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SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL JUDICIAL (POLICY MAKING) COMMITTEE STEERS NATIONAL CONSENSUS ON PRISON REFORM

Islamabad, July 2, 2026 - The Supreme Court of Pakistan today hosted the National Conference on Prison Reform under the auspices of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) at the Supreme Court Auditorium, Islamabad. The conference marked a significant step towards building a nationally coordinated prison reform framework, with the Provincial Governments expressing their collective commitment to advancing the reform agenda envisioned by the NJPMC.

The conference brought together representatives from the judiciary, federal and provincial governments, prison administrations, human rights institutions, law enforcement agencies, and development partners to deliberate on the future of Pakistan's prison system through a collaborative and solutions-oriented approach.

A defining feature of the conference was the participation of the Chief Ministers of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh, who unanimously reaffirmed their commitment to supporting and implementing the prison reform agenda under the guidance of the NJPMC. The Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Chairperson of the National Commission for Human Rights also addressed the audience. Their participation reflected a shared national resolve to strengthen prison administration, improve rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates, uphold human dignity, and modernize correctional services through coordinated federal-provincial cooperation.

In his keynote address, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan observed that prisons reflect the true pulse of the criminal justice system and emphasized that meaningful reform requires shared institutional responsibility and sustained provincial leadership. His Lordship welcomed the collective commitment of the Provincial Governments to advancing the NJPMC's National Prison Reform Action Plan through coordinated and practical reforms.

The conference provided a high-level platform for constructive dialogue on the challenges confronting Pakistan's prison system and explored practical measures to strengthen prison governance, improve rehabilitation programmes, enhance inter-agency coordination, and promote a rights-based approach to prison management.

The conference concluded with the adoption of the Conference Declaration, setting out a broad policy framework and future roadmap for prison reforms in Pakistan. The Declaration, annexed to this press release, reflects the shared commitment of all stakeholders to pursue coordinated and sustainable reforms.

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