

**August 3, 2009**

**BISP to herald a social change in Society: Farzana Raja**

New York (Press Release) .Ambassador Abdullah Hussain Haroon ,Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nation hosted a working luncheon in honor of Permanent Representatives and Heads of United Nation Agencies based in New York following a productive and successful meeting of Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme(BISP) Ms Farzana Raja with Secretary General United Nations ,President United Nations General Assembly and representatives of various UN agencies including UNFA,UNICEF,UNHCR. President Think Tank International, Dr. Ammar Turabi was also present with Federal Minister Farzana Raja.

Prominent among those who participated in the Luncheon include the Permanent Representatives of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Spain, People Republic of China and Heads of World Food Programme(WFP),World Health Organization (WHO),UNDP and the Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Mr. John Holmes, and officials of UN, UK and US.

Mr John Holmes who has recently returned from a visit to Pakistan held in-depth discussions with the Chairperson on various aspects of BISP with particular emphasis on its role relating to dislocated persons. He appreciated the speed and efficiency of BISP in reaching out to the dislocated persons.

The participants appreciated BISP and assured the Minister of all possible assistance.

Ambassador Abdullah Hussain Harroon and the Chairperson briefed the participants on the salient features of BISP and its goal of bringing about a change in the economic conditions by focusing on Women. President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani's efforts for poverty alleviation were appreciated.