

**Opening Remarks by H.E. Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of
Pakistan to the United Nations and President of the Economic and Social
Council:**

**Economic and Social Council, Special High-Level Meeting with the Bretton
Woods Institutions, WTO, and UNCTAD
New York, 18 April 2005**

**Excellencies,
Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen:**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this year's Special High-Level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organisation, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

2005 is a year of great potential and possibilities to significantly advance the global development agenda, as we prepare for a review by our leaders of the implementation of internationally agreed development goals including MDGs at the Summit in September this year.

At the UN we are already engaged in an extensive preparatory process for the Summit. We have had the opportunity to extensively discuss and debate the development related recommendations of the High Level Panel set up by the Secretary General and the Millennium Project reports. Clearly, both the reports acknowledged the close nexus between security and development. The Millennium Report presented a practical plan to achieve the MDGs based on a simple underlying message of hope and promise - that eliminating hunger and poverty is achievable in our life time.

We also thank the Secretary-General for submitting to the General Assembly his Report entitled: *“In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all”* which will constitute an important input in our preparations for the Summit.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests**

The large multi-institutional attendance, particularly from the Bank and the Fund, this morning clearly demonstrates the importance that every one attaches to our deliberations on development issues, in this year of the Summit review.

We are indeed heartened to see such a large, diverse and high level participation of ministers and senior officials from Member States, as well as from key international development, finance and trade institutions.

In order to stimulate truly interactive and meaningful discussions, I have, on my own authority, circulated a paper, in the form of a matrix, listing the important development related recommendations made in the Secretary General’s report as well as the Millennium Project and Global Monitoring reports.

The outcome of our meeting today, which is the first important step in a series of events this year- including the High-level dialogue and the ECOSOC session in June- should make a useful contribution to the review of the implementation of the agreed development goals including MDGs at the September Summit.

It is against this backdrop that we selected the theme of today's meeting: Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus: Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

I thank the Secretary General most sincerely for his personal participation in this very important high level meeting.
