for effective vaccine administration and community communication.
- **Innovation and Research:** Investing in innovative approaches and research for tailored, effective strategies.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Collaborating with the private sector to enhance resources and vaccine delivery efficiency.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establishing a robust monitoring and evaluation system for adaptive, data-driven strategies.
- **International Cooperation:** Seeking and maintaining international support for resources and expertise in the eradication effort.

### 3.11 Robust Accountability

- **Implementing Stringent Measures:** Implement stringent accountability measures, including strengthening regulatory bodies, regular audits and inspections, transparent reporting mechanisms, and protection of whistleblowers.
- **Instituting Reforms:** Extensive reforms will be introduced and implemented in the Drugs Regulatory Authority of Pakistan to augment the regulatory framework for healthcare products.
- **Digitizing Monitoring System:** Real-time, independent data collection from all health facilities will be ensured using independent monitors with a digitized monitoring system, focusing on electronic medical records and biometric technologies.
- **Conducting Health Surveys & Grievance Redressal:** National independent health surveys will be conducted annually to track progress, and a community-based complaint and grievance redressal mechanism will be developed.



04

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS: A FUNDAMENTAL PROMISE

Pakistan faces considerable challenges in achieving gender equality across various socio-economic and political indicators despite notable advancements in the realm of women's rights. Notwithstanding Constitution of Pakistan's unequivocal guarantee of equal rights to all citizens (as articulated in Article 21 and 25), regardless of gender, class or ethno-religious affiliations, the deeply entrenched structures persistently impede women's progress throughout the nation, subsequently, leading to adverse consequences for women in areas such as gender-based violence, healthcare, education, poverty and climate change.

Pakistan Peoples Party proudly maintains its role as a leading advocate for equality among all citizens, with a particular emphasis on women and minority communities. We have previously made and will continue our unwavering commitment for enhanced representation of women in all spheres of life while removing structural barriers obstructing their advancement. In line with this commitment, we present the following propositions as a reaffirmation of our dedication to women's equality:

### 4.1 Economic Empowerment of Women

- **Gender Responsive Budgeting:** PPP is committed to adopt Gender-Responsive Budgeting, a widely recognized global best practice for allocating resources to social sector programmes, in all government schemes related to women. This approach will guarantee that resource allocation is conducted with a gender-sensitive perspective.
- **Enhancement of Social Safety Nets:** We will enhance social safety nets tailored specifically for women. These measures will encompass cash transfer programmes and initiatives for asset accumulation.
- **Dedicated Credit Programmes:** Dedicated credit programmes for women will be introduced with convenient access to financial resources, reduced interest rates and service charges, along with streamlined evaluation processes.
- **Vocational Trainings and Market Linkages:** We will allocate additional funding to vocational training institutes and establish robust market connections for women entrepreneurs.
- **Gender Inclusive Land Reforms:** PPP will implement programmes aimed at facilitating women's ownership of cultivable land. These programmes coupled with asset transfer schemes, will serve as a catalyst for gender-inclusive land reforms, with the potential to reshape social and economic dynamics in rural or semi-rural areas.

- **Gender Specific Data Collection:** Measures will be taken for gathering gender-specific data and capturing economic contributions of women in the fields of agriculture, home-based work and domestic labour. This data will help in implementing improved safety mechanisms aimed at regulating women's participation in these sectors.
- **Day Care Centers:** We will enact legislation in all provinces requiring public and private organizations to establish day care centers to facilitate working women.

## 4.2 Access to Healthcare

- **Healthcare for Pregnant & Lactating Women:** Comprehensive healthcare programmes will be implemented with special emphasis on pregnant and lactating mothers. This will involve improvement in Basic Health Units (BHUs), increase in maternal wards, and cost-free provision of nutritious supplements to mothers at health risk.
- **Family Planning & Reproductive Health:** Nation-wide awareness campaign will be initiated focusing on family planning, women's reproductive health and addressing the issue of period poverty. In addition, steps will be taken to ensure the accessibility and affordability of sanitary products for women living in remote areas.

## 4.3 Representation in the Political Sphere

- **Increased Political Representation of Women:** Recognizing the significance of political participation of women in Pakistan, we will work on raising the number of reserved seats for women from 17% to 33% in the National and Provincial Assemblies and increased female representation in Parliamentary Committees, corporate and commerce bodies, as well as judicial and civic institutions.
- **Removal of Financial Impediments for Women:** PPP is committed to eliminate financial impediments faced by women electoral candidates through Party funds and initiate the capacity-building programmes designed for women Parliamentarians.
- **CNIC Registration of Women:** Gender-specific policy measures will be implemented for CNIC registration among women and gender minorities and encourage them to exercise their voting rights, access government safety programmes, and protect themselves from domestic violence. Additionally, we will address the CNIC registration of women as parent or guardian in cases where single women adopt a child or serve as a single parent.
- **Code of Conduct for Character Assassination of Women:** Underscoring the urgent need for collective efforts, PPP will lead and diligently work towards establishing a Code of Conduct in consensus with all political parties to eliminate character assassination and public displays of misogyny directed at women representatives or the female relatives of male officeholders.
- **Legal Recognition of Single Parent:** The Party will strive for legal recognition of single parent particularly women led households.

## 4.4 Access to Justice and Protection from Discrimination

- **Protection from Gender Based Discrimination and Violence:** PPP remains dedicated to upholding rights enshrined for women in the Constitution, protect women from the various manifestations of discrimination and violence, and sensitize the justice system to address gender-based violence (GBV).



- **Review of Discriminatory Laws:** We will undertake a thorough examination of discriminatory laws against women and introduce amendments addressing harassment, domestic and sexual violence, and forced conversions.
- **Gender Sensitization on Sexual Violence Cases:** Mandatory gender sensitization will be instituted for law enforcement personnel, judges, lawyers, civil servants, and especially for media personnel involved in reporting on cases of sexual violence, to preserve the safety and anonymity of survivors. In addition, targeted measures aimed at rehabilitation of survivors of domestic and sexual abuse will be implemented.
- **Establishment of ECP Task Force:** PPP will encourage Election Commission of Pakistan to establish a task force dedicated for monitoring the allocation of 5 percent seat quota to women contesting elections on general seats.
- **Raising Electoral Tickets for Women:** We commit to raise electoral tickets for women candidates contesting elections on general seats from 5 percent to at least 15 percent.
- **Empowering Women in Local Governance:** The Party pledges to strengthen local government bodies as platforms for women's empowerment and political participation.
- **Enhanced Representation in Decision Making:** PPP will review and improve the operations, structures, and membership framework of political parties. Furthermore, structural reforms in political parties will be implemented to increase women's representation in executive councils.
- **Women Caucuses:** The Party maintains its commitment to strengthening the Women Caucuses through provision of required support services.
- **Eliminating Discrimination against Reserved Seats:** PPP will eliminate discrimination against women elected on reserved seats and allocate dedicated development funds for their empowerment.
- **Implementation of Election Laws:** We will address gaps in the implementation of election laws with special emphasis on Sections 9, 47, and 48 of the Election Act, 2017.
- **Framework for Distribution of Electoral Tickets:** We will prioritize development of a comprehensive framework for distributing electoral tickets to women candidates on general seats, considering family ties, technocrats, and party members.
- **Enhanced Political Participation:** PPP will devise and implement comprehensive strategies to engage women voters and enhance participation of women in electoral process.
- **Training Programmes:** The Party will institute training programmes for women in political parties, with specific emphasis on enhancing their understanding of parliamentary processes.
- **Regular Gender Audits:** We will regularly conduct gender audits within political parties to identify and address barriers hindering women's participation and leadership.
- **Legislation for Political Rights:** PPP will empower civil society through legislation and effective policies designed to safeguard women's rights. Additionally, we will support research, academia, and ideologies that promote gender equality and women's empowerment in politics.

#### 4.5. Access to Education

- **Attendance of Girls in Schools:** Qualitative measures will be adopted to ensure enrolment and attendance of girls in educational institutions, in addition to expanding the number of schools for girls.
- **Health & Sanitary Facilities in Schools:** Emphasizing the significance of addressing period poverty, we will work for provision of quality health and sanitary facilities in schools to enable adolescent girls to continue their education.
- **Expansion of Pink Bus Service:** Drawing aspiration from novel idea of Pink Bus Service in Karachi, we aim to expand this transportation initiative to facilitate girls pursuing their education without hindrance.
- **Digital Literacy in Curriculum:** We will incorporate digital literacy a significant feature in the curriculum and reduce digital gender gap enabling women to leverage online and digital marketplaces.





05

## **SOCIAL PROTECTION: SCALING UP OUR LEGACY**

In a development context where people's basic needs are only growing along with rising economic and climate vulnerability, food, and water insecurity the world over, social protection programmes emerge as important beacons of hope, moving people away from impoverishment towards opportunity, based on the promise of equity and well-being for all citizens. Rooted in the fundamental principles of the Pakistan Peoples Party, taking forward our *Roti, Kapra aur Makaan* pledge, our social protection commitment is dedicated to eradicating poverty, safeguarding livelihoods, nurturing human capital, and ensuring housing for all. Within the framework of Pakistan's Constitution, Article 38 unequivocally outlines the state's responsibilities toward its populace, emphasizing the imperative to raise living standards, prevent wealth concentration, ensure equitable labor relations, and provide the necessities of life.

Building on earlier legacy founding programmes of social protection the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), will continue its inclusive governance record. With historic achievements in social protection and poverty reduction programming, in the shape of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), the PPP will add both substance and heft to its fight against poverty and vulnerability.

In the next five years, Pakistan stands poised to battle its biggest challenges including the elimination of chronic hunger and food insecurity, resilience against climate shocks, and the expansion of an agile, responsive, and efficient social protection system. The roadmap will include:

### **5.1 Ending Chronic Hunger and Food Insecurity**

- We will eradicate severe food insecurity within five years by establishing a robust system to protect the 4.5 million individuals at risk, coupled with a targeted approach to alleviate moderate food insecurity by halving the affected population.

