

**Aide Memoire**

**International Conference:  
Gender Mainstreaming and the MDGs**

March 28-30, 2005  
Islamabad, Pakistan

Host:

**Ministry of Women's Development, Government of Pakistan**

Coordinator:

**All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA)**

Partners:

**UNICEF, UNDP, UNDESA, UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNIFEM**

## **I. OVERVIEW:**

Nations can only progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) if the centrality of Goal 3—gender equality and the empowerment of women—is fully realized. The International Conference on **Gender Mainstreaming and the MDGs** will examine international and national ‘best practices’ towards achieving Goal 3. Stakeholders, including representatives from civil society organizations, development professionals, policy makers, donor agencies, academia, opinion shapers and most importantly women will collectively examine the challenges of gender equality to chart a way forward towards achieving MDGs.

## **II. BACKGROUND:**

As Pakistan is one of the signatory nations of the Millennium Declaration (2000), the Government of Pakistan is hosting this International Conference to review the progress made so far in implementing the MDGs globally, with a specific focus on the Asia-Pacific region. The Conference is expected to bring the current situation of women in the region to the fore of national agendas and also take stock of the progress made in implementing the recommendations of various other international conferences, conventions and declarations, including the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Conference is a joint effort: hosted by the Ministry of Women Development, Government of Pakistan; coordinated by the All Pakistan Women’s Association (APWA), in collaboration with several UN Agencies, including UNICEF, UNDP, UNDESA<sup>1</sup>, UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNIFEM.

The idea of holding a Conference of this nature originated from APWA to mark the centenary birth anniversary of its founder and Patron-in-Chief, Begum Raa’na Liaquat Ali Khan, who was also the wife of Pakistan’s first Prime Minister, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan. APWA is the leading and the oldest voluntary organization working for the rights of women in Pakistan and this Conference will be a tribute to Begum Liaquat Ali Khan’s memory and her unceasing efforts for the empowerment of women in Pakistan.

## **III. VISION**

This International Conference will be an extraordinary opportunity for a concrete and effective partnership initiative between Civil Society, Governments, the United Nations, the private sector and the donor community towards Gender equality and MDGs’ implementation.

## **IV. OBJECTIVES**

- To increase awareness of the MDGs and the centrality of Goal 3 (gender equality and women’s empowerment) among national governments, local authorities, NGOs and CSOs, parliamentarians, academia and the private sector.
- To stimulate public-private and civil society partnerships to effectively and efficiently implement the Millennium Declaration and the major UN Summits and Conferences’ Recommendations and Action Plans for gender equality and development.
- To examine international, regional and national ‘best practices’ and share innovative experiences among stakeholders and participants towards achieving the MDGs.
- To improve collaboration and enhance the effectiveness of local, national and regional actors to carry out specific gender related programmes, generate new activities and strengthen existing ones towards the achievement of the MDGs.

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<sup>1</sup> To strengthen partnership initiatives between the United Nations and NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, the NGO Section and the Offices of ECOSOC Support and Coordination of the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) are strongly supporting APWA to coordinate this Conference in order to effectively and efficiently increase concrete civil society contributions to the ECOSOC work in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the recommendations of major international conferences.

## V. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. An adopted action plan for gender equality and implementation of MDGs: ‘Islamabad Plan of Action’ inclusive of:
  - a set of substantive policy and action-oriented recommendations
  - means to ensure effective implementation
  - performance indicators for monitoring
2. A commitment to sustained mobilization of resources from domestic sources and international partners for the implementation of the ‘Islamabad Plan of Action’.
3. A statement on “gender equality and MDGs’ implementation” based on the ‘Islamabad Plan of Action’ to be presented by APWA during the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC, Geneva, July 2005.
4. A significant contribution based on the “Islamabad Plan of Action” to the Fifth-year review of MDGs implementation and to the UN Secretary General Report to the 60<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

## VI. CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

This conference will review the progress made so far in implementing the MDGs and participants will under five different headings, outline constraints and challenges and provide recommendations in addressing gender equality in relation to all the MDGs. The draft Conference Programme comprises of a plenary session and five concurrent Workshop sessions (outlined below):

