

# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS YGA SHADOW CABINET









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Youth General Assembly is an autonomous assembly that has been formed in order to provide a credible platform that instigates a true sense of policy & strategy making, equitable administration and non-customary legislative, public speaking and social issues by empowering enthusiasm in youth for being the future ambassadors and democrats.

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#### **Executive Summary**

The following *Joint Policy Recommendations* outline the perspective of the youth on Pakistan's laws and governmental systems. Divided into eighteen sections, each devoted to a particular ministry, it aims to voice – as democratically and efficiently as possible – the collective and mutual ideas of Pakistan's youth on the established systems. It does so by providing a number of ways, under each category, in which improvements can (and often must) be made. Ranging from the need for alternative dispute resolution in Pakistani courts to the benefits of employing vertical housing development plans over horizontal schemes, the document touches on a plethora of distressing issues in a wide spectrum of areas including (but not limited to) human rights, the legal system, the education system, foreign affairs, urban planning, ministerial authority, health and housing.

The document is a reflection of the lived experiences of young people across the country — Youth General Assembly has recruited a large team of people under the age of 25 with various backgrounds and from a number of cities who have all contributed to the creation of the *Recommendations*. Having studied, examined and experienced the consequences of our current systems, they have found the following ideas and solutions to be the best alternative to the status quo. In times when women are violated in broad daylight by armed personnel and students lose access to a wealth of information due to censorship laws, when the name of Pakistan is reduced to three tragic syllables in the international community and our cultural pride is long forgotten, this document is a brave step, a hopeful one and an oath of commitment from those that bear the future of this country. As the aforementioned horrors emphasise, the present system is tainted and something must be done.

Fahad Shahbaz President

**Youth General Assembly** 

#### **Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs**

- 1. Media coverage to be provided for athletes, covering the stories of different athletes to inspire the youth as well as highlight the importance of sports.
- 2. We need to regulate Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) according to FIFA guidelines and stop the abuse of power in the department by reasonable checks and balances. Moreover, like PSL instead of departmental teams, the city teams are to be made by PFF so that people can relate, and the sport can be promoted. The same needs to be done to promote other games as we have enough people and places to conduct the tournaments.
- 3. Public sports complexes should be constructed where passionate and aspired athletes can work on their talent.
- 4. Building multi-purpose beautiful stadiums, which can be used for different sports as well as tourist attractions generating revenue. Especially if built on the unused lands of Baluchistan it can help the province in many ways too.
- 5. Scouting players from schools directly, if couches for under 18 or national teams start holding call-outs in schools or start collaborating with PE teachers at schools, they will be able to extend their reach.
- 6. More budget should be allocated to promote women athletes and provide opportunities to women aspirants.
- 7. Sports campaign should be held to raise awareness against gender stereotypes and social norms to overcome gender restrictions in Pakistan.
- 8. Organizations that predominantly work for women and youth to be consulted for data about the most vulnerable communities and try to replicate their best practices for engaging these communities and mobilizing them.
- 9. Student Unions should be restored as it is the best way to engage the youth in the policy and decision-making of the country.
- 10. Youth should be given fair representation in federal, provincial as well local level government.
- 11. Youth Vote Campaign should be held to raise awareness about the importance of vote among young individuals as youth voter turnout in Pakistan is very low.

- 12. Youth Hubs in every university and college should be made and expert consultants should be appointed there by the government to provide career counseling to students.
- 13. Every government ministry should have a special youth committee where young representatives can provide recommendations to the ministry on a specific agenda.
- 14. Government should arrange youth policy debates where youth representatives can talk about sensitive issues. It will help grow a culture of open discourse and discussions.
- 15. Youth of Pakistan should be made aware of the importance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and should be trained to design youth policy in order to achieve SDGs targets in Pakistan.

