



AN INTRODUCTION TO 1ST INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Pakistan joins international fraternity of people to celebrate 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which takes place on December 10, 2018. This anniversary marks the adoption of universal principles that established common standards and human rights values for all nations. By commemorating the 70th Anniversary of UDHR, nations can assess their challenges and measure progress in human rights, particularly through stronger monitoring systems, implementation mechanisms and collaborative alliances.

Pakistan is amongst nations which promote and strengthen human rights within an international legal framework. Pakistan possesses strong constitutional structure for human rights as primary source of policy and law while it is also a signatory to principal international Human Rights treaties and conventions. Despite numerous challenges, it has remained committed to a progressive evolution of human rights safeguards and standards.

As member of global community, Pakistan is also deeply affected by political, socio-economic and environmental patterns that adversely impact human rights. It recognizes vulnerability of achievements by humanity in developing international standards and frameworks to protect fundamental rights for every human being. Pakistan wishes to jointly celebrate the 70th UDHR Anniversary by reaffirming its national commitment to protect inalienable human rights by hosting an International Conference.

The themes of Plenary Sessions present important human rights issues to the global community. These thematic plenary sessions are expected to focus on common challenges facing international community in providing protection of human rights. The plenary debates provide opportunity to various stakeholders to share experiences and good practices with delegates and observers. There shall be 3 Working Groups, comprising of delegates and Rapporteurs, to formulate recommendations and reports. After conclusion of the event, a consolidated Conference Report shall be prepared including policy recommendations.

The Ministry of Human Rights through different stakeholders shall also present national experiences and challenges in promotion of human rights. The Conference shall be attended by national and foreign delegates including international human rights experts, UN representatives, parliamentarians, government officials, Commissions on Human Rights, diplomats, members of civil society organizations, NGOs, INGOs, academia and the media.

The Ministry of Human Rights shall methodically integrate the outcomes and recommendations in upcoming National Human Rights Policy Framework, expand organizational horizons, develop collaborative alliances including with civil society, initiate proposals of ministerial restructuring and launch follow-up programmes.

“OWNING HUMAN RIGHTS FOR A BETTER WORLD” 1ST INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE WITH A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

ISLAMABAD – 19TH TO 21ST FEBRUARY, 2018

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY 1

19-02-2018

Venue: Serena Hotel, Islamabad

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

06:30 PM to 08:30 PM

Promoting Human Rights in Pakistan UDHR & Pakistan: 70 years together

Dinner

08:30 PM onwards

DAY 2

20-02-2018

VENUE: Serena Hotel, Islamabad

Registration

09:30 AM to 10:00 AM

PLENARY 1

10:00AM to 01:20PM

“Protecting Women & Children under national and international frameworks”

1st Segment: CHILDREN

Speakers/Plenary Debate

10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Formation of Working Group 1(**Children**) for Plenary Report/recommendations

Tea Break

11:30 AM to 11:40 PM

2nd Segment: WOMEN

Speakers/Plenary Debate

11:40 AM to 01:20 PM

Formation of Working Group 1(**Women**) for Plenary Report/recommendations

Lunch

01:20 PM to 02:00 PM

NOTE:

Meeting of SAIEVAC Experts is scheduled to take place on sidelines to provide input to Conference Working Group 1 during DAY 2 & 3 proceedings as parallel event.

PLENARY 2

02:00 PM to 05:00 PM

“Humanity under Climate Change: Environmental Rights are Human Rights”

Speakers/Plenary Debate

Formation of Working Group 2 for Plenary Report/recommendations

EVENING RECEPTION

07:00 PM to 09:00 PM

VENUE: Pakistan National Council of Arts, Islamabad

DAY 3

21-02-2018

VENUE: Serena Hotel, Islamabad

PLENARY 3

10:00 AM to 01:30 PM

“Development and Human Rights”

1st Segment: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Speakers/Plenary Debate

10:00 AM to 11:20 AM

Tea Break

11:20 AM to 11:30 AM

2nd Segment: NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Forum Debate

11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Plenary Debate

12:30 PM to 01:10 PM

Formation of Working Group 3 for Plenary Report/recommendations

Closing Remarks by Guest of Honour

Votes of Thanks by Secretary, MoHR

Lunch

01:30 PM to 02:00PM

Farewells

WRAP-UP SESSION

02:15 PM to 04:30 PM

[NOTE: Exclusive for Working Groups including Rapporteurs]

- Presentations of Reports/Recommendations by Working Groups
- Formal Conclusion by Secretary MoHR

Follow-up Meetings

- 2nd Inter Provincial Meeting on Provincial Rights-based Institutions, Data Collection and Reporting on 22-02-2018
- “Human Rights & Business: Integrating Action Plan into National Policy Framework” Joint programme by MoHR, PIPS and Oxfam on 26th & 27th February 2018
- Joint Follow-up Seminar on “Human Rights & Environmental Rights” by MoHR and EPA on 28-02-2018

NOTE: The above Follow-up Meetings shall require exclusive invitation.

Information for Delegates

- The admission into different Conference programmes shall be strictly regulated by invitation cards for each event.
- The delegates are required to confirm their participation to avoid inconvenience.
- The delegates are to bear their own costs unless expressly informed by Ministry of Human Rights.
- The moderators and speakers shall be required to ensure time-management.
- The delegates are expected to develop suggestions in form of written recommendations, proposals or programmes to be shared with Rapporteurs.
- In case of time constraints, plenary interventions can be recorded in writing to be handed over to Rapporteurs or Working Groups.
- All such written recommendations or interventions shall be considered by Working Groups and Rapporteurs for inclusion in Conference Reports.
- In case of a query or intervention which is beyond scope of thematic debate, the Moderator may ask Assistance Desk to assist the delegate.
- The Ministry of Human Rights shall also use this opportunity to develop a new initiative under “Friends of Conference Network”. The interested delegates shall be requested to fill out the forms for this purpose. The Post-Conference follow-up programmes and sessions shall use this network.
- The delegates are encouraged to develop and share ideas to establish new alliances under Ministry of Human Rights on thematic areas like “Human Rights & Environmental Rights”.
- Any exclusive recommendations on upcoming “National Human Rights Policy Framework” may be clearly indicated on envelope which can be shared with Rapporteurs.
- In case of any enquiry, delegates are requested to approach the Ministry on contact details as given below:

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