### **5.2 Protecting People Facing Adverse Shocks**

- The PPP will develop a comprehensive system capable of swiftly responding to diverse shocks, be they climate-related or pandemic-induced, ensuring the resilience of vulnerable communities through timely assistance.

### **5.3 Comprehensive, Responsive, and Efficient System**

- We will renew and enhance the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) through augmented resources and improved targeting mechanisms. Foster

collaboration between federal and provincial social protection systems, tailored to local needs, while streamlining data collection and verification.

#### 5.4 Additional Resources for Social Protection and Reallocation

- The Party will cease untargeted subsidies, channeling the considerable resources saved — over Rs. 800 billion annually — into a more robust social protection framework. Aim to double the federal and provincial governments' rights-based social protection spending, from the current 0.6 percent of GDP to 1.2 percent of GDP, thereby significantly bolstering the efficacy and reach of social protection initiatives.

#### 5.5 Old Age Homes

- As part of our dedication to the well-being of senior citizens, we commit to establishing old age homes across the country.

#### 5.6 Land Rights to Women

- To enhance economic empowerment of women and strengthen the family structure, we will continue to grant land titles to women in all future projects. 5.7

#### 5.7 Registration of Female Agricultural Workers

- We will work diligently for legal recognition of women agricultural workers and introduce supportive measures such as right to pay, equal and minimum wages, recognition of women as beneficiaries of various government programmes, priority to women workers for allotment of state-owned land for agriculture, directed investment in the livestock sector for women agricultural workers, market linkages for women workers to boost livestock products.

In the light of Pakistan's constitutional commitments and the enduring principles of social justice, the imperative to transform social protection into a comprehensive, responsive, and rights-based system is paramount. The Pakistan Peoples Party, with its distinguished legacy in this arena, is primed to embark on a journey to address the formidable challenges ahead. By renewing and expanding the Benazir Income Support Programme, fortifying federal-provincial collaboration, and reallocating resources, the PPP envisions a future where the rights of citizens are upheld, poverty is vanquished, and social protection becomes an unwavering pillar of a just and equitable society. Through these policy measures, Pakistan can chart a course toward a more inclusive and prosperous tomorrow, where the principles of rights and responsibilities converge, opening the door for a brighter future for all its citizens.



06

## RIGHTS FOR ALL

### 6.1 Upholding Human Dignity

- **Justiciability of Article 38(d):** The PPP aims to amend the Constitution to make Article 38(d) justiciable, thus recognizing the fundamental right of citizens to food, health, and housing as contained in Chapter 1 on "Fundamental Rights" in Part II of the Constitution and thus make, basic necessities of life such as food, clothing, housing, education, medical relief and employment as justiciable rights in accordance with Party's commitment to provide 'roti, kapra aur makaan' to everyone.
- **Criminalization of Enforced Disappearances:** We will introduce legislation to criminalize enforced disappearances, aligning our laws with international standards and commitments. Internment centers will be closed and replaced with regular jails in accordance with the verdict of Peshawar High Court.
- **International Convention on Enforced Disappearances:** The PPP will sign and ratify the International Convention on Enforced Disappearances.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** The reports of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced Disappearances (UNWGED) and the Commissions on Enforced Disappearances will be made public, ensuring transparency and accountability in addressing this critical issue.
- **Protection of Journalists:** The PPP will fully operationalize federal legislation on the protection of journalists will be fully operationalized and encourage provinces to enact similar legislation where necessary.
- **Legislation on torture:** The PPP will operationalize legislation to criminalize torture, in line with international human rights standards.
- **Strengthening Human Rights Bodies:** Statutory bodies for the protection and promotion of human rights like National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR), the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and the National Commission on Rights of Child (NCRC) will be strengthened by ensuring financial and administrative autonomy in accordance with Paris Principles. The Commissions will be encouraged to raise their own funds and the civil society encouraged to advance the human rights agenda.
- **Freedom of Speech:** The PPP will review media related laws, including Section 37 of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 (PECA 2016), in consultation with stake holders to protect and enhance freedom of speech.
- **Implementation of International Covenants:** All International Human Rights Conventions and treaties including the International Convention for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Convention on Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and additional protocols will be implemented, with periodic reports submitted to the United Nations bodies.

- **Protections of Workers' Rights:** The PPP will protect the right of the workers, the labor to form unions, recognizing it as a fundamental constitutional right. **The right of students to form unions, as a fundamental constitutional right of freedom of association, will also be protected.**
- **Minimum Charter of Human Rights:** We will collaborate with other political parties to develop a Minimum Charter of Human Rights and a road map for its implementation.
- **Misuse of Blasphemy Law:** The PPP will introduce legislation to prevent the misuse of Blasphemy law **in accordance with the reports of the Senate Human Rights Committee.**
- **Protection of Human Rights Defenders:** Legislation will be made for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
- **Support for Terrorism Victims:** We will establish "Civilian Terrorism Victims Support Project" to rehabilitate victims of terrorism and their families including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
- **Death Penalty Reform:** The PPP will drastically reduce the number of offences that carry death penalty in the first instance while moving towards abolishing the death penalty altogether.
- **Reforming the Security State:** We will reorient the security state towards a welfare-oriented society that prioritizes the rights of citizens over the privileges of the civil-military bureaucratic complex.
- **Oversight of Intelligence Agencies:** Measures will be taken to bring state intelligence agencies under legislation, ensuring oversight and accountability. Also, efforts will be made to de-politicize and de-corporatize the national security complex.
- **Addressing Climate Change as a Human Rights Issue:** Climate change, environmental degradation and population will be reoriented as human rights issues, addressing the growing threats to human rights from global environmental, ecological and population crises.
- **Repealing Discriminatory Laws:** Outdated, discriminatory colonial era laws inconsistent with human with human rights principles will be revisited including Clause 2 (1) (d) of the Army Act.
- **Prison Reforms:** The PPP will undertake reforms in Prisons with particular focus on overcrowding and children born in jails.
- **Day Care Centers and Children in Domestic Service:** The PPP will set up Day Care Centers for children to facilitate working mothers and impose a complete ban on employing children in domestic service
- **South Punjab:** The PPP will create a separate province for the people of South Punjab in line with the Constitutional Amendment Bill for the creation of the separate province piloted by it and passed by the Senate in March 2014.
- **Judicial Reforms:** Judicial reforms in consultation with all stake holders in three critical areas namely appointment & accountability of judges, use of Suo motu powers to ensure right to fair trial in accordance with Article 10-A of the Constitution and the setting up of the Constitution Court as envisaged in the Charter of Democracy.



## 6.2 Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- Legislative and administrative measures to institutionalize data collection with respect to persons living with disabilities particularly birth registration of children with disabilities at their doorstep as an important step towards policy formulation.
- To facilitate and encourage participation of persons with disabilities in political processes at all levels with a view to politically empowering them.
- To promote inclusive education with emphasis on girls living with disabilities in public and private educational institutions.
- Disability Commissions will be formed in provinces to work towards eliminating infrastructural and attitudinal barriers towards mainstreaming persons with disabilities.
- Legislation and policy measure will be undertaken to ensure jobs in public and private sectors to persons with disabilities with special attention to inclusion of women living with disabilities in the workforce.
- Measures will be taken to provide websites/portals that can be easily accessed by persons with hearing and visual impairment including provision of forms for jobs, admission to educational institutions in accessible format.
- Steps will be taken to provide accessible public and private transport systems for persons living with disabilities including installation of ramps in public spaces through policy reforms.
- The process of registration as a voter of persons with disabilities will be simplified.

## 6.3 Human Rights of Transgender Persons

- The Party will ensure implementation in letter and spirit of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2018.
- Concentrate steps will be taken to facilitate the transgender persons participation in political processes at all levels with a view to empowering them.

## 6.4 Human Rights of Children

The Party views with great concern the massive violation of child rights involving issues like children in domestic labour, child labour, child marriage & the custom of swarah, unattended orphans, children in jails, with disabilities, victims of sexual abuse, stateless children, caught in armed conflicts, in the camps for internally displace persons and children as victims of a broken juvenile justice system.

The PPP will take all required measures including legislative, policy and raise mass awareness about child issues. Towards this end it will:

- Undertake preparation of a core national document on the status/ basic information about the country's children.
- Strengthen institutional mechanisms like the NCRC for addressing child issues.
- Implement the promises made in the reports submitted to the UN bodies at the time of Universal Periodic Reviews (UPRs) and the UNCRC.
- Ratify the protocol to the Convention on Rights of Child (CRC) on preventing use of children in armed conflicts.
- Take concrete measures to eliminate the teaching of religious or sectarian intolerance, protect children from maltreatment in schools/madressahs and prevent recruitment of students by armed groups.

- Implement in letter and spirit Article 25-A of the Constitution on free and compulsory education of children of 5-16 years of age.
- Implement existing laws on child issues including preventing child labour and child marriage.
- Revisit Juvenile Justice system and increase women participation in it.
- Sensitize law enforcers in issues in children rights in their syllabi.
- Expenses on DNA tests in case of sexual abuse will be borne by the government.
- Ensure birth registration for preventing child marriages.
- Make a valid CNIC as conditional for the solemnization and registration of the marriage.
- Conduct creative mass awareness campaigns on child rights and child protection with the participation of women and youth.
- Autism is a relatively neglected area in health & child issues that need attention. There are more than 350,000 children in Pakistan with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The PPP will raise awareness and promote early intervention to improve the lives of individuals with ASD and their families.

It will adopt measures aimed at increased access to affordable and timely ASD screening and diagnosis; funding early intervention programmes; support for families of children facing unique ASD challenges; inclusive education to enable children with ASD meet their individual needs; and launching public awareness campaigns.