#### **Ministry of Education**

- 1. The Government should ensure that every school must have the basic infrastructure; playground, libraries, computer lab, laboratories, clean bathrooms, and a canteen.
- 2. Teachers should be trained properly prior to their appointment in any public or private educational sector. Government should install a system to supervise these training programs.
- 3. To ensure teachers are well equipped with modern tools and techniques of teaching, every teacher will have to complete Continuing Education Course/ Continuing Professional Development Course once a year. These training/development courses will be supervised by the concerned provincial educational board.
- 4. The provincial government should give complete administrative control of the primary and secondary schools to Local Governments as mentioned in the Punjab Local Government Act 2019.
- 5. Educational boards should take serious steps in order to update the curriculum of primary and secondary education. Introducing the modern phenomenon to Matric and Intermediate level is necessary to encourage future minds.
- 6. A committee should be formed in every district consisting of the District Commissioner, District Education Officer, Member of the Local Government, and veteran educationist/teachers of the area to inspect every school in the district after every 3 months to ensure the quality of education and also whether the school is in need of any infrastructure up gradation.
- 7. Schools should focus on the moral upbringing of the students.
- 8. College students, especially female students, should be made well aware of cybercrimes, online harassment, and their relevant laws.
- 9. Government should ensure equal educational opportunities are provided to differently-abled persons. Special schools should be built to ensure quality education is provided to differently-abled students.
- 10.All public schools should be provided with a professional career consultant by the government to guide students about their future professions and what is best for them. Similarly, private schools must follow the suit.

- 11. Government should introduce a scheme under which education loans should be provided to deserving students who cannot pay their fees.
- 12. Government should allow the formation of Student Unions and the ban should be lifted. The ban is against the fundamental right to association. Regulatory laws should be enacted and implemented for the transparent working of student unions.

#### **Ministry of Environment and Tourism**

- 1. The government should take serious steps in order to implement its Nationally Determined Contributions Report.
- 2. We should focus on generating revenue for the mitigation and adaptation plan to reduce carbon emissions.
- 3. The government should strengthen inter-ministerial decision-making and coordination mechanisms on climate change.
- 4. The environment department should foster the development of appropriate economic incentives to encourage public and private sector investment in adaptation measures.
- 5. The government should take steps to amend the Act to design the functions of the environmental protection agencies at the provincial level as the environment and ecology are now provincial subjects.
- 6. We need the development of new laws, rules, regulations, and standards for the operationalization of the Policy at the provincial, regional, and District levels.
- 7. HEC and Education Boards should take steps to update the curriculum and incorporate topics covering Environmental sustainability, biodiversity, tourism, and conservation.
- 8. A semi-government body should be formed in each province in the format of the Walled City Lahore Authority for the conservation, restoration, and promotion of heritage and tourist sites.
- 9. Government should open avenues for investment by the private sector in the tourism and environment sector.
- 10. Bootcamps and seminars should be arranged by the tourism ministry in order to raise awareness among the youth and the general public.

#### Ministry of Food and Agriculture

- Government should revise its Climate Change Policy. Much of Pakistan is deserted, making the country vulnerable to climate-related shocks. The government needs to work on water conservation and distribution, including canal repairs, maintenance, and drainage, water flow, protection against severe floods, and meeting the country's changing water and energy needs.
- 2. The Government should design a long-term policy to Increase agricultural sustainability. If Pakistan wants sustainable growth, it must strengthen its agricultural sector against extreme weather conditions including drought, floods, heat and cold, and pests and diseases. This will require public investment and major policy changes in agricultural research, expansion, seed systems, and agricultural inclusion markets to support farmers.
- 3. Government can redirect the money to research and extension efforts designed to improve soil management and fertility by reducing funding for the fertilizer industry.
- 4. Improving the situation of the rural poor will require significant investment and major policy changes at national and provincial levels, including an expanded, well-coordinated public safety net; improving the delivery of health and education services, expansion of sanitation and infrastructure in rural areas and strengthening the capacity to deliver government services at provincial and local levels.
- 5. Government should invest in specialized agricultural practices: Rooftop agriculture, Hydroponics & Aeroponics, high-value cultivation, conservation agriculture, marine agriculture, and precision agriculture)
- 6. A key component of the government's strategy must be to reshape investment and public expenditure on agriculture.
- 7. Efforts should be made to ensure that rural and urban dwellers get a free or very affordable basic education. These will make it easier for them to learn about highly developed farming practices that improve efficiency.
- 8. Transform conducive approaches toward farmers and train them as dynamic and active innovators and learners, and open avenues for them to raise their own revenues.
- 9. There is a need for reform in the leasing of government lands. Vacant lands should be leased on 'easy terms' and a systemic approach should

be	applied	where	the	lessee	should	be	instr	ucted	on	which	crop	shou	d
be	grown s	o that t	he n	narket	can be	inte	elliger	ntly co	ver	ed.			

