

**PAKISTAN DEVELOPMENT FORUM  
ADDRESS BY PRIME MINISTER SYED YUSUF RAZA GILANI  
(14 NOVEMBER 2010)**

Participants of the Pakistan Development Forum,

Chairman, Senate

Speaker, National Assembly

Prime Minister of AJK

Distinguished Guests,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Evening,

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan and on my own behalf, I wish to extend to you all, a warm welcome.

Our gratitude to our foreign friends and partners, who have taken the time and energy to come to Islamabad to share the benefit of their wisdom.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Pakistan Development Forum affords a useful platform for in-depth deliberations between Pakistan and its development partners, on the entire spectrum of issues concerning our national development paradigm.

Pakistan Development Forum is also an opportunity to remind ourselves that there is a lot more to be done than fire-fighting. We cannot forget the bigger picture; while we are busy taking care of the immediate needs to the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This year's gathering assumes greater significance in light of the economic fall out of the recent floods.

I appreciate the gesture of the participating countries to share their knowledge and skills with us. I hope that deliberations at the Pakistan Development Forum would be productive and the Forum would evolve strategies to help Pakistan fight off economic challenges in the backdrop of recent floods.

I am happy to note that useful deliberations have taken place this morning on damages and needs, as also on poverty alleviation and the provincial development agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For Pakistan, its people and its democratic Government, development remains an overwhelming strategic priority.

Our Government's economic philosophy is to put the country on a trajectory of sustainable growth by ensuring macroeconomic stability, domestic resource mobilization, restructuring of the Public Sector

Enterprises (PSEs) and unleashing the productive potential of the private sector. Revival of the Pakistan economy is dependent on improvement in internal and external security caused by terrorism and the resolution of the energy crisis in the short term. It will require substantive investment in these areas as well as in development of trade corridors, improving agricultural outputs and social sectors.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Some of Pakistan's development challenges are structural and this government has made good progress in addressing structural problems like the issue of provincial autonomy. Other challenges faced by Pakistan are process-oriented. Our education system has been steadily by-passed by the private sector, and we have not invested as heavily as we need to. We must fix both processes and structures, to build Pakistani institutions that our children can benefit from. Perhaps most importantly, as we improve the overall governance, we need to ensure that private enterprise has a chance to shine. It is only through job creation by the entrepreneurs that we will be able to take advantage of Pakistan's enormous demographic advantages.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today we live in a globalized world with our shared sorrows and happiness. Globalization is not simply a phenomenon of extensive communication and economic linkages. It is a process of human ties and concern. The same spirit of concern and solidarity was exhibited by the entire international community during various international catastrophes as well as the recent floods in Pakistan. It has reassured my belief that human feelings and shared values exist within the global family.

In this global village, nations cannot prosper in isolation and need to share and support one another for equitable socio-economic development.

We have our collective stake in future and it must be our earnest effort to ensure a peaceful and prosperous life for our succeeding generations.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are well endowed and well positioned to play a constructive and critical role in promoting regional and global peace, security and development.

The challenge of development cannot be realized through aid alone.

To realize this potential, we seek mutually beneficial partnerships.

We seek growth which is holistic, sustained and all-encompassing.

Trade and market access are the centre piece of our vision for a peaceful, prosperous and progressive Pakistan.

This explains why I have been advocating the theme of "trade not aid" during my interactions with the world leaders, business community and friends abroad.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In seeking and building partnerships of mutual benefit, Pakistan will always uphold its national dignity.

As the democratic government of a sovereign Pakistan, accountable to its people, we have and will continue to subscribe to the principles of equity, equality and justice.

These principles, I am confident, will be the guiding spirit of PDF deliberations.

I wish the Forum every success.

And our foreign guests, a pleasant stay in Islamabad.  
Bon Appetit

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