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World Bank Applauds Pakistan's Economic Progress, Strengthens Development Ties

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The World Bank has expressed renewed confidence in Pakistan's economic direction, with a senior official praising the country's institutional reforms and resilience in the face of long-standing financial challenges. Ousmane Dione, the World Bank's Regional Vice President for the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (MENAAP), commended the efforts during a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif in Islamabad. The remarks signal a positive shift in Pakistan's external partnerships at a time when stability is critical for investor and donor confidence.

Dione's visit marks a significant milestone in the World Bank's ongoing engagement with Pakistan, as both sides continue to align their objectives under the new Country Partnership Framework (CPF). This five-year strategy outlines targeted cooperation in key sectors including energy, education, climate resilience, and governance. According to the World Bank, the CPF is designed to help Pakistan accelerate reforms while ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth. These sectors are widely viewed as essential for breaking the cycle of economic vulnerability that has long hindered Pakistan's development trajectory.



Prime Minister Sharif extended gratitude to World Bank President Ajay Banga and outgoing Country Director Najy Benhassine, acknowledging their support in building momentum around the CPF. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to long-term reform and efficient governance, noting that partnerships like this are vital for achieving durable results. Though critics remain sceptical about the sustainability of recent gains, the Prime Minister emphasised that renewed multilateral backing is evidence that the country's course correction is gaining global recognition.

This development also reflects the need for more merit-based leadership and transparency in Pakistan's economic planning, two areas where donor institutions like the World Bank can exert meaningful influence. If managed properly, this partnership can serve as a blueprint for how countries facing fiscal pressure can turn the tide through disciplined policy, foreign collaboration, and structural reform. As political winds shift

and new priorities emerge, what remains certain is that strong international partnerships are indispensable. For Pakistan, the World Bank's vote of confidence is not just symbolic; it is a timely reminder that while global support is helpful, sustained progress ultimately depends on responsible leadership and internal political will.

