



PAKISTAN

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STATEMENT

BY

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IN THE

**THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION
ON POPULATION DEVELOPMENT (CPD)**

New York,
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Statement by Mr. Shahzad Shaikh, Secretary, Ministry of Population Welfare, in the Thirty-ninth Session of the Commission on Population Development (CPD) (4th April 2006)

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me at the outset congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election and assure you of our full support.

2. Pakistan also wishes to associate with the statement made by the distinguished representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

3. Availing this opportunity, I would also like to offer my felicitations to the Executive Director UNFPA and Director Population Division for their valuable statements that would be a source of guidance for all of us. I assure you of Pakistan's continued cooperation to make this event a great success.

4. The choice of migration and development as a theme for discussion at the Thirty Ninth Session of the Commission on Population and Development is topical and timely.

5. The occasion affords us an excellent opportunity to look at migration issues from a development perspective. The outcome of our deliberations during this Session would provide an important input to the forthcoming High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006.

6. The comprehensive report presented by the Global Commission on International Migration has undertaken a comprehensive analysis of the important contributions that international migration and migrants make to the development of both the sending and receiving states.

7. Importantly, the Commission has recognized the close linkage between international trade and migration and has called for greater efforts to bring to a successful conclusion, the WTO negotiations on services under Mode-IV dealing with the movement of natural persons. It is indeed ironical that while a lot of energy and resources are spent on securing the free movement of goods, very little is being said or done to facilitate the movement of persons - another factor of production. In stressing the need for greater coherence and coordination on international migration issues, the Commission has also correctly noted that important decisions taken in areas such as development, trade and the labour market are rarely considered in terms of their impact on international migration. We must do something to cure these anomalies.

8. We are confident that the Commission's report and its important recommendations would facilitate a focused debate during this Session and the High Level Dialogue in September 2006. We very much hope that these events would enable the international community to set the foundation for enhanced international cooperation by comprehensively addressing the multi-faceted phenomenon of international migration.

Mr. Chairman,

9. The economic disparities and inequities in the international system compel people to leave their homes and thus contribute to the global migration patterns. We need to address the factors that trigger migration. The states and private sector should consider introducing temporary migration programmes as a means of addressing the economic needs of sending and receiving countries and to curb illegal migration. We feel that exploring and facilitating channels for regular migration will help maximize the developmental impact of migration both in the receiving and sending states as well as reduce human trafficking and abuse of migrant rights.

10. The international legal framework for the rights of migrants needs coherence. Present multiple international instruments address migration issues in a fragmented manner. The insistence in the human rights basket of instruments on proper treatment of migrants is rendered ineffectual in the absence of instruments that would regulate free, cross border movement of persons seeking employment, and devising measures for successful integration of migrants into the receiving societies.

11. The absence of or lack of social security benefits deprives migrants of basic amenities such as health, education and proper living conditions. Meanwhile, fair and transparent work regulations constitute an important part of their rights. The present international legal framework for migrants is not adequate to respond to blatant violations of the rights of those held for months on the high seas or stranded in countries with no legal recourse.

12. The efficient remittance of migrant earnings to their families back home is one of the basic needs of migrants. There is an obvious need for having regulatory frameworks in place that facilitate remittances at low costs. Remittances from migrant are helpful to some extent, but their over all impact on development has not been substantiated. The remittances should, therefore, continue to supplement, not supplant, development assistance.

13. The lack of capacity and absence of policy coherence and coordination undermines our ability to deal with migration issues. We need the political will to act and to devise realistic and doable strategies to deal with the situation at hand. This calls for a global partnership and a multi-stakeholder approach.

14. We also need to develop a scientific approach to deal with international migration issues by undertaking comprehensive and analytical studies examining the contributions that international migration and migrants make to the development of both sending and receiving states. This, we believe, is critical to de-mystify the debate and myths created around international migration.

15. The Economic and Social Council, being the forum responsible for coordinating economic, social and environmental policies should also be able to play an important role in furthering the global discourse on migration particularly in the light of the 2005 World Summit decisions on strengthening ECOSOC.

Mr. Chairman,

16. We appreciate the fact that the ICPD recommendations introduced a paradigm shift that has heralded an era of global population and development initiatives. Pakistan has fully embraced the new paradigm under ICPD and has reformulated its population and development policy to meet the needs of the people.

17. The Population Policy announced in July 2002 is the outcome of a participatory process and enjoys the consensus of all stakeholders and partners, within government, NGOs and civil society.

18. The essential message of the new policy is to improve the quality of life of the people through reducing population growth by providing high quality and readily accessible reproductive health and family planning services. The Policy provides an enabling environment for bringing about social and demographic change, particularly through improvements in education and status of women.

19. The Policy recognizes the concerted efforts required to deal with the issue of population and development in its multiple facets, through collaborative efforts of a broad range of stakeholders, including public and private institutions and NGOs. Recently, the Government of Pakistan has taken many new initiatives to provide easy and affordable access to reproductive health and family planning services.

20. Population and development interrelationships and inter-linkages have been stressed not only in the Population sector, but also in other social

sectors such as Education, Health, Women Development, Domestic and International Migration, etc.

Mr. Chairman,

21. Despite our financial constraints, Pakistan pledges not only to maintain the momentum of its progress but also to accelerate it. There are reasons to be hopeful. Now, both the government and civil society have a clearer grasp of the tasks ahead and a stronger will to address these. Further reduction in maternal mortality, infant and child mortality accompanied with declining fertility remains our highest priority.

22. Another challenge is to enable the nation's youth in making the transition to adulthood better equipped. This will be achieved through improved education and employment opportunities. Efforts to empower women and reduce gender inequities in education and employment and the reduction of poverty form the core of the future plan of action of Pakistan.

23. I do think that Pakistan is ready to accept the challenges, which lie ahead. Our goals are clearly articulated and we are confident that we are on the right track and hope to achieve our targets set in the Population Policy.

I thank you.