Plenary Session:

### **Progress towards Gender Equality and the MDGs:**

Sub-themes:

- Mainstreaming Gender into National Development Policies
- Strengthening and Promoting Gender-based Civil Society Organizations
- Allocating Resources for Gender Equality: Gender Responsive Budgeting
- Developing Partnerships for Gender Equality and Development

Proposed Concurrent Workshops:

### **1. Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment**

(Focus: MDG 3)

Sub-themes:

- Women’s Political Participation and Leadership
- Women’s Rights under Islamic Law
- Women’s Access to Property and Inheritance Rights
- Women’s Economic Security and Rights

### **2. Gender Equality, Human Rights and Peace**

(Focus: Millennium Declaration & MDG 8)

Sub-themes:

- Human Rights and Gender based Approach to Human Development
- Addressing Violence against Women
- Combating Trafficking of Women and Children
- Women’s Role in Conflict-Prevention, Resolution, and Peace-building

### **3. Gender Equality and Poverty Alleviation**

(Focus: MDG 1, 7 & 8)

Sub-themes:

- Empowering Rural Women through Microfinance and Skills Development
- Public, Private and Civil Society Partnerships to address Poverty
- Capacity building and Human Development

### **4. Gender Equality and Health**

(Focus: MDG 4,5 & 6)

Sub-themes:

- Ensuring Women’s Reproductive Health
- Empowerment Women to Prevent and Treat STD’s and HIV/AIDs
- Population Ageing and Social Protection

### **5. Gender Equality and Education**

(Focus: MDG 2, 3 & 8)

Sub-themes:

- Addressing Gender Gaps in Access and Quality of Education
- Vocational Training and Skills Development
- Public-Private and Civil Society Partnerships for a Literate Society
- Culture and Dialogue among Generations

## VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Information on logistics, registration, accommodations, travel, etc can be obtained via the Conference Website at [www.pakconference2005.com](http://www.pakconference2005.com)

### **For more information please contact:**

#### **Conference Secretariat**

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Conference Website

[www.pakconference2005.com](http://www.pakconference2005.com)

**International Conference: Gender Mainstreaming and the MDGs**  
**Marriott Hotel, Islamabad, Pakistan**  
**28-30 March 2005**

**DRAFT CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

**Day I: Monday, 28 March 2005**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Sessions</b>	<b>Speakers/Facilitators</b>
9:00-1:30	Registration (Marriot Lobby)	
1:30-3:05	<b>OPENING SESSION</b>	
1:30-1:35	National Anthem	
1:35-1:40	Recitation of The Holy Quran	
1:40-1:55	Welcome and objectives of the Conference	<i>Nilofar Bakhtiar</i> , Advisor, Ministry of Women Development, <i>Laila Sarfaraz</i> , Executive VP, APWA (tbc)
1:55-2:05	Film on Begum Raa'na Liaquat Ali	Serendip Productions
2:05-2:25	Opening Remarks	<i>Cherie Blair</i> <i>Senator Hillary Clinton</i> , <i>Sonia Gandhi</i> (all tbc)
2:25-2:55	Keynote Address: "Progress towards International Commitments and Goals (MDGs and PFA)"	<i>Dr. Nafis Sadik</i> , UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia-Pacific
2:55-3:05	Opening Statement	<i>Mr. Shaukat Aziz</i> , Prime Minister of Pakistan(tbc)
3:05-3:25	<i>Networking Tea Break</i>	
3:30-5:30	<b>PLENARY SESSION 1</b>	
	<b>Progress towards the MDGs &amp; the Beijing Platform for Action</b>	
3:30-3:40	Panel Introduction:	
3:40-3:50	Mainstreaming Gender into National Development Policies	
3:50-4:00	Strengthening and Promoting Gender-based Civil Society Organizations	
4:00-4:10	Allocating Resources for Gender Equality: Gender Responsive Budgeting	
4:10-4:20	Developing Partnerships for Gender Equality and Development	
4:20-5:20	General Discussion	
6:00-10:00	Cultural Show and Dinner (tbc)	