## 6.5 Human Rights of Minorities

- The Party believes that in accordance with Article 25 of the Constitution declaring that all citizens are equal before law any discrimination against non-Muslims on the basis of faith from holding some high state offices is repugnant to the principles of fundamental human rights. It believes that Articles 41 and 91 of the Constitution reserving some state offices for Muslims only need to be revisited.
- A Minorities Commission will be set up under an Act of the Parliament and other measures taken for the protection of non-Muslim minorities as in the Supreme Court verdict of 2014.
- Concrete legislative and administrative measures will be taken for the implementation of the Constitutional Articles 20, 22 and 36 bearing on religious freedom, safeguards against discrimination in educational institutions with respect to religion and protection of rights of religious minorities.
- The Christian Personal Laws will be updated in consultation with the community as per their needs. The process of vetting & reviewing the draft Christian Marriage and Divorce Bill will be expedited to ensure the legal rights and dignity of the Christian families.
- Framing of the Rules by the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces under The Hindu Marriage Act was passed by the Parliament and accented to by the President in 2017 will be expedited. The Sindh Hindu Marriage Amendment Act 2018 will be effectively implemented.
- The five percent job quota for minorities will be implemented in letter and spirit.





## 6.6 Human Rights Undermined by Population Explosion

The 2017 census recorded Pakistan's population standing at 208 million showing an annual growth rate of 2.4 % since 1998—the highest in the region. At the current growth rate our population will reach 400 million by 2050. of in 2017 census.

Exploding population has trumped everything. It has depleted natural resources, outstripped development gains made, adversely impacted the economy and the environment. Indeed, it lies at the root of food insecurity, water scarcity, forced internal migrations, unmanageability of climate induced disasters and thereby undermining basic human rights of all.

Population explosion has imperilled democracy and threatened national security. Threat to Pakistan's security is no less from the population explosion and environmental degradation within the national borders. The quality of citizens' lives has been gravely impacted adversely by it. Hence the need to heed population issues most seriously.

The present NFC formula envisages distribution of resources on the basis of population. 82% weightage is given to the population factor in determining who gets how much. This is the highest weightage given to population anywhere in the world for resource distribution.

A national narrative “increase the population to get increased share in resources” has thus developed unwittingly over the decades, and the vicious cycle of population goes on.

When political and economic power is distributed among the federating units predominately on the basis of population, not only the smaller federating units are marginalized, but it also incentivizes population growth.

The PPP will encourage a multi stakeholder national dialogue on the horizontal distribution of financial resources among the federating units to build a national narrative that helps in addressing issues in exploding population.

Population issues are compounded by maternity deaths, lack of access to the Lady Health Workers, unwanted pregnancies. All these issues and more are central to women disempowerment.

The PPP, therefore, will place women empowerment at the center of national discourse — both economic and political empowerment of women----as an element of guiding national population policies.

The PPP believes in voluntary, rights-based approach to family planning to assist citizens in exercising this right. Towards this end the PPP will:

- Work towards improving access to family planning services through administrative and policy measures and placing the Lady Health Workers (LHWs) at the center of reproductive choices and service delivery system.
- Make population planning an integral part of development planning and population studies as part of the curriculum.

- Take concrete steps to honor all national and international commitments made for the lowering of population growth and assist provinces in implementing their policy goals.
- Strive to raise the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) to 60 % and reach a total fertility rate of 2.2 children per woman and lower population growth rate to 1.1 % by 2030.

## 6.7 Human Rights in Merged Area

- The PPP will ensure full implementation of the 25th Constitutional Amendment merging Ex-tribal areas in the province.
- The internment centers in the merged areas and other areas of the province will be placed under the law enforcement agencies/jail department of the provincial government and subjected to regular Jail Manuals in accordance with a 2019 PHC verdict.
- Tax exemptions applicable in ex FATA/PATA will be extended for a further period in consultation with the people representatives.

## 6.8 Rights of Digital Platforms Workers

A significant number of young workers are engaged to earn their livelihood through internet-based applications such as Bykea, Careem, inDrive, Uber, Yango, FoodPanda, Airlift, Cheetay, GharPar and many other online applications.

Neither digital platforms nor existing labour laws protect these platform workers because the companies classify these workers as “independent contractors” and thus denied labour rights through labour laws which are meant for “workers” and not ‘independent contractors.’

The PPP will introduce legislation for social protection of digital platform workers by mechanisms including extension of social security coverage under the Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) and Employees Old-Age Benefit Institute (EOBI) etc.

## 6.9 Family Laws

Reforming the law, processes and systems related to registration of marriage of all religions including: amendments to the nikahnama; ensuring minimal standards of qualifications, training, licensing and monitoring of Nikah Registrars for all religions; gender equality in notification of Marriage Registrars; enhancing their role to ensure provision of accurate information relating to rights in marriage of men and women and the detailed explanation of all clauses; and holding Marriage Registrars accountable for failure to completely fill out nikahnamas/ forms or violation of any laws while filling these.

Ensuring the protection of financial rights of women upon dissolution of marriage including inclusion within law the Islamic concept of Nafaqah al- mut’ah; women’s right to a share in matrimonial property; and awareness campaigns on women’s rights to include in the nikahnama on financial protections during and after marriage including maintenance, shares in property, child custody and guardianship, division of assets etc.



07

## DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS: STRENGTHENING THE CORE

Democracy stands as the cornerstone of the Pakistan Peoples Party's manifesto, for it is the bedrock upon which our nation's stability and progress rest. Despite repeated efforts to subvert democratic institutions, we believe that democracy provides a platform for peaceful conflict resolution, promotes inclusivity, and encourages the active participation of the people in shaping their own destiny. However, democracy is not just a political system but a way of life. It promotes the values of tolerance, respect for differing viewpoints, and the rule of law. The Party recognizes that democracy, in its truest sense, is not solely about elections but encompasses civic engagement, protection of human rights, and social and economic justice.

The Pakistan Peoples Party has a profound relationship with the fundamentals of democracy, and we have demonstrated our commitment through significant sacrifices. While we take pride in strengthening democracy which was initiated by Shaheed Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto, we are also compelled to draw attention to worrisome trends. We firmly believe that the consolidation of democracy necessitates heightened efforts to foster unity among our citizens and promote harmony between our citizens and state institutions.

We aim to prioritize the following policy measures for strengthening democracy, promoting unity, and encouraging citizen's engagement with state institutions:

### 7.1 Constitutional Reforms

- **Safeguarding Democratic Principles:** The PPP asserts its commitment to safeguard the democratic, federal and parliamentary structure of the state, uphold the principles of Eighteenth Amendment in the Constitution of Pakistan ensuring guaranteed autonomy to the provinces, and resist any attempt to change the structure of the state or revoke the provisions of 18th Amendment under any pretext.
- **Devolution of Power after 18th Amendment:** We will undertake comprehensive reforms to remove any confusion and faithful implementation of 18th Constitutional amendment. Overlapping functions and responsibilities in federal ministries and provincial departments will be addressed. A permanent secretariat for the CCI will also be established, with due representation of all the federating units, Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan and the federation.

- **Implementation of Charter of Democracy:** The Party will implement the clauses in the 2006 Charter of Democracy relating to constitutional amendments which have remained unimplemented, particularly in respect of setting up a Federal Constitution Court and revisiting the procedure of appointment of Judges of Higher Judiciary.
- **Appointment of Judges:** The procedure for the appointment of judges of superior judiciary will be amended to give meaningful role to the Parliament and other stake holders. The procedure for the appointment of judges of the Federal Constitutional Court will be the same as for judges of Higher Judiciary.
- **Empowering House of Federation:** For meaningful federalism and veering away from a majoritarian state, the PPP will empower the House of Federation in accordance with Resolution No. 305, unanimously passed by the Senate of Pakistan on February 13, 2017.
- **Local Governments:** The PPP will strengthen local governments in line with the Constitution and revisit Article 140-A to empower grassroots governance, in consultation with all stakeholders to ensure the financial, administrative, and political autonomies of local bodies as the third tier of government.

## 7.2 Advancing Equalities

- **Devolved Finance:** A permanent National Finance Commission with experts from all sides will be set up to avoid deadlocks and delays. Moreover, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir will also be included in the Award.
- **FATA & PATA post 25th Amendment:** We will ensure 25th Constitutional Amendment is implemented in letter and spirit and FATA and PATA areas are duly empowered with local self-governments in tribal areas. Efforts will be made for restoration of traditional regional trade and revival of erstwhile FATA.
- **Balochistan:** We will revive and upscale the Aghaz-e-Huqooq-e-Balochistan initiative to allow for a greater focus on institutional reforms and transparency in the allocation of grants and employment opportunities in tandem with the functioning of the Cross-Party Parliamentary Commission to be specifically constituted for Balochistan. We are also committed to the full and equal involvement of local communities in the utilization of natural resources of Balochistan.
- **Creation of South Punjab Province:** We will pursue the creation of a separate province for South Punjab, in line with the Constitutional Amendment Bill passed by the Senate of Pakistan in March 2014.
- **Fiscal Autonomy of Gilgit-Baltistan:** We are committed to guaranteeing fiscal autonomy for the people of Gilgit-Baltistan by enhancing their authority over locally generated revenues. Additionally, we will strive to increase the allocation of Gilgit-Baltistan's share from the federal revenue.
- **Azad Jammu & Kashmir:** The Party is dedicated to increasing the development budget of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for prosperity. We will execute diverse development projects, including energy, transportation, healthcare, education, and water infrastructure, while also reviewing Azad Jammu and Kashmir's share of net hydel profits to meet local needs.



### 7.3 Transformative Governance and Civil Service Reforms

- **Governance and Transparency Reforms:** The Party is committed to implementing governance and transparency reforms in key areas such as taxation and public administration.
- **Civil Service Reforms:** We will initiate an extensive process of civil service reform and constitute a Task Force comprising equal representation from all political parties with parliamentary presence, alongside other relevant stakeholders and experts. Based on the recommendations put forth by this Task Force, necessary legislation will be introduced in Parliament.
- **Implementation of Performance Metrics:** Efforts will be made to create a balance between security of tenure and accountability of civil servants. The existing mechanism based on the Annual Confidential Report (ACR) will be reviewed and a culture of accountability will be cultivated through the implementation of performance metrics, while concurrently enhancing the effectiveness of the Ombudsman's office.
- **Restoration of Magisterial Powers:** We advocate for reinstatement of magisterial powers to District Commissioners. This step will be crucial to addressing the challenges stemming from the private jirga system.

