

**Draft Remarks by H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif,
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, at the
Leaders' Dialogue: Summit of the Political Forum on Sustainable
Development on global partnership for development to create
jobs and improve sustainable life styles**

24 September 2013

**Distinguished Leaders,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a distinct pleasure for me to be a keynote speaker at this Leaders' Dialogue at the first session of the High Level Political Forum.

We hope that this intergovernmental forum will help us deal with the three integrated dimensions – economic, social and environmental – of sustainable development.

Despite all the efforts that have been made by the United Nations, poverty is still stalking the earth. Climate change has made our planet extremely fragile and vulnerable. Nobody is immune from it – rich or poor; developed or developing countries. And as the world economy grows, lifestyles have become unsustainable.

As politicians and leaders of our nations, we all know that jobs sit at the heart of growing economies, good governance and political stability.

Productive employment is a national responsibility, but it cannot be insulated from regional and global environment. That is why, we need global partnerships.

Our unemployment rate is estimated at 6.5%, which requires drastic strategies.

In Pakistan, we are making direct and indirect interventions to create jobs.

Direct approaches include poverty alleviation programme, micro-financing, employment schemes, skill development programmes, rural support projects, and export of manpower. Important as they are, such

interventions never create sustainable livelihoods. They are at best transitional solutions.

My government is investing maximum time and energy in indirect interventions, in reviving our economy and taking our growth from the present 3.6% to more than 7% in the next five years and creating macro economic stability. This will give a strong stimulus to agriculture, industry, trade, and services and create millions of new jobs. We are also giving incentive to the private sector to generate maximum employment.

Pakistan's workforce will grow from the present 61 million to 70 million in the next five years. Nearly one hundred million Pakistani are under the age of 25. We can tap into this youth bulge and turn it into a dividend if critical resources are allocated to health, education and skills. To this end, only last week I have announced new schemes for the youth of the country so as to ensure job creation and employment opportunities. This programme will be augmented and expanded in coming years. Despite our fiscal constraints, I have decided to increase education spending from 2% of GDP to 4% and health expenditure from 1 to 2%. This too is modest, but it is a beginning.

We would also promote and protect universal human rights to reinforce conditions for decent work.

We know globally that the world is still recovering from a financial crisis. Some states are returning to pre-recession employment; but others continue to struggle. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), more than 202 million are unemployed worldwide. Global population is set to increase to 8 billion in the next fifteen years.

To address these issues, we cannot work in silos. We need both national and global solutions.

It is now conventional wisdom that we need sustainable lifestyles not only in developed countries but in developing countries and emerging markets. We have to reduce societies' and individuals' use of finite natural resources. Carbon footprint must be curtailed for our sake and for the sake of future generations.

I, for one, am against aid because it creates dependency and stunts the growth of states. I have advocated trade not aid; market access, economic partnerships, and transfer of technology and scientific knowhow.

I agree that all states have to put their house in order. Yet we should not make the mistake of adopting a narrow definition of global partnership that jettisons official development assistance. Many countries still need it.

As we forge partnerships in our countries with civil society, local committees and national stakeholders, we also need support of multilateral institutions, including financial institutions and private capital.

Global partnerships will help us create sustainable jobs and expand the frontiers of our markets.

I suggest the following elements for a global strategy for job creation and sustainable lifestyles:

- (a) continue to revive and develop economies;
- (b) reduce mismatch in skills and available jobs;
- (c) enhance female participation and productivity;
- (d) expand productive opportunities for youth; and
- (e) enhance access to financial services and credit.

I am confident that this High Level Political Forum will give us a global platform for addressing employment issues.

I look forward to the rich discussion today.

I thank you all.