

AMERICAN PAKISTAN FOUNDATION

United Nations Quadrennial Report (2019 - 2022)

The American Pakistan Foundation (APF) empowers the Pakistani American diaspora and builds bridges between the United States and Pakistan. The APF was founded in 2009 by Pakistani American community members to create a platform for giving back to Pakistan and to the United States.

APF's mission is to build bridges and empower communities, enhanced by our partner community - with whom we share knowledge and expertise, and create dynamic working relationships that help us maximize the impact and reach of our programs.

APF executes its mission by hosting initiatives that promote cultural, professional, and intellectual exchanges; convening and engaging with think tanks, educational institutions, businesses, and the public sector; promoting the contributions and perspectives of Pakistanis and the Pakistani-American community; and connecting people and institutions in Pakistan and the United States for collaboration across multiple sectors.

In 2022 - 2023, the APF underwent a significant leadership change. The former President separated from APF, and a Director of Operations is now in their place. There have also been changes in the Board of Directors: 14 new board members have joined since 2019, with a concentration of female and young leaders who represent diverse viewpoints and reflect the inclusive nature of the organization.

The APF aims to submit the next Quadrennial Report in a timely manner according to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) guidelines.

APF had several focus areas in line with the United Nations SDGs, including an initial focus on **“reducing inequality within and among countries”**. Relatedly, APF fellows have submitted two statements since 2019: “How Digital Technologies Can Advance Social Justice & Reduce Poverty in Pakistan” at the United Nations Commission on Social Development 59 in 2021 and “The Impact of Affordable Housing & Social Protection Systems on Homelessness” at the United Nations Commission on Social Development 58 in 2020.

The second focus was to **“strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”**. Relatedly, APF released two statements in 2016.

Lastly, APF aimed at **“achieving gender equality and empowering all women & girls”** with a statement submitted at the 65th United Nations Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2021, which discussed fostering Pakistani women’s full participation and decision-making in public life.

APF attended the 60th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Youth Forum at the United Nations, where they discussed women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development. Additionally, advocacy for the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls took place which were agreed upon conclusions from the fifty-seventh session.

APF Research Fellows also attended the 58th Commission on Social Development at the United Nations in New York, which focused on affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness.

APF’s work revolves around supporting and promoting the 2030 SDGs through various domestic and international partnerships. In addition to attending events and submitting statements related to the SDGs, APF has pioneered several programs and fellowships that support the central themes of the 2030 Sustainable Growth Agenda.

Through the Pakistan Fellows Program, APF makes available a number of fellowships for students and young professionals interested in social and economic development in Pakistan. The Pakistan Fellows Program has offered virtual and in-person opportunities with partners based in the United States and Pakistan, such as the Atlantic Council, i-Care Foundation, and Sehat Kahani - a female-led startup with a female physician team that focuses on health equity and accessibility in underserved areas . The APF, as an organization, has utilized the partnership-driven fellowship platform - serving as a bridge amongst the Pakistani-American diaspora and residents of Pakistan, to enhance **quality education; decent work and economic growth; peace, justice and strong institutions; and partnerships for the goals**. APF has naturally embraced these goals and had impactful outcomes, one leader at a time.

In addition, APF Fellows are committed to focusing their research based on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). APF Fellows have used their research to consult NGOs on myriad topics, with extra emphasis on **affordable healthcare, accessibility to quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, reduced inequalities, building sustainable cities and communities, and climate action**.