### 7.4 Empowering Overseas Pakistanis

- **Overseas' Right to Vote:** PPP pledges to establish separate constituencies for overseas Pakistanis and grant them right to vote.
- **Workers' Remittances:** We will implement measures to boost foreign workers' remittances and improve the efficiency of formal banking channels.
- **Support to Imprisoned Pakistanis Abroad:** We will formulate and implement policies regarding consular support, ensuring imprisoned Pakistanis in other countries have access to due process.
- **Enhancing Educational Standards:** We commit to establishing institutions aimed at elevating educational standards for the children of expatriates.

### 7.5 Art, Culture, Music & Literature

- **Promoting Art and Culture:** The Party will promote art, culture, music, and literature as instruments for cultivating harmony and tolerance across all echelons of society. To enhance the well-being of artists, writers, and poets, we will establish an Art, Culture and Music Endowment Fund along with new institutions for advancing the film industry as well as developing art, culture, and literature.
- **Establishing Literary Councils:** The PPP will establish literary councils at district level to encourage the emergence of new literary talent.
- **Organizing Art and Culture Festivals:** The Party is committed to organizing national and international festivals highlighting the art and culture of all parts of the country, providing financial support to creative writers and poets and instituting awards including cash prizes for creative writing at district, provincial and national level.

08

## PRIORITISING THE RULE OF LAW: JUSTICE FOR ALL

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) underscores its steadfast commitment to fostering an independent, empowered, and accountable judiciary across all echelons of the legal system. This commitment arises from our unwavering dedication to preserving the integrity and autonomy of the judiciary in all circumstances. However, it is incumbent upon us to acknowledge the prevailing deficiencies within Pakistan's legal framework, where the justice system often appears to serve the privileged few rather than the majority of the populace. Regrettably, historical instances of judicial decisions influenced by self-interest and partisanship, rather than adhering to the principles of the rule of law, have marred the judicial landscape.

Pakistan's superior judiciary has repeatedly faced criticism for its inability to uphold the Constitutional principles and safeguard the fundamental rights of its citizens. Previous judicial pronouncements have, at times, validated military interventions, while judicial leadership has been perceived as collaborating with undemocratic regimes. Furthermore, the processes of judicial appointments, promotions, and removals have been subjected to manipulation, eroding public trust. Valuable judicial time and energy have been diverted towards political matters, leaving a staggering backlog of over 2.1 million pending cases in Pakistan's courts. The existing framework for judicial accountability, where judges are tasked with holding their peers accountable, has proven ineffective in achieving meaningful accountability.

In light of these challenges, it is imperative that the judiciary refocuses its priorities on delivering swift and cost-effective justice to the millions of ordinary Pakistanis whose civil and criminal cases remain unresolved or unfairly adjudicated. The PPP remains firmly committed to upholding the values of constitutionalism, the rule of law, and judicial independence. In this sphere we will be aiming at the following:

- **Equitable Access to Justice:** The PPP recognizes the need to establish an accessible legal aid system for both civil and criminal cases, ensuring that all citizens, regardless of their financial means, have equitable access to the judicial process.
- **Technological Advancements:** Collaborating with the judiciary, we intend to introduce technology-based systems to streamline case tracking and expedite the hearing and resolution of pending cases, enhancing the efficiency of the justice system.
- **Expansion of Judicial Capacity:** To address the backlog of pending cases, the formation of a parliamentary commission in consensus with all political stakeholders will be initiated to explore strategies for increasing the number of judges at all levels within the judicial system.





- **Alternate Dispute Resolution:** Quick and fair mechanisms for alternate dispute resolution in civil and commercial cases will be established to ease the burden on the court system and facilitate smoother business transactions.
- **Federal Constitutional Court:** To address constitutional issues, a Federal Constitutional Court will be established, with equal representation from all federating units. This court will consist of judges or individuals qualified for Supreme Court judgeship, for six-year terms, while the Supreme and High Courts will handle regular civil and criminal cases.
- **Inclusivity:** Recognizing the importance of diversity, we aim to increase representation for women, minorities, and underrepresented segments of society at all levels of the judiciary.
- **Reforming Appointment Processes:** At present, appointment of judges is made by the judiciary. Going forward, a consensus will be sought to reform the appointment process for superior judiciary, with an emphasis on meaningful parliamentary involvement and the restoration of processes outlined in the eighteenth amendment to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- **Transparency:** Enhancing transparency within the superior judiciary's operations, including bench formation and court administration, will be critical to restoring public confidence in the judiciary.
- **Independent Judicial Complaints Commission:** A legally established Judicial Complaints Commission will be introduced to independently investigate complaints of misconduct against judges and recommend appropriate actions to Parliament, further ensuring accountability and maintaining the judiciary's integrity.
- **Uniform Accountability:** We aim to pursue uniform accountability across the board under a single legal framework, guaranteeing fair and impartial justice.
- **Suo Moto Powers:** To ensure transparency in the judicial process, rules governing Suo moto powers will be formulated.

09

## WATER FOR LIFE: MANAGING SCARCITY AND EQUITY

The prevailing water stress in Pakistan is a persistent crisis as evident by its position among the top five most water-stressed countries in the world. Given its fundamental significance for human and biodiverse life, its availability, sustainability, and deficit in relation to a growing population are of immediate concern. As a public good, its evolving availability, purity, flow and distribution are at the intersection of critical change in Pakistan. As anticipated by the UN, Pakistan will be water-scarce by the year 2025. This marks a crucial threshold and milestone requiring proactive measures to avoid and mitigate against.

While water use, and per capita consumption in Pakistan (ranked as 4th highest consumption-wise) is too high by international standards, the inequitable distribution of water can spark conflict between a Federation with a fast-growing population. Adding to these rising tensions, IRSA marked April 2022 as the driest month since 1961, with inflows during this period being recorded at 5.5350 MAF and compared to the projected 8.590 MAF; showing 38 percent shortage.

For a country dependent almost 90 percent on the Indus water system for its agriculture, the transparent implementation of the 1991 Water Accord is an urgent necessity. While the 1991 Accord may be imperfect, it is the only one that has the approval of all provinces. A review must include the views and stake holding of all four provinces as well as Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

AJ&K, GB, and to some extent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, have different water needs. Due to changing and higher levels of water in the rising areas of the Indus, their needs and experiences differ from those of Punjab, where the plains begin distributing water into larger canals. Sindh and Balochistan have very different issues as lower riparian with high levels of water stress both in terms of pollution and reduction in flow.

Irrigated lands in Punjab now have higher contents of fluoride, magnesium, and potassium. This means 70 percent of tube wells have saline-sodic water. As the need for water increases the irrigated lands receive the same water that turns lands into saline-sodic soils. Agriculture consumes more than 85 percent of Pakistan's water, and while Punjab is home to one of the world's largest man-made irrigation systems of the world feeding off the Indus, underscores a critical examination of water usage in the canal colonies. The unregulated use of tube wells has shrunk sweet water in Punjab's aquifers to below 600cm.



For Sindh and Balochistan, the continuous, severe and unaddressed water deficits have transformed the ecology and soil of the provinces. Excessive use of groundwater is resulting in widespread waterlogging in Sindh. Poorly planned constructions on the river such as the RBOD and LBOD have added to Sindh's severe water crisis. Sindh has lost about 41 percent (as per the 1998 stats since there are no updated stats available) of its cultivable land to salinity caused by saltwater intrusion from the sea in the delta regions. Seawater intrudes when the downstream flow of water from the Indus is low, or when upper riparians divert water for storage or sowing season. Water must flow in these courses to prevent further sea water intrusion of the delta. Sindh has also lost most of its groundwater to salt, with aquifers turning brackish and non-usable for consumption.

The browning of Balochistan's forest cover and orchards is of serious concern. Water sources have reached critical levels with 85 percent of the population now facing deprivation of access to clean drinking water. This has in part led to disease and malnutrition in the province.

In addition, the trust deficit based on previous violations of core water agreements, has compounded the problem of distribution of water in the federation. The untimely opening of flood canals during periods of shortages has led to a vexed history of lower riparian stress that has been transformational in the life-giving power and survival of the Indus River, its arterial irrigation feeders as the granary of Pakistan, its once biodiverse ecosystem, and the ongoing desertification of its delta.

## 9.1 Policy Measures

- 1 **Adherence to the Water Apportionment Accord:** We will ensure strict adherence to the Water Apportionment Accord of 1991, safeguarding Sindh's rightful share of water resources. Any deviations from this accord will be addressed promptly to maintain equitable distribution among provinces.
- 2 **Protection of Agriculture and Environment:** We recognize the pivotal role of agriculture in our nation's economy. Our policies will aim to protect the agricultural sector by ensuring an adequate water supply. Simultaneously, we will prioritize environmental preservation, especially in the vulnerable Indus delta.
- 3 **Constitutional Compliance:** We will work tirelessly to ensure that the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) complies with its constitutional duties and respects the principles of the accord. This is essential for maintaining the integrity of water distribution.
- 4 **Assessment of Future Water Availability:** We will commission comprehensive studies to assess future water availability in light of decreasing inflows and the impact of planned dam projects. This will inform our policies to address potential water scarcity.
- 5 **Evaluation of Proposed Projects:** Prior to proceeding with projects like the Kalabagh Dam, we will conduct thorough evaluations of their impact on downstream provinces. The welfare of our citizens will guide our decisions.
- 6 **Equitable Allocation from Eastern Rivers:** We are committed to finding a balanced approach to allocate water resources from the Jhelum, Chenab, and Eastern Rivers, ensuring equitable distribution among provinces.

- 7 **Ensuring Uniform Accountability:** We will design and implement uniform accountability framework to resolve water distribution crises and reduce the 44.9 percent water losses attributed to evaporation and pilferage.
- 8 **Institutional Reforms:** We will initiate institutional reforms, including the establishment of unified legislation encompassing all aspects of water resource management.
- 9 **Water Distribution Protocols:** Data gathering and dissemination protocols through regular and consensus-formula based telemetry; reinforced by open checks by all representatives of affected provinces will be made a policy priority.
- 10 **Water Sector Improvement Project:** The existing water sector improvement project based on reviving natural outflow channels shall be reviewed and expanded over the entire country.

