



High-Level Political Forum 2019  
Voluntary National Review Session  
16th meeting of the HLPF, held in New York, on 16th July 2019  
Intervention delivered by Maha Islam (Aahung, Pakistan)

Thank you Chair.

1. Given the 20.5% reduction in Federal education budgets from 2018 to 2019, **what are the Government's plans for removing systemic barriers to lifelong learning opportunities that cater to people with special learning needs while ensuring appropriate educational tools and pedagogy that promote respect, diversity, autonomy, equality and choice for all?**
2. If Goal 8 is to be truly transformative, it must enable all people, including women and minority groups, to move out of low productivity, informal, insecure, and precarious employment. It must create decent jobs that respect workers' rights, including the right to association and collective bargaining, and promote universal social protection. This necessitates breaking gender stereotypes in employment, regularizing all workers and ending workplace sexual harassment and discrimination. **How does the Government intend to improve access and working conditions for women and those in formal and informal economies, to ensure gainful, safe, and decent employment for all?**
3. For Goals 10 and 16, there is a need to reform institutions that exacerbate inequalities and discrimination within the country. A comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, prohibiting all forms of discrimination against women, young people and religious, sexual and gender minorities, needs to be adopted and implemented to promote peace and improve access to justice. **What are the Government's plans to address the root causes of inequalities, that go beyond legislative protections, and end the culture of impunity for human rights abuses, including against human rights defenders?**
4. Lastly, Goal 13 must translate into an end to fossil fuels, improving biodiversity, promotion of indigenous solutions, a clear policy on single-use plastic, and proper waste disposal systems that do not endanger life on land or under the sea. **What is the government's stand or policy for moving towards clean energy?**