Pakistan President Zadari Underlines Pakistan's Commitment to Peace and Security

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- Pakistan has made progress in consolidating democratic institutions, said President Zardari
- Zardari described heroin as a weapon of war that fuels a trade worth much more than Pakistan's defence budget
- Pakistan's "youth bulge" represents engine of growth for the future
- More information about the Meeting here: http://www.weforum.org/MiddleEast2011

Dead Sea, Jordan, 22 October 2011 – President Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan said his country has suffered greatly from the events in Afghanistan but remains committed to the goals of peace and security. The president was speaking at a plenary session of the World Economic Forum Special Meeting on Economic Growth and Job Creation in the Arab World, which opened today at the Dead Sea in Jordan.

Despite the challenges of war and instability in its neighbourhood, Pakistan has made progress in restoring democracy, he pointed out. "We are consolidating our institutions despite the mindsets of people determined to undermine these efforts," he said. He described heroin as a weapon of war that fuels a trade worth much more than Pakistan's defence budget.

The president described the country's huge youth bulge as the engine of growth for tomorrow. "In a globalized world, Pakistan has a role in producing global citizens who can fill the vacuum as migrant workers in other countries return home," he said.

The Meeting's Co-Chairs are: **Mohammed H. Al Mady**, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), Saudi Arabia; **Yasmin Galal**, Global Shaper, Cairo Hub, Egypt; **Habib Haddad**, Chief Executive Officer, Wamda, United Arab Emirates, a Young Global Leader; **Muhtar A. Kent**, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, The Coca-Cola Company, USA; **Maurice Lévy**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Publicis Groupe, France, a Member of the Foundation Board of the World Economic Forum; and **Soraya Salti**, Senior Vice-President, Middle East and North Africa, INJAZ Al Arab – JA Worldwide, Jordan, a Social Entrepreneur.

Jordanian Radio and Television (JRTV) is the Host Broadcaster of this Meeting.

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