## 9.2 Key Steps

- 1 **Water Quality Control:** We will enforce binding emission standards in discharge permits to combat water pollution and regulate groundwater use to prevent salinity intrusion. Enhanced monitoring, enforcement, and transparency in water supply and sanitation will be prioritized.
- 2 **Efficient Water Distribution:** We will implement a ban on new water outlets and the phased-out removal of unauthorized ones to ensure equitable water distribution. Prioritizing water allocations under the Water Apportionment Accord and enhancing water efficiency will promote regional stability.
- 3 **Community Involvement:** We will actively involve local communities in decision-making processes and encourage their participation in water management solutions.
- 4 **Water Projects Investments:** Investment in water projects will be prioritized with a particular focus on areas with limited clean drinking water. We commit to facilitation of major infrastructure projects in water – such as desalination facilities in prominent coastal urban centers, and the requisite ancillary infrastructure serving municipalities, towns, and local communities.
- 5 **Water Conservation:** We will prioritize effective storage and irrigation systems including drip irrigation, implement rainwater harvesting, prevention of water theft, invest in lining of canals, and install treatment of sewage plants.
- 6 **Rehabilitation of Barrages:** Substantial rehabilitation and repair of the strategically placed and economically vital barrages will be ensured to prevent structural depreciation, climate stress and enhance their flood management capabilities.
- 7 **Water Taxation:** Social equity in water consumption will be ensured through the introduction of water taxation for higher income groups possessing both resources and capacity to fulfill pay municipal rent obligations.



10

## FOOD SECURITY: REVITALISING AGRICULTURE

The agriculture sector contributes 23 percent in GDP and 37 percent in employment generation, ensures food security and supplies inputs to sustain manufacturing sector and exports. Nonetheless, the untapped potential of the agriculture sector has remained unrealized due to a dearth of policy focus and inconsistent decision-making in recent times. Pakistan Peoples Party recognizes its fundamental role in our economic and social fabric and places significant importance on the revitalization of agriculture sector.

In our last tenure, we introduced various agricultural policies, in particular wheat support prices. As a result, we achieved self-sufficiency in wheat, rice and sugar despite contributing to global exports. Likewise, the production of cotton and local share of edible oil recorded their highest levels, ensuring domestic food security, reducing poverty and rural-urban disparities. Our vision for the next five years is to implement comprehensive agricultural reforms to empower our farmers particularly women, enhance food security, promote research and development and encourage technological advancement to make the agriculture sector more resilient and sustainable in the face of climate change. We envision an inclusive, self-reliant and sustainable agriculture sector through the following policy measures and knowledge-based interventions:

### 10.1 Pioneering a New Era of Reforms

- **Price Support System:** We commit to comprehensively reform, expand, and modernize the price support system, encompassing various crops in addition to wheat. Moreover, support prices for each crop will be announced well in advance of the sowing season, taking into consideration global market price projections.
- **Land Digitization:** We are dedicated to advancing land digitization through GPS mapping for accurate revenue assessment of land holding. This initiative will help identify cropping patterns, cultivable land, and waterlogged saline areas for implementation of robust agricultural policies.
- **Agricultural Income Tax:** PPP will encourage provincial governments to institute reforms in the collection of agricultural income tax and ensure publication of such collection on their official websites.
- **Legal Recognition of Women Agricultural Workers:** We will work diligently for legal recognition of women agricultural workers and introduce supportive measures such as right to pay, equal and minimum wages, recognition of women as beneficiaries of various government programmes, and priority to women workers for allotment of state-owned land for agriculture.

- **Investment in R&D:** We strongly advocate and encourage substantial investment in cutting-edge agricultural research initiatives bolstering agricultural productivity, ensuring more resilience to climate change, and ultimately enhancing the livelihoods of our farmers.
- **Value Addition for Fruits and Vegetables:** We will boost agricultural value addition, especially for fruits and vegetables, through modern processing units. In addition, we will emphasize stringent bio-sanitation measures aimed at enhancing the quality of exported fruits.
- **Indigenous Seed Bank:** Collective efforts will be made to establish indigenous seed banks as an alternate to importing expensive hybrids and ensure availability of crop diversity.
- **Encouraging Local Production of Edible Oils:** Recognizing the impact of edible oil import on our forex reserves (import bill), stringent measures will be adopted for incentivizing harvesting of edible crops particularly edible oil.
- **Warehouses for Small Farmers:** We will promote establishing warehouses equipped with agricultural implements like lasers, tractors and other ploughs, available for rent to registered small farmers to afford mechanized farm equipment.
- **Expansion of Farmer Markets:** PPP will implement measures to facilitate the expansion of farmer markets for local small-scale farmers. Additionally, these markets will be equipped with solar powered refrigeration systems to preserve quality of unsold perishable items, thereby enhancing economic viability of these farmers.
- **Crop Insurance:** Innovative crop insurance programmes incorporating computerized silos will be implemented to protect all cereal crops.
- **Incentivizing Inputs:** We will initiate reforms aimed at incentivizing agricultural inputs, minimizing cost of imported raw material, plant and machinery, and promoting local production of tractors, cost-efficient fertilizer and pesticides, and other inputs to elevate our global competitiveness.
- **Access to Credit:** The Party aims to strengthen the Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited for swift availability of credit. Additionally, private sector financial institutions will be encouraged for the provision of soft loans to local farmers.
- **Boosting Diverse Aquaculture:** PPP is committed to prioritizing freshwater shrimp farming, saline water fish farming and adopting modern technology in land fishponds, to enhance sustainability of aquaculture sector.
- **Bio-saline Agriculture:** In the saline affected areas, we will implement measures to harness the potential of salt-tolerant plants.

## 10.2 Initiating Water Conservation Measures

- **Technological advancement:** We will invest in technologies to cater to the agricultural sector and domestic consumers with a focus on investing in seawater desalination projects to mitigate supply shortages.
- **Treatment of Industrial and Agricultural Effluents:** The Party is committed to embracing global best practices for the treatment of industrial and agricultural effluents to reduce reliance on potable water. We will establish rigorous standards and regulatory frameworks and design robust and real-time water quality monitoring systems.





- Best Practices at Local Level: PPP is determined to maintain best practices in water management at the district level and allocate resources for the enhancement of rainwater harvesting methods aimed at reducing salt accumulation in soil profiles.
- Prudent Utilization of Existing Resources: We will prioritize evidence-based measures for prudent and effective utilization of existing water resources, ensuring their sustainability for purposes of irrigation, drinking, and agricultural development.

### 10.3 Elevating Livestock and Dairy Development (L&DD)

- **Recognizing as an Independent Sector:** Acknowledging the contributions made by livestock in our economic growth, we will elevate the status of Livestock and Dairy Development as an independent and recognized sector.
- **Allocating Resources:** We will allocate reasonable resources for L&DD to establish labs, improve breeding (both indigenous and imported), address nutritional deficiencies, enhance health facilities, and launch rural dairy cooperatives.
- **Elevating Women in Livestock:** PPP will implement measures to direct investment in the livestock sector for women agricultural workers with special emphasis on rural women and their market linkages to boost livestock products.
- **Investment in Storage Facilities:** We will allocate resources to enhance storage infrastructure for improved efficiency and sustainability of products.
- **Milk Production:** The party will encourage the local development of milk chillers and cold chains to enhance the quality of milk production. Moreover, rigorous actions will be enforced against the unauthorized sale of loose milk.
- **Powdered Milk:** We will implement rigid controls aimed at ensuring the quality of imported powdered milk.
- **Meat Certification:** Stringent certification processes for meat will be adopted ensuring international standards for meat export.
- **Enhancing Grazing Practices:** We will prioritize green fodders and improve the health of land for its sustainable use and proper grazing practices.

## POWERING PAKISTAN: RESHAPING THE ENERGY LANDSCAPE

The energy sector holds a pivotal role in the economic development of a country. However, our nation faces persistent challenges due to energy supply constraints, and the circular debt has reached an all-time high, posing a chronic hurdle to our economy. In order to address the energy needs of our growing population and economy in a sustainable manner, a forward-thinking approach is imperative. The Pakistan Peoples Party is committed to implementing a comprehensive strategy to meet energy demands, ensuring the provision of sufficient, cost-effective, and increasingly eco-friendly energy for all.

- **Energy-mix diversification:** Prioritizing the diversification of the energy mix, we will implement policy measures to attract private sector investment in renewable energy. This aims to ensure efficient, cost-effective, and clean energy for our citizens. Completion of economically viable hydropower projects and resuming work on the Pak-Iran gas pipeline will be pursued.
- **Conversion of Power Plants:** Utilizing the Public Private Partnership model, efforts will be directed towards converting power plants from imported coal to domestic coal, specifically Thar Coal. This shift aims to ensure the availability of the cheapest source of energy and increase foreign exchange savings. Investors holding Letters of Intent (LOIs) will be granted swift approval for financial close, with priority given to industrial consumers in the vicinity.
- **Energy Conservation Campaign:** Launching a nationwide awareness campaign, we will encourage the adoption of energy-efficient appliances and incentivize manufacturers to make this shift.
- **Wind Energy:** Exploring the potential of wind energy in all coastal areas of the country to provide clean energy to residents in these areas.
- **Waste to Energy Projects:** Prioritizing Waste to Energy technology due to its significant environmental benefits and efficient disposal of municipal solid waste.
- **Re-evaluation of the Unified National Grid:** Revisiting the concept of a unified national grid, considering the isolation of remote areas. Measures will be taken to revamp transmission lines and encourage well-organized off-grid solar solutions, involving the private sector. Provinces will play a significant role in facilitating such initiatives.
- **Reforming the Energy Sector:** Encouraging competition in power distribution by offering wheeling tariffs and allowing multiple companies to use power lines. A complete provincialization of generation, transmission, and distribution will be explored, with provinces determining prices and engaging in buying and selling electricity among themselves, breaking the monopoly of Distribution Companies (DISCOs).



