

Embassy of Pakistan Bangkok

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**Pakistan Statement at the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development  
(APFSD) Bangkok 3-5 April 2016**

**on  
Agenda Item 4**

**Regional priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable  
Development in Asia and the Pacific**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me first congratulate Mr. Chairman and all members of the bureau for their successful election to the Third Session of APFSD. I am confident that, under your able stewardship, this Forum would successfully complete its deliberations. I wish to assure full cooperation and support of my delegation in this regard.

2. The scope and magnitude of the Post-2015 Development Agenda is enormous. Implementation of this ambitious framework would require unwavering political will at the global, regional and national levels. This new vision of sustainable development encompass a paradigm shift in our political, economic and social, behavior towards development and institutional re-orientation in our countries.

3. The developing countries of the Asia-Pacific are facing multifaceted challenges and vicious cycle of poverty, depleting natural resources, and environmental degradation. This must be transformed into a virtuous cycle of eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities and delivering universal access to water, food, health, education, and energy to all.

4. Social justice, democratic governance, macro-economic stability, promotion of human rights, and institution building will continue to be critical enablers for sustainable development.

5. The 'Addis Ababa Action Agenda complements the means of implementation outlined in the new development framework. It guides us to re-discover areas less explored such as public private partnerships, investing in science technology and innovation and increasing connectivity and trade as drivers of sustainable development.

6. Recognizing the primary role of national governments in follow up and review of implementation, APFSD can take a significant place to underpin our collective efforts. However, our joint endeavours should be complementary to the global debate. The follow up and review mechanism should be country-led, voluntary and taking into account national realities, capacities, level of development and respect towards national policy space and priorities.

**Mr. Chairman,**

7. Pakistan pays high importance to its commitments on sustainable development and SDGs. The government conducted post-MDGs consultations with all stakeholders for coordinating and strengthening efforts at federal and provincial levels to achieve sustainable development and poverty reduction targets. The consultation process indicated the need for national level categorization of SDGs, improved data collection and enforcement of monitoring mechanisms.

8. Pakistan is perhaps the first country to formalize broad political support for the SDGs through adoption of a unanimous resolution in National Assembly of Pakistan on 19 February 2016.

9. Pakistan has accorded the highest priority to goals which will enable Pakistan to join the league of upper middle class countries by 2030. These include zero poverty and hunger, universal access to health services, education, modern energy services, clean water and sanitation.

10. The Ministry of Planning and Development has been tasked to prepare a comprehensive national action plan, for policy formulating and implementing national SDGs.

11. The present government's Vision 2025 provides a comprehensive national long term strategy for achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development. The Vision 2025 will strengthen the data collection process and to increase the coverage of household data at the district level. This will enable to monitor the poverty and vulnerability of the population in all dimensions.

12. At the federal level, an SDGs Monitoring and Coordination Unit, in coordination with UNDP, is being established to serve as a national coordinating entity.

13. The Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) constitutes government's poverty reduction planning that has prioritized 17 pro-poor sectors

including environment, sanitation, health, education, population planning, and rural development. Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) is established as an apex Governmental Non-Profit Organization for community-driven development in the country.

14. The Prime Minister has announced an agricultural package of Rs 341 billion, which is aimed at uplifting of small and medium farmers through the provision of direct cash support, soft loans and introducing new technologies in agricultural sector.

15. Another revolutionary step for empowering and social uplift of youth is the "Prime Minister's Youth programme". The programme includes Business Loan Scheme, Interest Free Loan Scheme, Skill Development Programme, and provision of free Laptop Scheme, with a budget outlay of Rs.20 billion.

16. Institutional mechanism for empowerment of women has been expanded and strengthened. Laws have been promulgated at federal and provincial levels to curb violence against women and sexual harassment at work place.

**Mr. Chairman,**

17. Although integrated implementation approaches should respond to national realities, the regional and global cooperation is critical for integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Keeping in mind capacities of developing countries, there is a need to move beyond the actions of individual States towards realizing the vision of new development agenda.

18. Our road map to achieve sustainable growth, is essentially anchored on an increased resource utilization efficiency and management. We must adopt a global and regional multi-stakeholder partnership approach. This must be led by the governments, and supported by international organizations and relevant institutions.

**I thank you all.**

