

# LAUNCH OF PAKISTAN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT-2010

SEPTEMBER 17, 2010

## **Key Note Address by Secretary**

Honorable Deputy Chairman / Minister of State, Planning Commission  
UN Country Representative,  
UNDP Country Director,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to address this gathering of policy makers, development partners, representatives of civil society and various foreign embassies on the Launch of the Pakistan Millennium Development Goals Report-2010. I also thank the United Nations Development Program for their technical and financial support to Centre for Poverty Reduction and Social Policy Development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this report has significant importance being the only monitoring tool for measuring Pakistan's performance in achieving MDGs. While only five years remain towards the attainment of these goals by 2015, the UN Summit is very timely to reassess the World's commitment with respect to MDGs.

The PMDGR 2010 is written at a time when the country is going through the most difficult phase in terms of the affects of: global economic recession; war on terror which is being fought at Pakistan's Western borders; and continuing floods of 2010 on the domestic economy. You will notice that this report covers the period since 2006 during which numerous and far reaching developments have taken place, transforming the social, political, and economic landscape of Pakistan, all having an impact on the outcomes, achievements and targets of Pakistan's Millennium Development Goals. For the past few years, 'a security paradigm' has replaced 'the development paradigm' in the country. Although security issues have been of concern for last many years but since 2007-08, they have been highly aggravated affecting the physical, social and human capital outcomes, undermining the development efforts. The economy has suffered losses in foreign domestic investment and exports due to the spill-over effects of global economic recession; followed by the financial crisis in the developed countries while the global commodity price shock had already contributed to the miseries of the poor. Moreover, the devastating floods of August – September 2010 have affected more than 20 million people, ravaged different rural and urban areas destroying infrastructure and

agricultural heart lands of the country. This has adversely impacted the overall economy and the achievement of many of the MDG targets will remain an ambitious objective.

In spite of the unfavorable circumstances, the Government of Pakistan is resolved to fulfill its commitment of achieving MDGs. A number of initiatives have been taken towards this end, with the most significant being the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). In addition to the efforts of the Government of Pakistan, the developed world is expected to fulfill its role by: allowing free access to the markets, transfer of new technologies; and by providing favourable terms of trade. I would also request the international community to come forward and play their part in development of flood affected areas. Although half-a-decade may sound too short a period towards achieving the MDGs, however, with strong commitment and persistent effort by the Government of Pakistan and its development partners, the MDG target may remain achievable. I also take this opportunity to apprise you that a study has been commissioned by the Planning Commission to assess the setback suffered by the recent floods in achieving MDGs.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** In the end, let me reiterate that to achieve the MDGs targets, it is very important to ensure adequate level of social sector investments, particularly in education and health. While the pace of human capital formation seems to be slightly better in urban areas of Pakistan; more resources need to be diverted towards the rural areas, especially for, primary education, provision of basic health services, and generation of employment opportunities particularly for females.

**Thank you,**