#### Ministry of Health

- 1. All public and private hospitals must have a devoted wing/sector for catering to mental health.
- The Governments should extend and include the coverage of mental health on Sehat Card; the initiative will epitomize the importance of mental health.
- 3. The Government should work in tandem with multilateral and national organizations to channel more surveys based on the life satisfaction index.
- 4. Every university and college must have a Mental Health Wellness Centre to cater mental strain of students.
- 5. The University must hire counselors/psychologists who shall be able to promote and eulogize stress management techniques.
- 6. There must be introductory courses/training for teachers so they can identify and help students showing signs of mental strain. These steps will, in essence, pave the way for people with special needs into higher education and will promote inclusion. The incentives for universities/ed. Institutes also stand high as it will eventually lead to a good academic record and a higher student retention rate. The facility must also be extended online for larger penetration and reach.
- 7. With Pakistan being vulnerable to the natural hazards inflicted by Climate Change, the likelihood of a surge in PTSD-related events will increase therefore, mental health services must be prioritized through telemedicine.
- 8. The communities of the HKH region (Hindu Kush, Himalayas, Karakoram) does not have adequate facilities and financial stimulus to reduce the calamity of natural stresses; they don't have access to widespread psychologists. In this case, robust telemedicine facilities must be established.
- 9. Government must improvise on health diplomacy. We must forge health-based alliances with neighboring countries so we can work in tandem with them for a coordinated response in a crisis.
- 10.Increase in public health resourcing, Pakistan's per capita spending on health was only \$39mn as opposed to the benchmark set by WHO (\$86mn) for low-income countries.

- 11. The government must embark on effective nudges and awareness programs to include sexual and reproductive health education for girls as early as 12 years.
- 12. Government must make broader efforts to make menstrual products affordable and accessible.
- 13. There should be a performance-based allowance in public hospitals to encourage competition and better deliverance.
- 14. There must be a National Digital-health Authority to maintain and nourish digital-health standards.
- 15. The government should set up telemedicine facilities in all public hospitals; the private sector should also come up and set up telehealth facilities, so that consumers, effectively, can schedule their appointment, pay their fees (if any), view diagnostic reports, etc. online through the tele/e-health facility.
- 16. Government should harness blockchain in hospital management systems to store patients' records making records more convenient and secure. it can improve the performance, security, and transparency of sharing medical data in the health care system. EMR (Electronic Medical record) and HIMS (Hospital information management system) will be bolstered throughout the blockchain. It can be used to track the authenticity of products by tracking them from their origin, thereby, it can also curtail the black market of drugs.

#### **Ministry of Housing and Rural Development**

- Government should establish rural health units such as first Aid centers and blood banks. Gynecology hospitals should be established in slum villages in Punjab.
- 2. Government should provide easy loans to farmers and equip them with modern techniques and tools as rural development lies in the prosperity of farmers.
- 3. Quality education by professionals should be given to increase the literacy rate as it would socialize people and will help in development.
- 4. TEVTA should arrange camps in rural areas to provide basic educational and technical skills to women and children. They will be able to use this skill to earn some money.
- 5. Rural areas should be better connected with safer roads and farmers should be given safer access to wheat and vegetable markets in the city.
- 6. Expansion of cities should be designed in a more sustainable way.
- 7. While designing a housing community or a colony, a reliable drainage system should be ensured.
- 8. In urban development plans, vertical housing development projects must be preferred over horizontal schemes.
- Build net-zero buildings using the generated revenue to limit the use of electricity and these buildings will be self-sufficient in the making and need for electricity.

