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**BISP striving to achieve Millennium Development Goals set by United Nations to curb poverty & empower women, says Ms. Farzana Raja
UNDP's delegation appreciated the efforts of BISP, especially poverty survey and introduction of e-governance**

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Ms. Farzana Raja has said that BISP has envisaged its plan in accordance with the targets of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by United Nations till the year 2015. These goals include poverty alleviation and women empowerment which are being pursued by BISP vigorously. She said this while talking to the members of a UNDP delegation, led by Muhammad Younas, Deputy Chief and Programme Advisor South and West Asia Division UNDP, which met her at BISP Secretariat on Thursday.



Islamabad: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Ms. Farzana Raja talking to Muhammad Younas, Deputy Chief and Programme Advisor South & West Asia Division, UNDP and Toshihiro Tanaka, Country Director, UNDP in a meeting held at BISP Secretariat. (Dated: May 19, 2011)

Mr. Toshihiro Tanaka, Country Director, UNDP, Mr. Jean Luc Stalon, Deputy Country Director UNDP and Azhar Malik, Assistant Country Director UNDP were also part of the delegation. Ms. Farzana Raja, on the occasion, informed the delegation that apart from monthly cash grants, BISP is providing demand driven vocational training to its beneficiary families under Waseela-e-Rozgar scheme in line with job opportunities

available both at national and international level. She said that one member of each deserving family is being imparted skill/vocational training aiming at poverty eradication and to provide them economic self sustainability. Likewise, she said, under Waseela-e-Haq initiative, entrepreneurship is being encouraged among the poor and downtrodden segments of society to enable them achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Mr. Younas, head of the visiting UNDP delegation, appreciated the measures of BISP with regard to curbing poverty, especially, poverty survey, as an objective and transparent mechanism for identification of deserving families. He said that it is in fact a poverty census rather than a poverty survey which will be a great help and assistance to all the donors and development partners who are working for under-privileged segments of the society. He said that it is very encouraging that BISP, through launching of innovative measures i.e. Benazir Smart Card and Mobile Phone Banking has introduced e-governance to ensure transparency and effectiveness of the programme.

It was mutually agreed during the meeting that BISP and UNDP will coordinate their efforts to explore the avenues of cooperation leading to the ultimate objective of poverty alleviation.