- **Village Electrification Policy:** Considering solarization through mini-grids for villages and towns to ensure a load-shedding-free environment and reduced maintenance costs.
- **Solarization of Government Buildings:** Making efforts to solarize all public buildings, especially educational institutions and hospitals. Encouraging net metering by swapping units at a 1:1 ratio for buildings with solar energy generation.
- **Incentivizing Electric Vehicles:** Providing incentives to industries for establishing electric vehicle manufacturing facilities. Reducing duties on the import of electric vehicles, with a particular emphasis on public transport vehicles and bikes.
- **Tax Incentives:** Offering tax incentives and facilitating the industry for local manufacturing of solar plates and other alternate energy-related equipment to meet both domestic and export requirements.
- **Rationalization of Oil & Gas Policies:** Committing to comprehensive policy reform in the petroleum sector, promoting exploration and production companies through attractive pricing and facilities. Encouraging fast-track exploration of oil and gas in Pakistan, including shale gas and low BTU gas. The commitments made in Article 158 and 172 of the Constitution will be honoured.
- **Protection of Rights of Local Population:** Ensuring the protection of rights of the local population in oil and gas producing areas through the prompt release of funds under production bonus, corporate social responsibility initiatives, and relevant training programmes.
- **Utilization of Natural Resources:** In acknowledgment of prevailing concerns surrounding the exploitation of natural resources, we commit to implementing a comprehensive natural resource development strategy. This strategy entails: (i) establishing an entity upon the successful exploration of each natural and mineral resource, with the allocation of shares to local residents subject to verification from NADRA; (ii) introducing legislation to prioritize the allocation of royalties from these resources for the development of the local district; and (iii) faithfully implementing Article 172(3) of the Constitution, focusing on the operationalization and mechanisms governing joint ownership of oil and natural gas by both the federal and provincial governments.
- **Enhancing Oil Refining Capacity:** Encouraging investment directed at enhancing Pakistan's oil refining capacity to offset the need for importing refined petroleum products.

## A GREEN NEW DEAL: CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Pakistan is at a critical inflection point in its battle against the growing and devastating impacts of climate change. Despite contributing less than 1 per cent of the world's annual greenhouse gas emissions, the nation confronts severe consequences, with climate-related events annually eroding nearly 10 per cent of its GDP. The year 2022 exemplified the far-reaching consequences of climate change, affecting the lives of 33 million Pakistanis and necessitating a profound re-evaluation of development strategies to incorporate resilience, adaptation, and climate-proofing in our strategic responses. From melting glaciers in the north triggering Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) to record-breaking heat waves, droughts, and forest fires in various regions, there is no longer any doubt that climate change represents an existential threat to Pakistan. Additionally, the looming spectre of severe water scarcity, with a projected 50% demand-supply gap by 2025, coupled with the intensified risks of food insecurity due to floods and droughts, underscores the urgency of the situation.

In response to these formidable challenges, this manifesto lays out a strategic roadmap towards building a resilient and sustainable Pakistan. It draws on lessons learnt from the last defining disaster, to emphasizing a transformational shift in thinking that envisages climate resilience as a need that cannot be deferred until 2050. It calls for concrete policies and actions to enhance resilience in vulnerable communities while transitioning towards a decarbonized, sustainable future and a new green deal that can underpin an inclusive, shock-adaptive growth. This manifesto also recognizes the importance of an institutional framework for enhancing national to local uptake in adaptation and mitigation plans, and the significance of government infrastructure investments aimed at water conservation, higher circularity, biodiversity protection, diversification of energy sources, risk reduction and climate resilience as a cross-cutting goal.

### 12.1 Challenges and Policy Measures

- **Mainstreaming Climate Action:** Climate-related risks and vulnerabilities will be integral to all aspects of policymaking and budgeting, ensuring that climate action is an inseparable component of inclusive and adaptive development.
- **Energy Transition:** The Party will provide sustainable local solutions for the energy transition to renewables as a path towards realising NDC commitments for reducing emissions as well triggering indigenous use of solar, wind and hydel power for lowering energy costs.
- **Disaster Management:** The PPP will reorganise disaster management as an integrated series of institutional responses with preparedness at the community level at the heart of the action agenda with reduction of risk and early warning systems, both local and national, prioritised as a fundamental right.



- **Infrastructure Resilience:** PPP will integrate all significant infrastructure investments with climate-proofing measures to enhance resilience against floods, droughts, and extreme weather events.
- **Biodiversity Protection:** We will protect and restore diverse habitats, including forests, wetlands, and marine ecosystems, pivotal for long-term sustainability.
- **River Basin Management:** We will prioritize river basin management and advocate for climate justice and finance on international platforms, The Living Indus Initiative will be scaled up for collaborative responses and action, from communities, corporations, cities, multilateral entities and governments.
- **Regional Cooperation:** PPP is committed to collaborative regional efforts critical for effective adaptation, mitigation, climate financing, regional risk reduction, disaster management protocols and climate action, fostering collective responses and effective climate diplomacy for shared challenges.
- **Local Climate Consciousness:** Lessons learnt from the 2022 mega-flood will inform our executive agendas to focus policy delivery, disaster management and risk reduction at the local level. We will introduce initiatives aimed at promoting climate and environmental awareness at local, provincial, and federal levels, for cultivating a culture of sustainability.
- **Climate Financing and Innovation:** Given the finance bottleneck at the heart of adaptation measures, PPP will explore innovative solutions, including carbon markets and local solutions, to revitalize, expand, and diversify the envelope of financial resources for climate action. A Climate Fund for Pakistan will be set up to facilitate and attract green investments in community adaptation, risk mitigation, disaster preparedness and clean energy transitions while capacity-roadblocks to access international financing will be addressed at the technical level.
- **Digital Infrastructure:** We will utilize and expand digitalized infrastructure to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of climate action efforts.
- **Sustainable Forest Management:** We will prioritise implementation of policies for sustainable forest management aimed at preserving wildlife, reducing deforestation and species depletion, and enhancing mangroves to protect fish nurseries.

## 12.2 Adaptation

- **Water Use Rationalization:** Apart from a comprehensive water policy aimed at rationalising the use of water we will introduce legislation to support proper pricing, bulk metering, conservation, and efficiency improvement across sectors to address water scarcity. Water conservation, reduction in pollution, and distribution inefficiencies and inequities will be given special attention (see Water Resources chapter)
- **Climate-Proofed Infrastructure:** PPP will ensure that all major infrastructure, development and other projects must include features that enhance resilience against climate-related challenges, while investing in sustainable solutions at the local level.
- **Biodiversity Conservation:** Conserving and restoring biodiversity will be crucial for building resilient ecosystems capable of withstanding climate impacts. Expanding forest cover, reducing soil erosion, rebuilding fragile habitats, and restoring ecosystems across Pakistan's mountain to delta terrain will be a priority.

- **Urban Resilience:** We will invest in urban waste management, drainage systems, and upgraded weather monitoring, as well as air quality management, to adapt to urban challenges. We will support higher circularity by promoting re-use, repairing, renovating and recycling at all levels through targeted public education programmes aimed at breaking the cycle of high consumption and waste polluting our urban services, water and air.
- **Water Governance:** Equitable water distribution between federating riparian regions will be a priority, requiring strengthened water governance. Water conservation across the board will be enhanced, especially waste in rural water channels and irrigation pathways, while urban centres will be targeted for reducing high per capita water consumption, access to cleaner water sources and reduction of inefficiencies in municipal water governance.
- **Climate-Smart Agriculture:** PPP will promote climate-resilient crop varieties and efficient irrigation to ensure food security in a changing and challenging environment. Smart horticulture, agriculture and livestock technologies will be linked with local economies for mitigating growing shocks to the agri-sector with its high vulnerabilities to extreme temperatures and climate change.
- **Inclusivity:** Gender-sensitive programming with targeted inclusion for women, youth participation, and skills development will be integral to adaptation efforts. Women are already positioned at the heart of the PPP's resilience programmes in flood-affected areas in Sindh, where they are the recipients of new resilient housing and land. Programmes and initiatives like this, from Kashmir to Karachi, will focus on women and vulnerable communities for resilience-based adaptation at the local levels.

### 12.3 Mitigation

- **Clean Energy Transition:** PPP is committed to promote clean energy sources, including micro-hydels, solar, and wind energy, to reduce fossil fuel dependence. Pakistan's potential for all renewable sources of energy will be creatively utilised with public-private partnership initiatives across urban and rural areas.
- **Bio-diverse Habitat Preservation:** The preservation and restoration of forests, wetlands, and ocean ecosystems will be prioritized to act as carbon sinks. Reversing deforestation and pollution of water bodies, including coastline cleanup will be given priority with international partners.
- **Energy Efficiency:** We will introduce legislation for energy efficiency standards and incentives for buildings, industries, and the transport sector.
- **Sustainable Mobility:** We will enhance urban mobility through public transportation and non-motorized options to reduce emissions. Reduction of vehicular emissions will be prioritised with the introduction of incentives for electric motorisation of 2- and 3-seater vehicles with a time-lined roadmap for sustainable and indigenous electrification of mass transit as well as bigger vehicles.
- **Plastic Ban:** single-use plastics will be phased out in a journey for reducing environmental pollution both in waterways and on land, with cost-effective transitions pegged to manufacturers as well as consumers.
- **Clean Air Policy:** We will implement clean air policies at local levels to mitigate short-lived climate pollutants. Urban centres will be strategically prioritised for air quality improvements, from targeted changes in fuel mix to a reduction in vehicular, industrial, waste, and household emissions. Agricultural emissions will also be targeted for community action wherever possible in circular solutions.





