



# **Pakistan Mission to the United Nations**

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## **STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. DR. ASIM HUSSAIN, FEDERAL  
MINISTER/CHAIRMAN NATIONAL  
RECONSTRUCTION BUREAU**

**AT THE**

**HIGH LEVEL EVENT  
ON  
AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS**

New York, 22 September 2008

**Statement by H.E. Dr. Asim Hussain, Federal Minister/Chairman National  
Reconstruction Bureau at the High Level Event on Africa's Development  
Needs: State of Implementation of Various Commitments,  
Challenges and the Way Forward  
(22 September 2008, New York)**

**Honourable Co-Chairs,**

Over the last decade, the UN has spearheaded the global movement to highlight Africa's security and development needs and to give it the prominence that it deserves on the global development agenda.

2. This High Level meeting of the General Assembly is a manifestation of international community's resolve to renew and refocus its attention towards addressing Africa's development needs, to review the state of implementation of earlier commitments and to discuss the way forward.

**Co-Chairs,**

3. We are meeting at a time when the developing nations are facing a series of challenges exacerbated by reduced market access, rising debt burden and shortages of food and energy. Such challenges pose a serious threat to growth and prosperity. The problems of Africa are even more complex and daunting, especially the issues of development and poverty, and need to be addressed effectively and urgently. There is a need for increased development assistance and foreign direct investment. This has been pointed out by the reports of the UN Secretary-General and the Africa Steering Group of the Millennium Development Goals.

4. Africa, with its rich endowments in human and natural resources and its biodiversity, offers a lot of promise and hope. A lot has been achieved in Africa since the launch of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in 2001. Through NEPAD, African leaders have taken ownership and leadership of the agenda for the socio-economic revival of Africa. Consequently, Africa has experienced record economic growth for the last four years.

5. While a lot has been achieved, much more still needs to be done. Halfway to the target date for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, no country in Africa is on track to achieve the MDGs. The African continent remains one of the poorest and under-developed regions in the world. It constitutes roughly 20% of the total world land area and 14% of the world's population. But two fifths of its population is living on less than US\$ 1 a day and accounting for only about 1 per cent of global GDP and 2 per cent of world trade.

6. Mobilizing adequate international financing has been the biggest challenge. Despite the 2005 G-8 commitment to more than double aid to Africa in real terms, the global assistance flows have actually declined for the second year. This stands in sharp contrast to the estimated US \$ 72 billion external financing required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of Africa. However, some notable progress has been achieved in recent years on debt relief, but more needs to be done in real terms.

#### **Co-Chairs,**

7. The breakdown in the Doha Round of multilateral trade talks is another source of serious concern. The international community should ensure that multilateral trade agreements prioritize Africa's needs.

8. Similarly, Africa's share in the global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) remains stagnant between 2 to 3 percent of the global FDI from 2000-2006. Concerted global efforts are required to increase direct investment flows towards African continent, particularly for infrastructure development.

9. Meeting Africa's development needs and challenges will require resolution and leadership to turn international commitments into reality, and vision into actions.

#### **Co-Chairs,**

10. Pakistan has consistently supported the political and economic aspirations of Africa. We support effective and early implementation of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). We have actively supported and contributed towards efforts for promoting durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. Pakistan has an Africa Plan for Trade Development with bilateral trade today reaching nearly US\$ 1.8 billion a year. Our contribution to UN peacekeeping in Africa comes in the form of a contingent of nearly 10,000 troops deployed which continues to be amongst the two largest contingents in Africa for the last decade.

11. Furthermore, we also provide bilateral assistance in economic, social, technical and military spheres to a number of African countries in the context of South-South cooperation. In particular, Pakistan has been successfully running Special Technical Assistance Programme for Africa since 1986. Hundreds of young African professionals from both the public and private sector have received training under this programme in different fields including public administration, management, banking, customs, accounting and diplomacy. We plan to further enhance the scope of this programme in the years ahead. Our Prime Minister has

conveyed his desire to help Africa replicate our programs focused on the eradication of Hepatitis "C", safe drinking water and low cost housing schemes which are being carried out as his special initiatives in Pakistan.

I thank you Honourable Co-Chairs.