**Day 2: Tuesday, 29 March 2005**

9:00-9:30am	Drafting Committee meeting (closed)				
9:30-5:30pm	<b>Concurrent Workshops</b>				
	Room A	Room B	Room C	Room D	Room E
	<b>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (MDG 3)</b>	<b>Gender Equality, Human Rights and Peace (Millennium Declaration &amp; MDG 8)</b>	<b>Gender Equality and Poverty Alleviation for Rural Women (MDG 1, 7 &amp; 8)</b>	<b>Gender Equality and Health (MDG 4,5 &amp; 6)</b>	<b>Gender Equality and Education (MDG 2, 3 &amp;8)</b>
<b>Session 1:</b> 9:30-10:45	Political Participation and Leadership (A1)	Human Rights and Gender based Approach to Human Development (B1)	Microfinance and Skills Development (C1)	Women's Reproductive Health (D1)	Girls Education and Development (access, quality and UNGEI) (E1)
10:45-11:15	<b>Networking Tea Break</b>				
<b>Session 2:</b> 11:20-12:35	Legal and Political Frameworks including Islamic Law (A2)	Violence against Women and Children (B2)	Integrated Rural Development and Environmental Sustainability (C2)	STD's and HIV/AIDs (D2)	Literacy, Life-long Learning and Vocational Training (E2)
12:45-1:45	<b>Lunch</b>				
<b>Session 3:</b> 1:50-3:05pm	Economic and Social Empowerment (A3)	Trafficking of Women and Children (B3)	Public, Private and Civil Society Partnerships to address Poverty (C3)	Nutrition and Child Mortality (D3)	Public-Private, and Civil Society Partnerships for Literate Society (E3)
3:05-3:35pm	<b>Networking Tea Break</b>				
<b>Session 4:</b> 3:40-4:55pm	Women Leaders for Tomorrow (A4)	Women's Role in conflict-prevention and resolution, and peace-building (B4)	Capacity building and Human Development (C4)	Inclusion and Social Protection of the Disabled and Elderly (D4)	Culture and Dialogue among Generations (E4)
5:00-8:00pm	Drafting Committees (General Conclusions and Recommendations)				
5:30-8:00pm	<b>Shopping Excursion</b>				

**Day 3: Wednesday, 30 March 2005**

Time	PLENARY SESSION 2		
9:00-1:00pm	<b>Workshop Reports/Recommendations</b>		
9:00-9:15	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		
9:15-9:30	Gender Equality, Human Rights and Peace		
9:30-9:45	Gender Equality and Poverty Alleviation for Rural Women		
9:45-10:00	Gender Equality and Health		
10:00-10:15	Gender Equality and Education		
10:15-10:45	<i>Working Tea break</i>		
10:45-1:00	General Discussion and Adoption of Workshop Recommendations		
1:00-2:30	<b>Lunch</b>		
2:30-5:00	<b>Excursion to National Heritage Museum (Shakarparian)</b>		
2:30-5:00	Drafting Committee for Conference Report (closed)		
<b>5:30-7:20</b>	<b>CLOSING SESSION</b>		
5:30-5:35	Recitation of the Holy Quran		Marquee
5:35-5:45	Welcome and Recapping the Dynamics of the Conference	<i>Nilofer Bakhtiar and Tazeen Faridi</i>	“
5:45 –6:15	Short Play/Cultural Dances	Ajoka Performance (tbc) or Kailash Dances	“
6:15-6:40	Presentation of Conference Outcome Document “Islamabad Plan of Action” to President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ministry of Women Development</li> <li>➤ APWA</li> <li>UN Partners</li> </ul>	“
6:40-7:00	Closing Remarks and Support for Implementation of ‘Islamabad Plan of Action’	UN partners and donor community	“
7:00-7:15	Closing Speech	<i>Pres. Pervez Musharraf</i>	“
7:15-7:20	National Anthem	Sung by College Girls Live Orchestra	“
7:20–7:50	Press Conference	<i>Nilofar Bakhtiar Tazeen Faridi Nafis Sadik</i> UN, NGOs, Partners	Marriot Press Center
9:00-11:00	Dinner	Host –Government of Pakistan	tbc