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Pakistan and World Bank Strengthen Economic Cooperation Under New Regional Framework

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In a significant development, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema met with Ousmane Dione, Regional Vice President for the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (MENAAP) at the World Bank, during Dione's inaugural visit to Pakistan. The two leaders agreed to collaborate on a comprehensive economic package aimed at supporting

Pakistan's long-term development goals under the new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for 2026 to 2035.

The meeting underscored the growing alignment between Pakistan's national priorities and the strategic focus of the World Bank. Minister Cheema welcomed the administrative restructuring of the World Bank that has now positioned Pakistan under the MENAAP region, effective from July 1, 2025. He pointed out that this shift brings Pakistan in line with other major international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), allowing for improved coordination and responsiveness to economic needs.



Cheema acknowledged the World Bank's commitment of 20 billion US dollars under the CPF and reaffirmed Pakistan's determination to work closely with the World Bank's local and regional teams to ensure the timely and efficient execution of development projects. With Pakistan facing persistent economic challenges such as inflation, energy shortages and infrastructure gaps, this level of engagement is expected to provide critical support in stabilising key sectors and boosting productivity across the economy.

The timing of this partnership is vital, as Pakistan looks to shift its economic trajectory towards sustainable growth. By aligning regional planning mechanisms and leveraging multilateral support, the country stands to benefit from a more structured and responsive development model. The emphasis on transparency, results-oriented planning and fiscal discipline could help attract further international investment and donor confidence. As both parties move forward, this cooperation offers a blueprint for practical, long-term engagement rooted in mutual priorities

and shared outcomes. It is now up to the government to deliver on its promises with discipline and integrity, ensuring that global support translates into meaningful results on the ground.

