

**Government of Pakistan  
Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division  
Press Release**

**SDG Hackathon 2019 concludes with the remarks of Dr. Nishtar**



Dec 8, 2019- Islamabad: “It has been inspiring to hear from the SDG Hackathon participants who are leveraging technology, design thinking and open-source hacking to pave the way for achieving Sustainable Development Goals,” said Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation. “Ehsaas is determined to engage with private sector partners, social enterprises, civil society and incubators to develop innovative technology solutions for addressing chronic development issues across Pakistan in a cost-efficient manner”, elaborated Dr. Nishtar in her closing remarks at the concluding Award Ceremony here on Sunday, for the SDG Hackathon 2019, a premier tech initiative by Jazz in partnership with Code for Pakistan and OPEN Islamabad, held at the National Incubation Center Islamabad on December 6th, 7th and 8th 2019.

The two-and-a-half-day event brought together over 150 participants; a mix of technologists, designers, urban planners, social scientists, NGOs and CSOs, and government representatives to develop innovative solutions aimed to address five particular UN Sustainable Development Goals using technology, data and digital tools. These included but were not limited to: Goal #3 Good Health and Well-Being; Goal #4 Quality Education #5 Gender Equality; Goal #9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; and Goal #11 Sustainable Cities and Communities. The Women SDG Challenge Cup 2019 was held alongside the hackathon, where women entrepreneurs pitched their startups with a mission to create civic and social impact.

Highlighting the need for disruptive and sustainable solutions for everyday problems, Head of Communications and Sustainability at Jazz, Aisha Sarwari addressed the participants.

The teams worked on their ideas and solutions through Friday and Saturday under the mentorship of several subject matter experts in their respective fields. On the third day of the hackathon, teams presented their working solutions to a panel of judges that included Sayyed Ahmad Masud, CEO Change Mechanics (Pvt) Ltd, Owais Anjum, CEO Emumba Private Limited, Shan Rehman, Social Development Specialist at The World Bank, Saram Bokhari, Project Director, Center for Social Entrepreneurship and Mian Talha Nasruddin, Head of Product, Growth & Startup Ecosystem (Jazz).

Participants networked with industry peers and experts during the event. This was the third civic hackathon focusing on the SDGs, brought together by Jazz, Code for Pakistan, and OPEN Islamabad.