

**Statement by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in the Third Committee on Agenda Item 63, 65 on Social Development during the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly, 3 October 2005**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Allow me to extend, on behalf of Pakistan delegation, our warmest felicitations to you and all the members of the Bureau elected for the 60<sup>th</sup> session.

My delegation would like to align itself with the statement made by the representative of Jamaica on behalf of G77 & China.

**Mr. Chairman**

Ten years since the Copenhagen World Summit on Social Development, the progress on the core objectives of the Summit -- poverty eradication, full employment and fostering social integration -- has been, as noted by the Secretary-General, uneven, needing concerted and far-reaching efforts. We renewed and reaffirmed our commitment to these goals in the 23rd Special Session of the UN General Assembly and early this year in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on Social Development.

During the current Session, which would also be focusing on the follow up of September Summit, we need to undertake concrete progress in the following areas identified in the Copenhagen Summit:

- (i) Achievement of uniform progress on all three fronts identified in Copenhagen Summit, namely, poverty eradication, employment and social integration.
- (ii) Elimination of asymmetries of globalization and its uneven costs and benefits in accordance with the recommendations of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization.
- (iii) Efforts for greater social and economic stability and security by addressing inequalities within and among countries.
- (iv) Creation of new financial resources through increased ODA, debt cancellation and increasing equity in trade, especially in agriculture and textile.
- (v) Prioritizing actions to remove global insecurity by resolution of ongoing armed conflicts.
- (vi) Eradicating root causes of poverty: unequal distribution of income and assets, insecurity, social exclusion and powerlessness.
- (vii) Enhancing the productive capacity of poor through increased access to land credit, markets and information.
- (viii) Ensuring greater investment in social sector: education, health care, social protection and other social services, and targeting the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged.
- (ix) Utilizing the opportunities created through migration for social development and achievement of MDGs.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The World Summit called for a people - centered approach to development. The Government of Pakistan is placing high priority on social development to make Pakistan a tolerant, vibrant and progressive society. A latest study of the World Bank shows Pakistan as the top reformer in the region and number 10 globally for successful and profit oriented business environment.

Poverty reduction remains the paramount objective of the Pakistan's reform agenda. Our strategy is guided by a holistic approach: promoting pro-poor growth, creating opportunities for employment, improving governance, ensuring that fruits of devolution reach the grass roots, and protecting vulnerable segments of the society. To arrest the rising poverty trend, the Government of Pakistan has chalked out a comprehensive plan in the shape of **Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)** within the broader framework of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The PRSP incorporates a more focused human development strategy with a central role for the provincial and local governments.

Implementation of the macroeconomic reform agenda in Pakistan has yielded unprecedented GDP growth of 8.4% during 2004-05. However, we are aware that economic growth alone cannot fulfill all the needs of the poor. Social integration is essential for distributing the fruits of government's anti-poverty programmes to the vulnerable segments of society. Other prominent steps taken by the Government include distribution of State land to landless tenants, availability of credit at easy terms, relief to drought affected areas and implementation of the SAARC Social Charter.

These efforts are being complimented by comprehensive reforms and measures in the related sectors and state institutions, such as devolution of power, police and judicial reforms, tax reforms, civil service reforms, political reforms and gender mainstreaming.

Devolution of power has brought about a radical transformation in the political and administrative landscape of the country. It has led to the fullest local representation in the decision making process on issues that relate to the social development at the grass roots, particularly in education, health and access to justice.

**Mr. Chairman**

Development is the highest priority for the vast majority of member states. We need to build upon the recommendations of the September Summit on ODA targets, debt relief, enhancing and improving aid and addressing the special needs of Africa in the Outcome Document and advance on trade, investment flows and global governance.

Implementation of development commitments must be accorded first priority in the follow up of the Summit. The developing countries' national strategies need the development partners' support to further strengthen the ongoing programmes in the developing countries for poverty reduction, employment generation and social integration. We must not disappoint billions of poor, who have attached high hopes to the implementation of the 2005 Summit Outcome.

**I thank you Mr. Chairman.**