

## **Fragility to Resilience through Citizen-led Accountability**

### *Policy Dialogue*

Pakistan is currently facing numerous, intertwined challenges that range from political instability and economic crises to rising insurgency and the devastating impacts of climate change. These critical issues strain the state's ability to manage the needs of its growing population, disproportionately affecting marginalised and underserved communities. Addressing these challenges requires a systemic shift toward building community resilience and fostering sustainable development, underpinned by citizen-led accountability.

Recent crises, such as the COVID-19 Pandemic and the 2022 floods, have starkly revealed deficiencies in social services and governance structures, leaving vulnerable groups neglected. As Pakistan strives to build a resilient society, it becomes essential to empower communities by promoting self-reliance, enabling citizens to hold public officials accountable, and ensuring that women and marginalised groups are included in decision-making processes.

In the above backdrop, resilience becomes a critical goal for sustainable development. The concept of resilience extends beyond mere disaster recovery; it involves strengthening the social, economic, and environmental systems of communities to adapt, recover, and thrive. The potential of citizen-led accountability—where citizens play an active role in holding governments accountable—presents a transformative opportunity for building resilient and self-reliant communities in Pakistan. This Policy Dialogue aims to explore:

- Role of citizen-led accountability in enhancing resilience
- Strategies required to foster resilience, focusing on marginalised groups and sustainable development
- Leveraging digital advocacy as a tool for accountability in Pakistan.

By focusing on citizen-led accountability, the speakers will highlight mechanisms through which citizens can hold institutions accountable, address underlying vulnerabilities, and foster trust and transparency in governance. This approach ultimately strengthens the state-citizen social contract, enhances resilience to crises, and empowers communities to drive sustainable development outcomes. Key guiding questions for the discussion will include the following:

1. What is the connection between fragility, resilience and citizen-led accountability?
2. Why is citizen-led accountability crucial for resilience in Pakistan, particularly in the context of socioeconomic and sustainable development?
3. How can civil liberties' advocacy amplify the voices of citizen groups in governance and resilience-building?
4. What does it mean for citizen groups to hold elected representatives accountable?
5. What strategies have been successful in organising citizen groups?
6. How can citizen groups improve the demand side of governance?
7. What role do Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) play in supporting citizen-led accountability?
8. How can technology facilitate the transition from fragility to resilience?

### **Panel Organisers**

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