#### **Ministry of HR and Minorities**

- 1. Government should gather credible data to assess the socioeconomic status of minorities in education.
- 2. Take action on the National Commission for Minority Education Act, 2015 (Private Members' Bill) to establish National Commission that will overlook and fix the problems in the existing educational institutes to tackle discrimination and restrictions for minorities.
- 3. The word (minorities) must be used in all the spoken or written forms as it is in the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 instead of the word 'non-Muslims'.
- 4. Equal fundamental rights such as freedom from sexual and physical harassment must be included as part of the national school curriculum to ensure equality among the citizens at the primary level. Moreover, there must be chapters on social harmony, inter-religious harmony, tolerance, peace, human rights, and globalization.
- 5. All sorts of bias and discrimination against the religious minorities of Pakistan from textbooks and educational institutions must be removed, as the ministry of education, the government of Pakistan, has admitted that there is bias in the present books.
- 6. Role of religious minorities in the creation and construction of Pakistan should be included in the textbooks as it was before the dictatorship of Gen Ziaul Haq.
- 7. The subject of ethics should be changed into the subject of Religious Education so that there may not be any inferiority complex in the students of religious minorities. The paper on Ethics must be set and evaluated by the academic staff of religious minorities.
- 8. To instruct schools, colleges, and educational institutions with the task of reducing the performance gap between native and ethnic minority students and especially reducing high dropout rates of young minorities such as catch-up programs to introduce young minorities to mentors from and outside their community or additional classes related to their language or religion.
- 9. There is discrimination of 20 marks as regards the students of other faiths in (Nazra) (reciting the Quran by heart) goes against students of other faiths in Pakistan, and it becomes very difficult for them to get admission to

- higher education, so these discriminatory marks should immediately be abolished or provide similar grace marks for minorities.
- 10. Utilize the Census data to determine the minority population, the areas having the majority of minorities, and their ethnicity before implementing the policies.
- 11. Take action on The Minorities Access to Higher Education Bill, 2019 to reserve a 5% minorities quota in education and support employment quota with education quota otherwise employment quota will not be fulfilled if the basic requirements of education for the employees are not fulfilled.
- 12. To gather comprehensive data, especially from the Economic Survey of Pakistan and Labour Force surveys to determine whether the quota for minorities for the Federal Government Services/Jobs is being met.
- 13.Job advertisements should not be discriminatory and must be assessed by an officer of the respective department before advertising them.
- 14. Enforce the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) notice prohibiting the mention of religion in menial job advertisements in every province.
- 15. Determine accuracy in the population census so that the correct population of minorities is shown and is represented at the National Assembly.

#### **Ministry of Human Rights**

- 1. The government should take serious steps in order to implement the fundamental right of basic, free and compulsory education given by the constitution.
- 2. The government of Pakistan should guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of all human rights defenders/activists in Pakistan.
- 3. Basic necessities of life should be provided to prisoners and detainees and the state should provide legal aid to those who cannot afford it.
- 4. The government should develop legislative reforms to implement Pakistan's International Labour Standards obligations and guarantee, in particular, the rights of the trade union at the federal and provincial levels.
- 5. The government of Pakistan must ratify the international convention for the protection of all persons from enforced Disappearance.
- Transgender should be provided with equal opportunities and it's the duty of the state to ensure the provision and protection of their fundamental rights.
- 7. Government should enact laws and design policies to implement International Labour Standards in Pakistan.
- 8. It is the duty of the state to provide every citizen with the opportunity to earn his/her livelihood. Government should ensure the eradication of unemployment.
- 9. Parliamentarians should revisit statutes to make them gender-neutral and also give them a feminine aspect which is necessary to make them more inclusive.
- 10. Child Labour should be eradicated and whoever is found guilty of employing child labour should be strictly penalized.
- 11. Strict laws should be made to ensure that the rights of minorities are protected.
- 12. Government must take steps to provide education and job opportunities to differently-abled persons and should step forward to provide social security.
- 13. Freedom of speech should not be prohibited at any cost and the government should enact strict laws to ensure its implementation.

14	1.A task should be formed consisting of social activists, army men, and
	policemen in order to provide instant relief to areas struck by natural
	disasters.

