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**World Bank's Managing Director appreciates the remarkable achievement of BISP in the field of social protection in a short time; Executive Directors of World Bank express full Support to BISP**

**Madame Farzana Raja urges for exemplary support of global partners for BISP to win the fight against Poverty and Extremism**

**Chairperson BISP holds important meetings with World Bank's Managing Director and Executive Directors of Various Countries in Washington**

**Washington ( ):** Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Madame Farzana Raja visited the World Bank Headquarters at Washington where she had series of meetings with high level officials from all over the world focusing on the key components of cooperation between BISP and the Bank.



**Washington: Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP, Madame Farzana Raja in a meeting with Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Managing Director World Bank here at Bank's Headquarters. Mr Rached Benmessaoud, Country Director World Bank, Pakistan also present on the occasion.**

During her first meeting with Ms. Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Managing Director, World Bank, the latter appreciated the remarkable achievement of BISP in the field of social protection in such a short time. The Managing Director valued the idea of Chairperson

BISP for extending the targeted subsidies to the families under the poverty line. She extended her full support to BISP and directed the relevant departments to explore avenues as to how the Bank could play a more effective role in helping BISP in the implementation of the graduation programmes. During the meeting, Madame Farzana Raja reiterated BISP management's commitment to transparency and accountability and offered to welcome any suggestion which may further help in this regard. Being the most effective solution in the long-term, the Minister offered to collaborate with the Bank in graduating BISP beneficiaries from the Programme and enabling them live an independent life. On this occasion, she clarified that BISP currently is only serving the poorest of the poor; but, it also realizes the fact that the targeted subsidies may also be extended to the families residing below the poverty line. Ms. Indrawati also accepted the Minister's invitation to visit Pakistan and to see on the ground as to what BISP has actually achieved.

In Chairperson BISP's interaction with the Executive Directors of some important countries (USA, UK, China, Japan, Germany, Iran) at the luncheon hosted in her honor, she briefed about the remarkable success achieved by BISP in a short span of four years. Faced with challenges, she underlined the importance of bold but innovative decisions to succeed. The Executive Directors appreciated the unmatched success achieved by BISP and extended their full support to help BISP in achieving even more marvels.

Later, in her address to the Bank staff (Pakistan Desk), Madame Farzana Raja appreciated the valuable role played by both regional and global development partners in supporting BISP in materializing its objectives of poverty eradication and women empowerment. She urged that the global partners must extend exemplary support to enable BISP to win the unconventional fight against poverty by eradicating vulnerability which is the root cause of extremism. In this context, she specifically mentioned the challenges faced during the targeting. Further, she also informed that BISP has implemented state-of-the-art technology based systems to ensure transparency.