Subject: - **Pakistan Education Policy 2021.**

On the directives of the Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training is embarking on the task of developing a “Pakistan Education Policy 2021” through a consultative process.

2. As you are well aware, Pakistan developed a National Education Policy in 2009. However shortly thereafter, in April 2010, the Constitution was amended and the subject of Education was fully devolved to the Provinces. After the 18th amendment the status of the NEP 2009 was revisited, and in September 2011 a Joint Declaration on Education was signed by the representatives of all the provinces and areas. The main text of the declaration stated that the federal, provincial and area representatives declare that the “National Education Policy 2009, subject to such adaptations as necessitated in view of the 18th Constitutional Amendment, shall continue to be jointly owned national document.” However, Pakistan does not have an updated comprehensive education policy document to represent the country.

3. In the current COVID-19 Emergency, the Ministry at the Federal level worked closely with the Provincial and Area Governments to ensure a coordinated national response for young people of Pakistan. The need to coordinate resulted from a desire to ensure equity for all children and institutions across the country so that no area or region is left behind due to the decisions taken.

4. The interdependence of policy decisions within the education sector is a known phenomenon and requires a national convergence on key education aspects for example standards, educational stages (primary, middle, high etc.), system of exam and admissions, teacher management standards, etc. However, this does not mean that the provincial and area autonomy could not have diverging policies for e.g. language of instruction, number of years for early childhood education etc.

5. What is required is a document to capture mutual interdependence of the education sector across geographic and thematic areas. The points of convergence and divergence should be documented as a ‘Policy’ document, ensuring that the points of divergence do not result in creating inequities for children of Pakistan.

6. Therefore, the Ministry is reaching out to all key stakeholders to develop a Pakistan Education Policy 2021 that ensures equitable opportunities for all children across the country and does not restrict their development and employability.

7. The Ministry seeks your input and feedback regarding the following:
   - What are the key aspects of Policy convergence that should be included in the document?
   - What are the suggested chapters/topics to cover in the policy document for example it could include the following:
     a. Standardizing Educational stages and ages from ECE – Tertiary Education
b. Inclusive Education
c. Accelerated Learning and Adult Literacy
d. Technical and Vocational Education in Schools
e. Skills Training
f. Standardizing transitions from school to college and University.
g. Standardizing Data regimes for reporting on national and international education indicators.
h. International Collaboration

8. This Policy document should ensure a national cohesion and harmony across religious and ethnic divides as well as capturing the divergence that is absolutely essential for the context of Pakistan.

9. The Ministry will be methodically compiling this input to develop a draft document for further stakeholder consultations.

10. The process envisaged at this time includes:

   Step 1 – A broad consultative process-                      Dec-Jan 2021
   Step 2 – Draft document                                  First week of Feb 2021
   Step 3 – Re-Consultation with the stakeholders           Feb-March 2021
   Step 4 – Finalization of the document and approvals     March 23, 2021

11. An early response will be appreciated.

(MOHYUDDIN AHMAD WANI)