#### **Ministry of Industries and SMEs**

- 1. Above the tax collection authorities, there should be a monitoring cell that can examine the harassment cases reported to them.
- 2. A fixed taxation system should be implemented in two industries; small to medium-sized manufacturers and retailers.
- 3. The current method must be uniform and should not give the tax officials much latitude. In the current local and provincial tax structure, there should be rationalization or consolidation.
- 4. The State Bank should provide small-scale business owners with loans at lower interest rates.
- 5. Labour laws should be simplified as they are currently very strict and complex.
- 6. Fewer tariffs should be levied on imported technology.
- 7. The government should offer incentives in the context of exports to generate foreign exchange and support producers.

#### **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**

- 1. Rights of the journalist should be safeguarded and the government should ensure their security.
- 2. Government should take action to prevent hate speech and fake news.
- 3. Government and privately owned information houses should present a positive image of Pakistan abroad.
- 4. Topics like youth empowerment, women empowerment, domestic violence, sports, natural disasters, entrepreneurship, and Fintech should be given due coverage by the media.
- 5. Movies and Dramas should be made on a constructive theme and promote the cultural and moral values of Pakistani society.
- 6. Media companies should remain politically unbiased and should report both sides of the picture.
- 7. Cultural, heritage, and tourist sites of Pakistan should be promoted by media companies and should be provided with due coverage.

#### Ministry of Law and Justice

- 1. Criminal Procedure Code, Civil Procedure Code, and all other procedural laws should be amended and updated in order to cope with modern techniques and tools.
- 2. Government should take serious action in passing legislation to promote and regulate Alternative Dispute Resolution in Pakistan.
- 3. ADR should be made a necessary part of the curriculum of the LL.B.
- 4. Legal Aid centers should be initiated with joint ventures of the public and private sectors to provide aid to those deserving applicants who cannot pay their court fees or lawyer's fee.
- 5. Public Interest Litigation should be promoted in apex courts to ensure the fundamental rights of the citizen are secured and protected.
- 6. To lighten the burden of cases and speed up the process of justice, the number of judges in lower and higher courts should be increased.
- 7. The government should design policies to make bar council/ associations elections frictionless and free from violence.
- 8. Bar Councils and the Bench should step forward and ensure no fresh graduate or young lawyer is exploited by his/her seniors in the name of apprenticeship.
- Quality of legal education should be enhanced and those schools and colleges should not be awarded license that does not meet the threshold standard.
- 10.Steps should be taken to make courts women-friendly spaces and fair representation should be given in law schools, law firms, and higher judiciary.
- 11. Detainees and prisoners should be provided with basic human needs. The state should provide legal counsel to those who cannot afford a private one.

#### **Ministry of Local Government**

- 1. There should be a long-term policy for local government which must not be disturbed by the new elections or the government.
- 2. Proper policy & roadmap should be chalked out for the use of the allocated budget given to local government (each sector according to its importance given priority year-wise). Also, Ensure equitable funding to local governments for development projects.
- 3. The federal and provincial governments should conduct training workshops for the youth by setting standards of competency and then give full support to the youth to govern at the local level.
- 4. Local government representatives should be made fully aware of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and should be trained to undertake initiatives that are sustainable and nature friendly.
- 5. Provide constitutional protection to local government representatives against the interference of high tiers of the government
- 6. Provincial governments should also constitute their own Provincial Finance Commission, akin to the National Financial Commission, where the district should get funds from the divisible pool according to their population, area, and underdevelopment.
- 7. Capacity development and training programs should be introduced so that local government representatives are able to deliver according to people's choices and requirements.
- 8. Political parties should incorporate local government into their manifestos, support the installation of robust local institutions, and resist delaying the implementation of the 18th Amendment's provisions.
- 9. Women should be given equitable representation in the local government.
- 10.Local government representatives should be trained to perform Alternative Dispute Resolution. Matters of locals should be mediated and arbitrated in local ADR centers associated with every Union Council. These local ADR centers should be supervised by a local Magistrate.
- 11. Administrative supervision and control of departments like education, health, sports, youth affairs and development should be given to the local government. To supervise these departments, permanent special

- committees consisting of members of local government should be constructed.
- 12. An effective system should be introduced to ensure the transparency of working of the local government. A mobile app can be designed where the resident of the union council or metropolitan city can lodge their recommendations or suggest their recommendations.
- 13. Elections of local government bodies should be independent and without the interference of political parties. It will help reduce the interference by MPA's.

#### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

- 1. Pakistan needs to work on improving infrastructure and regional connectivity, collaboration with SAARC in scientific research, universities exchange programs, tourism etc.
- 2. Pakistani foreign policy should be based on its national interest while developing bilateral relations with all states.
- 3. Pakistan should initiate the Pakistan-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) into realization.
- 4. Pakistan should also look for innovative & alternative means to strengthen relations with each of the 10 Southeast Asian countries mainly in the area of trade and investment.
- 5. Tourism is another large untapped area between Pakistan and ASEAN. Pakistan has a lot more to offer than many Southeast Asian countries, including Malaysia and Singapore which have yet to be able to develop a thriving and profitable tourist trade. The present low level of trade between Pakistan and ASEAN can be expanded if the private sector has access to information about the opportunities in trade and investment and is assisted in making contacts with potential partners.
- 6. There is a need to negotiate trade impediments related to compliance, standardization, and technical requirements. Pakistan and ECO Countries should formulate a strategy for mutual recognition of standards for exports of surgical instruments, food items and pharmaceutical goods to Central Asia as there is a huge demand for these products.
- 7. The trade missions of Pakistan in ECO countries should also play an active role in expanding trade relations by sharing business opportunities information and dissemination of calendar of exhibitions to concerned forums in Pakistan. The establishment of display centers at Pakistan embassies may also help in marketing Pakistan's products in these countries.
- 8. Pakistan's primary goal must be to improve border security to curb illegal immigration and assist in dealing with other border control issues such as drug and weapons trafficking to eradicate three evils.
- 9. Pakistan should invest to build its soft image in other countries and promote its culture and tourism sites in other countries.

- 10. Pakistan should strengthen by bilateral ties with other countries by offering student exchange programs.
- 11. Pakistan should be consistent in its efforts to solve the Kashmir issue and should openly advocate for the rights of Kashmiris and Palestinians.

#### **Ministry of Narcotics Control**

- Classify and regulate certain types and amounts of "recreational drugs" only limited to and for one's own personal use. These recreational must be only allowed to specific stationery and permitted distributors. All drugs approved for "recreational" use must be "inert" at the chemical composition and concentration as approved by DRAP and every regional health department.
- 2. Each ANF team, unit, and station must have one or two civilian legal liaison officers, not as magistrates but to rather assist and make sure human rights are followed and procedures are only notified of.
- 3. A mandatory fostering of coordination between rehabilitation centers and other agencies must be made via an act or amendment.
- 4. Rehab centers under the narcotics control ministry be open to input from international and national NGOs to propose changes and run separate programs temporarily to help assist the narcotics control ministry.
- 5. Media corporations that engage in entertainment production be fostered to seek "suggestions only" to incorporate scripting that does not glorify drugs and substance materials.
- 6. An independent witness and whistleblower protection for drug crimes program be set up in coordination with 2-3 agencies that will provide armed protection and resettlement to whistleblowers and witnesses against drug criminals.
- 7. Since 2013 no survey on drugs has been done, survey powers must be granted to make survey rules to the ministry itself.
- 8. Workshops and counseling should be provided to "parents and families" on how to properly and "respectfully" deal with and tackle these such matters without disturbing the peace within the family.
- 9. Public-private partnerships in social welfare schemes should be focused on.

#### **Ministry of Overseas**

- 1. Pakistan should launch fast-track courts for Overseas Pakistanis to settle land-grabbing cases as the main concern and should settle the disputes within 90 to 120 days as land-grabbing and property disputes are major issues overseas Pakistanis are facing in this country.
- Government should introduce a management policy for better maintenance of properties owned by overseas Pakistanis. A corporation or a company can be formed to take care of their rents, taxes, and utility bills. In this way, their property will remain secured from illegal occupation.
- 3. Pakistani High Commissions in foreign countries should provide appropriate legal assistance to accused Pakistanis there and should ensure that they do not get harsh penalties for minor charges.
- 4. Overseas Pakistanis who have completed their jail terms and await repatriation, the Pakistani government should help them in their release and provide legal assistance to come back to Pakistan.
- 5. Government should design a policy and should work on the centralization of work visas. Government should make a system according to which only the certified agents will be able to provide labour to people. It will protect the labour rights of Pakistanis working abroad.
- 6. The government must step up to protect the overseas workforce by guaranteeing them labour rights. Perhaps, the introduction of an effective 24/7 UAN number (helpline) may provide some relief and protect the workers from being exploited.
- 7. Pakistan should invest in its tourism industry. Overseas Pakistanis can be asked to promote the cultural heritage of Pakistan abroad and also introduce foreigners to tourist spots of Pakistan convincing them to visit this country.
- 8. The Government and Overseas Commission should work to make the visa application system easy for people, making it less time taking and more approaching with extreme time restraints.

