

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

23 October 2011

Lucy Jay-Kennedy, Senior Media Manager, Tel.: +962 (0)77 673 8542; E-mail: lucy.jaykennedy@weforum.org

- 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.

Notes to Editors

Follow the Forum on Twitter at <http://wef.ch/twitter>

Check in with the Forum on Foursquare at <http://wef.ch/foursquare>

Read the Forum Blog at <http://wef.ch/blog>

Read Forum reports on Scribd at <http://wef.ch/scribd>

Follow the Meeting on iPhone at <http://wef.ch/iPhone>

Upcoming Forum events at <http://wef.ch/events>

Subscribe to Forum news releases at <http://wef.ch/news>

Become a fan of the Forum on Facebook at <http://wef.ch/facebook>

For updates about the activities of the World Economic Forum, subscribe to [RSS feed](#)

For more information about the Meeting, please visit our website at <http://www.weforum.org/MiddleEast2011>

The World Economic Forum is an international institution committed to improving the state of the world through public-private cooperation in the spirit of global citizenship. It engages with business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

Incorporated as a not-for-profit foundation in 1971 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the Forum is independent, impartial and not tied to any interests. It cooperates closely with all leading international organizations (www.weforum.org).



World Economic Forum, 91-93 route de la Capite, CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva
Tel. +41 (0)22 869 1212, Fax +41 (0)22 786 2744, <http://www.weforum.org>