- **Green Hydrogen:** Targeted policies will be formulated for developing infrastructure and scaling up production of green hydrogen to position Pakistan as a leader in the green hydrogen market.
- **Carbon Markets:** Establishment of carbon market standards will be encouraged to mobilize private sector finance for decarbonization.
- **Infrastructure:** Digitalized Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems will be prioritized for tracking emission reductions. Capacity-building for technical and science-based investments in building human capital for local expertise will be prioritised.
- **Integrated Waste Management:** We will implement integrated waste management with special emphasis on handling hospital waste, strictly preventing industrial and agricultural effluents into rivers and canals, advancing sewage treatment in all districts, and rigorous cleaning of surface water sources.

## 12.4 International Climate Justice and Finance

Pakistan will continue to build on the climate leadership it has exercised for climate justice on international platforms, emphasizing its disproportionate vulnerability despite its minimal contributions to greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time multilateral forums will be mobilised for serving the country's urgent needs in adaptation financing and capacity-building, in just energy transitions as well as building creative partnerships for unlocking climate financing that remains inaccessible to countries like Pakistan. Given that climate finance will be one of the most critical deficits holding back climate adaptive development, Pakistan Peoples Party will seek to scale up international diplomacy for changing the fundamentals for inaccessible climate financing as well as enhance its leadership at all multilateral forums for collective action for higher advocacy on urgent environmental and climate agendas.

- **Loss & Damage Fund:** Efforts would be directed towards the utilization of the Loss and Damage Fund to address climate-related losses and damages, especially after major climate events like the 2022 floods.
- **International Partnerships:** PPP is committed to maintain and expand international partnerships, as demonstrated at the Geneva Conference 2022, to help secure financial support and recognition of Pakistan's climate vulnerability on the global stage.
- **Global Initiatives against Climate Risks:** We will participate in different global initiatives against climate risks to enhance Pakistan's capacity to manage climate-related risks through insurance and prevention strategies in collaboration with international partners. The UN's call for Early Warning as a Fundamental Right will be given more attention for local needs and multilateral assistance leveraged for mitigating risk at all levels, from mountain to delta in Pakistan's endangered communities, resources, and species.

This comprehensive climate change manifesto serves as a holistic roadmap for Pakistan, addressing climate, environmental and pollution challenges at both national and international levels, alongside the commitment to pursuit of specific measures to transition to a sustainable and climate-resilient future with uptake centred in local communities.

13

## ENGAGING FOR A PROSPEROUS FUTURE: REBOOTING PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

The PPP commits to a foreign policy that reflects the collective aspirations of the people of Pakistan. For us the paramount goal of foreign policy is to enhance opportunities for Pakistan's citizens and expand the export of goods and services to foreign lands, while at the same time meeting the requirements of ensuring territorial integrity and sovereignty of its boundaries.

The PPP government bases its foreign policy agenda on the collective vision of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, underscoring the centrality of a people-centric approach to foreign policy.: "The objective of our foreign policy is to help create an international climate in which Pakistan can maintain its integrity and prosper in peace. For this purpose, we need friends who are interested in our security, integrity and prosperity." – Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Karachi, 1963

*"I dream of a Pakistan, of an Asia, of a world, where we can commit our social resources to the development of human life, and not to its destruction."*

–**Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto**, Cairo, 1994

A core foreign policy goal of the PPP therefore, is to advance the values and principles that protect our nation's people and safeguard sovereignty, secure their well-being and leverage opportunities for building economic and political capital. The PPP's dynamic public agenda envisions Pakistan as an inclusive, progressive, vibrant, and enterprising country which fosters durable peace both at home and abroad.

Prosperity, Protection & Propagation will form the actionable basis of foreign policy goals. Prosperity of the people will be the principal path guiding decision-making and initiatives, while Protection will be the lens through which sovereignty and integrity would be filtered. The Propagation of Pakistan's strategic and public interests would entail intensive engagement with all countries that prioritise mutual gains and joint goals on minimising the existential climate threat to invest in building resilience and adaptation capacity of the developing world; to deploy diplomatic capital and other peaceful assets for just solutions that cool off global hotspots, including the Palestine issue; strengthen rather than weaken multilateral systems, and preserve and build on the multilateral order.

The PPP's search for global peace and rules-based predictability is the path to minimizing economic, strategic and climate volatility, at the multilateral and regional level. A vision of peoples-based prosperity, built on responsive public diplomacy that ensures stability, security and growth for our evolving national goals is the most important policy priority for Pakistan today. Therefore, our foreign policy goals prioritise maximizing economic



opportunity and robust security for our people, with regional stability as the locus of geo-connective enterprise, the expansion of commercial, energy, technological grids and climate diplomacy as a path to resilient futures. Moving past paradigms that privilege divisions, our policy goals will optimize Pakistan's strengths such as pivotal supply-chain location, demographic dividend, cultural diversity, renewable energy corridors, investment windows and green resources in enhancing value for our goods and services as a strategic bridge to our national, regional and multilateral ambitions.

Committed to the dynamic globalist legacy of its leaders, the PPP, under the leadership of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, promises a forward-looking foreign policy for Pakistan that will scale up and revitalize assets, mitigate threats and risks, and propel the nation on a clear and strong trajectory of sovereign choices. There will be a strong emphasis on recognising and focusing on regional location as the connectivity opportunity because Pakistan cannot bring prosperity through trade and geo-economic values to its people until it is able to operationalise gains from its central location to its benefit rather than its detriment.

### **13.1 Negotiating a Changing Global Order**

The current global order is in profound transformation and geo-strategic flux. While we build on our traditional alliances, the Party will also look to forge new geo-economic and political inroads and partnerships that speak to navigating trade advantages while managing to lower the costs of turbulence abroad. The next few decades of disorder and geo-strategic turmoil in international relations will need Pakistan to think, act and communicate both policies and needs with speed, clarity and agility. In such a context it is important Pakistan step forward and reinvent a rational framework for a proactive foreign policy designed to maximise benefits from its friends while maintaining the best possible relations with all other countries.

We believe firmly in a Pakistan that can move into the next decades of the 21st Century with a re-set of its global outreach and smart power capabilities for a foreign policy that pivots to the future. To that end, the Party will build consensus on aligning assets for a proactive pursuit of peace and stability in its regional context. This strategic objective will be driven by the imperative to create an ecosystem conducive to channelling national resources towards climate resilience, poverty reduction, economic growth, and sustainable development. In response to a rapidly changing world, Pakistan must pivot to a dynamic and multipolar foreign policy that builds on old and new alliances to navigate the technology, trade and climate disruptions that imperil a rules-based order. Negotiating an increasingly complex global context arising from power shifts and emerging contests, the PPP will strive to manage Pakistan's international relationships by maximising gains for the country both in the region and beyond without incurring the strategic costs of zero-sum binaries and conflicts.

Capitalising on the Asian Century, we envision a Pakistan that is regionally, geographically and globally connected. The priority will be pushing the nation into a new diplomatic and institutional framework of maximising opportunities for sustainable development and investment-based economic growth. Soft power projection, skills-based human capital in digital enterprise, renewable energy curation, and climate resilient growth will become axial entry points for Pakistan's diplomatic stakes in the region's growth journey into 2050. Pakistan's geo-strategic location and demographic capital can serve as a critical bridge

between Central and South Asia on the one hand, and the Middle East and Eurasian landmass on the other side.

It was under this Party's leadership that Pakistan's foreign policy underwent a major shift from prioritising geo-politics to proactive outreach based on geo-economics, trade, commerce and business opportunities in the region. It was our Party that spearheaded a quantum leap forward by placing Pakistan as a key player in China's Belt and Road Initiative and paving the way for China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

We recognise the need to protect the corridor from external threats, including terrorism and hostile, subversive elements. We also recognise that Pakistan's public capacity to undertake CPEC is linked to pushing through crucial reforms in the energy sector, improving public sector capacity, streamlining tariff structures, and clearing regulatory tangles.

We pledge to redouble our efforts to establish and enable favourable regimes for free-trade arrangements (FTAs), comprehensive economic partnerships, financial and banking systems, trans-regional and intra-regional energy supply and energy security arrangements, digital connections and secure transport and freight corridors. We will push to revamp and overhaul Pakistan's investment climate to optimise benefits. For this, we are committed to improving Pakistan's Ease of Doing Business indicators, backed by serious regulatory reform and readjustment of tax structures.

Based on our belief in the power of geo-economics, we will continue to enhance existing trade agreements with Afghanistan and Iran. It was under our government that Pakistan signed a historic transit trade agreement with Afghanistan.

## 13.2 Constructive Engagement with Neighbours

### • Afghanistan

Pakistan seeks constructive engagement with its immediate neighbours, including Afghanistan and other neighbouring countries. This approach aims to prevent humanitarian crises and enables interim Afghan authorities to effectively combat terrorism proliferation. We share a critical 2,400 km porous border with Afghanistan that we believe needs better security and ease of validated movement. At the same time, we recognise that terrorist sanctuaries in eastern Afghanistan present a potent threat to Pakistan's safety and security. Therefore, greater political, military and intelligence cooperation with Kabul is essential to stem the flow of old and new transnational challenges including militant spillover, the regional regrouping of terrorist groups and drug and arms trafficking. Recognizing that Afghanistan's stability is not only a regional concern but also a critical precondition for regional economic connectivity, Pakistan is committed to supporting efforts in this direction.

Our Party has consistently affirmed its commitment to non-interference in Afghanistan by supporting only Afghan-led paths to stabilisation, reconciliation and peace, without favouring any group, faction or tribe. During the PPP's last tenure, our historic multi-ethnic outreach to Afghanistan's Kabul governments as well as its rival opposition parties was just one symbol of our unequivocal and unwavering support for a comprehensive Afghan-owned and led reconciliation process.



We remain committed to shoring up people-to-people and trade relations with Afghanistan, and plan to work together with Kabul for the dignified repatriation of Afghan refugees. We also believe in a comprehensive, holistic role for Pakistan in building a strong and sustainable partnership for socio-economic re-building and development of Afghanistan.

The PPP believes strongly in Pakistan's sovereignty over its land, airspace, and maritime boundaries. To that end, enhanced governance over soil, airspace and littoral limits is needed as well as transparency and clarity on the commitment to not permit the use of Pakistan's territory for the establishment of military bases by other nations. The PPP government's record in shutting down Shamsi air base is a case in point.

