

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Islamabad, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2019:** A delegation of 20 members from different universities led by Ms. Sidrah Umar, Research and Publication Associate at Youth Economic Forum, met the Country Director, Deputy Director, Program Leader and Operations Manager of World Bank for the discussion on the report ‘Pakistan@100: Shaping the future’ published by World Bank in 2019.

At the start of the session, Mr. Shabih A. Mohib who is working as a Program Leader gave a brief introduction of himself and other members who joined the session. He started with an overview of the current economic situation of our country and stated that he was shocked to see the downfall of financial and economic growth in Pakistan. He presented the key issues of Pakistan, the methodologies and processes that must take to not only improve its economic conditions, but also the standards of living of its citizens were highlighted through a presentation. The initiative of Pakistan@100 is to identify the foremost changes that will be essential for Pakistan to be in the upper middle-income country by 2047 by ensuing good governance, sustaining the environment, accumulating human and physical capital and by allocation of Resources.

Ms. Melinda Good, Operations Manager, talked about how the IMF program is a devious act for the growth of Pakistan and how other countries have overcome the IMF program and are moving towards the development. Pakistan needs to adopt those policies and follow their steps for progress. Therefore, the choices made over the next decade is critical for the future of Pakistan to see if it upswings the challenges in the future and transforms the economy, or it remains the same failing to address the key constraints to growth.

While concluding the report, they highlighted 10 foremost solutions that will help Pakistan to boost its economy. They emphasized on sustaining the macroeconomic stability, improve tax to GDP ratio, doing business, banks should lend more and government should borrow less, good exports and increase tourism, innovative firms double, government should support SOEs, reduce stunting, control population growth rate, increase women participation in economy.

In the end, Question/Answer session was held in which Taimoor Abdullah, Amal Khurram, Vyas Ali and other students asked various questions on birth control effects, tax amenity, increasing the investment and other policies that are beneficial for the growth of Pakistan and its way forward. On answering the question, the Operations Manager acknowledged that for a country to progress accountability and good governance are the key factors.

At the end of discussion, Mr. Farhan Khalid, Associate Director at Youth Economic Forum thanked all of them for their precious time and discussion. As this session proved to be productive for all the students as it gave an insight of the economic situation and its way forward.

Youth economic forum is the Pakistan's first youth-run policy think tank which strives to bridge the gap between the youth of Pakistan and its policy makers. YEFs' mission is to formulate policies that are more youth inclusive. This session was in alignment with YEF's vision and allowed the youth of the country to connect with the policy makers on a much deeper level.