



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY
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MINISTER/CHAIRMAN NATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR GOVERNMENT
REFORMS

AT THE
HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING
ON THE MID-TERM COMPREHENSIVE
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
FOR THE DECADE 2001-2010

New York, 18 — 19 September 2006

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Madam President,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen ,

It is my **pleasure and great privilege to represent Pakistan at this** important High-level Plenary Meeting convened to undertake the mid-term review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

Pakistan wishes to align itself with the statement made by the Honourable Minister of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Madam President,

The LDC Programme of Action constitutes the overarching framework designed primarily to address the special needs of the Least Developed Countries through enhanced cooperation between the LDCs and the developed countries. Most importantly, it is premised on a partnership approach and has so far proven critical in sensitising the international community on the formidable economic and development **challenges** faced by the LDCs.

The optimism and euphoria that accompanied the adoption of the Programme of Action does not unfortunately match the actual results achieved so far.

The Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the LDC Programme of Action adopted recently in Cotonou, Benin, while noting some of the positive strides made by the LDCs in the area of economic growth and

improved governance, also presents a rather bleak picture on the continuing and in some cases growing incidence of poverty, lack of capacity and availability of adequate resources.

Clearly, there is now a universal recognition that if the present trends continue, most LDCs are least likely to achieve the MDGs particularly that of reducing poverty by half by 2015.

Importantly, the Cotonou Strategy, in line with the Programme of Action, places special emphasis on implementation and contains time-bound and measurable goals and targets. We welcome and fully support this implementation focus and orientation of the Cotonou Strategy. This is in line with the approach that Pakistan has been strongly advocating in the context not only of the North-South but also South-South cooperation – for developing a result based matrix to monitor the implementation of agreed development goals and commitments.

We remain convinced that this, in addition to mustering the requisite political will, is the best way to effectively address the "implementation paralysis" in international development cooperation.

Achieving the goals and objectives of the Brussels Programme of Action, within the expected timeframe would need the improvement of the economic and social development indicators of the LDCs and creation of an international climate supportive of LDCs development, so that they could break the vicious circle of poverty, hunger and under-development. This would require concerted efforts by all relevant stakeholders, particularly in the following areas:

First, good governance and right policies at the national as well as international levels. Such an approach would help establish an enabling economic environment, which supports the domestic policy framework.

Second, ensuring the availability of the quantity and quality of financial resources required by the LDCs through greater debt relief and debt cancellation, enhanced ODA and investment flows.

Third, improving market access for products of export interest to LDCs. The recent decision on market access for LDCs adopted at the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Meeting must be expeditiously implemented.

Fourth, facilitating access to technology, greater technical cooperation and capacity building.

Despite limited resources and domestic financial constraints, Pakistan has continued to provide technical, economic and humanitarian assistance to the LDCs on select products. Under the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme and Special Technical Assistance Programme for Africa, a large number of participants from LDCs have, so far, benefited from our training programmes in the fields of banking, diplomacy, language skills, railways and accounting.

The Government of Pakistan has also been extending trade credits including duty free market access to a few LDCs on select products under SAARC arrangements, and substantial humanitarian assistance to some LDCs. We will continue with our modest efforts in future as well.

I thank you Madam President.