#### • **Kashmir**

Decades of political repression and the brutal denial of the Kashmiri's people's inalienable right to self-determination as per the UN Resolutions, are the root causes of the pervasive conflict in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. India has persistently sidestepped efforts to bring an end to the conflict through peaceful negotiations; to the contrary, its actions on August 5th, 2021, fly in the face of all legal protections given to the Kashmiri people. We stand by our Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their search for the fundamental right to vote for who rules them.

The PPP believes that there is no military or unilateral solution to the Kashmir dispute. Our party stands firm in the belief that the rights of the Kashmiri people, as per the UN Resolution, must be safeguarded in talks for a just peace even as we consider resuming a constructive dialogue with New Delhi.

#### • **India**

The PPP's focus on conflict-resolution instead of India's investment in conflict perpetuation, is the only way to unlock the potential of the region that has been unable to leverage its dividends for spectacular growth and market synergies. We believe that while normalising relations with Bharat is essential for regional peace and stability, talks will only be meaningful in an atmosphere of mutual respect with all dialogue being conducted through diplomatic channels. India's actions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, whereby red lines were crossed, false flag operations, illegal surveillance and espionage operations into Pakistan are clear indicators of strategic aggression, while the disinformation campaigns directed at targeting Pakistan's reputational status at global forums constantly hold the region hostage to cold war dynamics, space shrinks for rational regional policies where a dialogue for just peace makes headway.

Because the PPP is committed to fostering normalised trade and cooperative relationships with all its neighbouring countries, a PPP government remains prepared to engage with neighbours in a constructive and meaningful manner. However, it stands resolute in safeguarding Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity through all available means. Our engagement with India specifically would be premised on internationally recognised norms of behaviour based on sovereign equality; a commitment from New Delhi towards resolving disputes rather than denying their existence including demonstrable resolve in meeting its international and bilateral commitments and obligations; enhanced transparency and an end to clandestine activity in multiple areas of Pakistan.

If the new elected government in India wants to build a legacy of peace with justice, the PPP would then go forward with a menu of comprehensive dialogue streams for the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

We also believe that climate change is disrupting South Asia with previously uncharted challenges in the form of water stress, flash floods and smog. Since we know that climate stress knows no borders we believe Pakistan, Kabul and India must cooperate at all regional and multinational forums to ensure that our region is better equipped to manage and arrest environmental degradation. At the same time, Pakistan must be guaranteed its right to water as a lower riparian, and any Indian construction that affects water flows must be subject to mutually acceptable safeguards under relevant agreements.

Our Party has also consistently championed trans-arterial energy and infrastructure projects including the Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline, the CASA-1000 power transmission project, and increased rail and road connectivity initiatives. In short, we will pursue institutional frameworks for regional cooperation on multiple levels. Progress in operationalising Preferential Trade Agreements with friendly governments will be proactively resumed wherever feasible.

### **13.3 Fostering Ties with the Middle East, GCC, and Muslim World**

The PPP believes that diplomatic, economic, climate and security engagement is crucial for building confidence and stability in the Middle Eastern region, encourages space for coalition building and fosters a convergence of interests of major Gulf countries to tackle shared security, investment, trade, environmental and humanitarian challenges. Recognising that KSA, UAE, Qatar and GCC countries and Turkiye remain Pakistan's old allies, we will prioritise the region for advancing common issues on joint platforms and leverage investments and ties via large diasporas and remittance enhancements.

Deepening and strengthening Pakistan's bonds of friendships in the Muslim World will be an important pillar of our Party's foreign policy. Drawing on SZAB's distinctive vision of dedicated outreach to the Muslim World, symbolised best by a historic 1974 invitation to leaders of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), we pledge to redouble our efforts towards the indivisible goals of Islamic solidarity, stability, peace and the common economic development and prosperity of the Muslim Ummah. Being the second largest and only nuclear-armed member of OIC, Pakistan aims to tackling some of the Muslim Ummah's policy challenges by creating targeted approaches to combat terrorism, radicalization, Islamophobia and rising incidents of hatred and hostility against Muslims around the world. We will also seek to address the most pressing issues facing our region and near abroad including political and humanitarian crises in Kashmir and Palestine. The cumulative heritage of the OIC's political and economic support for the self-determination of the Kashmiri people, together with Pakistan's support for the issue of Palestine, are symbols of the bonds of solidarity that bind us.

The PPP will seek to give a new direction to Pakistan's Muslim World foreign policy by creating targeted approaches and outreach for each of the Islamic regional blocs by plugging our valuable national ideas and assets in these new and emerging Muslim markets, while maintaining strategic balance as a cross-cutting concern. We will do this by committing to enhancing economic, trade, financial and entrepreneurial cooperation as





well as knowledge sharing with individual members while exploring avenues for joint regional Islamic ventures that are innovative.

We recognise and welcome with optimism the many positive and distinctive trends of regional integration and cooperation that Muslim countries are experiencing in the regions of Middle East and North Africa. While we will not discriminate in furthering bilateral ties with our friends and allies within this global Islamic community, we will still seek to carve out new openings for Pakistan's partnership and enterprise that each of these Muslim-dominated regions offers.

### **13.4 Beyond the Region**

Recognising that Pakistan seeks constructive and meaningful engagement with all countries of the world to address mutual interests within a changing global environment, the PPP will engage extensively to build diplomatic capital outside the region without falling prey to the project of strategic binaries and competitive decoupling of the global economy.

Pakistan's partnership with the United States remains a crucial node of our foreign policy, and we will move forward on a trade-based relationship, given that the USA remains one of our principle commercial partners with a thriving market for Pakistani goods. The PPP has always put a premium on democratic engagement, and trade-based public diplomacy, as the primary tools of bilateral relations. It is imperative that both sides deepen engagement with each other and commit to exploring new avenues for economic, commercial, climate, technical and cultural cooperation.

In parallel with conducting a baseline review of state-to-state bilateralism and reviving a Pakistan-U.S. Strategic Dialogue, we will jump-start a multipronged initiative of proactive engagement with democratic actors in the diaspora, Congress, American media, academia, civil society, business and entrepreneurial segments.

The PPP will engage extensively with its traditional and trusted western partners, such as the UK, and the EU, to mobilise joint positions on trade, climate, and investment-based coalitions.

Our belief in a robust economic partnership with the European Union remains unwavering, and we look to building on our last government's successes, including the expansion of a historic WTO-endorsed deal for preferential market access for Pakistani exports to the EU. We look forward to advancing the gains in Pak-EU cooperation by continuing to push for mutually beneficial collaborative links in economic, technological, and cultural sectors, particularly our growing services sector. At the same time, we will enhance Pakistan's outreach to African and Latin American states by developing new relationships based on mutually beneficial trade, business, technology and cultural interests.

Our Party also believes in meaningful political and economic engagement with the other great transformative powers of this century. We seek to build a new architecture of institutionalised engagement with all countries which can bring increased investment into Pakistan. Pakistan's accession as a full member state of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an example of a platform we can leverage, as we pivot ourselves to enhanced commercial and state outreach in an increasingly competitive Pan-Asian goods

and energy market. Multilateralism as a way of bridging common interests will be explored as a way forward in a world growing increasingly polarised.

### 13.5 Investing in Multilateralism

Globally, our Party will seek to ensure that Pakistan actively engages at all multilateral platforms in promoting and protecting the principles and ideals enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

In the words of our Party's founder, we will adhere closely to the United Nations mission statement for the purpose of securing, maintaining, and providing international peace with justice. We have, over the course of successive governments, demonstrated our vigilance in ensuring that Pakistan maintains its prominence and stature as a credible and responsible player in the multilateral arena. We have actively led in steering key UN-led norm-setting processes dealing with new and emerging challenges including terrorism, sustainable development, and climate change. We also ensured that Pakistan retained its position in all such global forums as a top troop-contributing country for UN peacekeeping operations.

It is testament to this vigilance that we were able to win elections to the UN Security Council and the Human Rights Council, the two most widely sought memberships in the UN system. Pakistan, along with a majority of UN member states, favours a comprehensive reform of the Security Council to make the principal organ of the United Nations as more representative, democratic, effective, transparent and accountable.

We strongly believe that countries that are in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions on matters of international peace and security, such as the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, by no means qualify for a special status in the Security Council.

### 13.6 Revitalising Diplomacy and Global Outreach

No political party understands the importance of managing effective diplomatic messaging and a proactive outreach to world capitals as much as the PPP. Now more than ever, there is an urgent need to inject dynamism into Pakistan's foreign policy by crafting a new strategic framework, leveraging additional resources and deploying new smart and soft power tools to shore up our constructive engagement in an increasingly hyperconnected world.

We will retool the country's public diplomacy, cultural capital and diplomatic outreach in a way that takes advantage of the latest trends in digital communications, instant news, social media and citizen diplomacy, while aligning it to a credible national context and character.

The PPP's action plan to revive and revitalise Pakistan's foreign services will broadly encompass a two-pronged strategy of integrated reforms both at home at the Foreign Office level, and abroad at the missions' level. Our aim will be to put forward Pakistan's best foot as a dynamic soft power country that operates and trades in the currency of profitable goods, services and ideas, peaceful leadership and global partnership. At home, we will introduce much-needed generational reforms, institutional overhaul and restructuring and new international best practices for doing business at the Foreign Office



and all its international missions. We will also look at opportunities and possibilities of cross-governmental integration and collaboration between strategic ministries and departments, especially the commerce, culture and technology portfolios. In our missions abroad, we will intensify our efforts to create a thriving and tireless eco-system of public diplomacy based on digital, service-friendly, and outcome-oriented engagement.

Our foreign policy apparatus will particularly seek to inspire, induct and harness young and multi-disciplinary talent – with a special focus on women -- into Pakistan’s foreign services to bring diversity, creativity, energy and new age capability in the service of a round-the-clock international policy, media monitoring and response machine for Pakistan.



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