

**“Multi-sectoral Nutrition Strategy for Pakistan should be within the context especially Pakistan Vision 2025, Sustainable Development Goals and Provincial Inter-sectoral Nutrition Strategies” stated the Member for Social Sector, Planning Commission of Pakistan.**

**Islamabad 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2016:** National SUN Secretariat, Ministry of Planning Development & Reform in collaboration with other ministries & partners organized a consultative meeting on formulation of Pakistan Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy. All stakeholders from line ministries, provincial departments, development partners, businesses, donors, UN, academicians & researchers contributed in the meeting.

Welcoming the audience Mr. Stephen Glunning, Deputy Country Director for World Food Programme reiterated the need for concerted efforts from all the partners under the leadership of Planning Commission for scaling up nutrition in the country. He appreciated the fact that it will be formed through consultative process and hoped that this meeting will add value to the strategy.

SUN Focal Person-Pakistan Mr. Aslam Shaheen highlighted objectives of meeting & stated that Pakistan has unique features & we need to adopt two pronged approach to address it; economic growth & nutrition specific initiatives. Pakistan Multisectoral Nutrition Strategy will basically be focusing on both strategies. He said that after the devolution, the federating units developed their own inter-sectoral/integrated nutrition strategies; however, owing to the urgency for an effective and timely response to the Pakistan Vision 2025, Global World Health Assembly Targets, Framework of Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN-2), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Global Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Strategy there is a dire need for a comprehensive multisectoral nutrition strategy at national level.

Commenting, multiple speakers from Ministry of National Food Security & Research, Ministry of National Health Services Regulation & Coordination; Dr. Shakeel Ahmed, Dr. Azeem Khan and Dr. Baseer Khan Achakzai highlighted that Pakistan is suffering with hidden hunger and Pakistan Multi-sectoral nutrition strategy is a great initiative to and key for effective implementation in coordination and collaboration among sectors and partners. Thus at federal level our role will be more focused on overall national nutrition policy planning, coordination, research & development, monitoring & evaluation, reporting globally, leadership, capacity building and facilitating the implementation wherever required.

The participants were divided into six groups around thematic areas of Governance, Agriculture & Food Security, Health, Education, WASH and Gender/Safety nets to deliberate on challenges, strategies required to address the challenges, identifying major steps for achieving the strategies and then fixing responsibilities on the stakeholders who would facilitate the process. In the end to take process forward, provinces agreed on dates and timelines for replicating these consultative meetings in the provinces.

Concluding the meeting, Dr. Mubarak Ali Member Food Security & Climate Change congratulated all the experts for their valuable contribution and organizer's for this successful effort and hoped these consensus building effort shall be replicated at sub national level as well.

Giving vote of thanks Dr. Baseer Khan Achakzai from Ministry of National Health Services Regulation & Coordination appreciated the efforts of provinces, departments and organizers. He ensured full support of himself and his team in all ways possible for scaling up nutrition in the country.

The meeting was attended by senior government officials from Federal Ministries, provincial departments, academicians, researchers, business community, civil society, donors and UN partners.