#### **Ministry of Railways and Transport**

- 1. The ministry of railways would only give the policy and keep a check on Railways regarding that policy. Its role should be restricted only to policy making.
- 2. Pakistan Railways to be governed by an independent Railways Board. The Chairman of the board would be a Railway professional. Pakistan Railways to be separated from the Ministry of Railways as they were before 1989.
- 3. Pakistan Railways should be run as a commercial entity, not a welfare institution to create revenue and meet its expenditures.
- 4. The profit thus generated could be used by Railways to benefit passengers.
- 5. The Open Access Policy should be adopted wholeheartedly. So that the Private sector would invest in the railway sector bringing their own locomotives and operations costs.
- Railways should be converted into a state-owned enterprise and shares to be divided between the Ministry of SOE and the Ministry of Railways (MOR).
- 7. The existing railway law is from 1890. It should be completely reformed to inculcate the governance model stated above.
- 8. The Aims and objectives should be laid out to convert the railway into a commercial entity. Proper guidelines about the private sector are to be given.
- 9. Good research is needed on Cross-sector transport analysis on the demand of goods and passengers.
- 10. Transport Investment should be set on the basis of strategic research.
- 11. The maintenance system of Railways should be upgraded. Automation should prioritize manual maintenance to save salaries and pensions.
- 12. Discourage vehicle owners to use their private vehicles and encourage them to use public transport more often or use a bicycle.
- 13. Discourage the import of fuel-based vehicles by levying an extra tax as these vehicles will contribute to greenhouse gas emissions once imported and sold in Pakistan
- 14. Encourage the import of electric vehicles and also design proper policy for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations.
- 15. Improve the infrastructure of public transport.

#### Ministry of Science and Technology

- The government should update the curriculum of the primary and secondary levels. Introduce topics like data science, machine learning, computer science, and artificial intelligence from the very beginning to modernize the coming generation.
- 2. Better opportunities should be provided to young graduates who want to pursue their passion in software management, app building, and fin-tech.
- 3. The government should regulate the e-commerce market in Pakistan to minimize fraud and misrepresentation.
- 4. Emerging startups should be promoted and provided with due support especially those who are using scientific and technical platforms like telemedicine.
- 5. Pakistan should improve its cyber security system and relevant laws should be amended for better regulations.
- 6. Universities and Institutes should be provided with the required funds to conduct research in the field of innovation, science, and technology.
- 7. The government should enact Electronic Waste Recycling Act to regulate the recycling of electronic waste being produced in hundreds of tons every year.

#### **Ministry of Women Development**

- 1. Rural women should be empowered and should be provided the best education and opportunities to participate in the economy of Pakistan.
- 2. Protection against harassment of women at the workplace act should be implemented in the right spirit. Government and private departments should be encouraged to take serious action against perpetrators.
- 3. Punjab Police Safety App should be updated to make it easier to use and it should be introduced at a wider level. Other provinces should imitate this design and launch their own Safety Apps.
- 4. Equal participation of women in every field should be ensured and should be provided equal opportunities.
- 5. Government should run campaigns to eradicate false social norms especially designed to hold back women.
- 6. Safe and secure transport should be provided to women.
- 7. Workshops should be arranged in villages, primary schools, and colleges to raise awareness about the importance of women's empowerment.
- 8. Women should be given more seats in the National and Provincial Assembly.
- 9. Business Startups owned by female entrepreneurs should be encouraged and provided with best opportunities.



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