



Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

A coalition of civil society organizations, networks, peace movements, human rights activists, peasants, Labourers, workers, teachers and students alliances etc.

GCAP coalition in Pakistan focuses upon issues related to Education and Health sectors to address poverty & inequality

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Date: 25 March 2009

Press Conference

Subject: Suggestions for improvement in Draft National Education Policy -09

Honorable Representatives of Press & Electronic Media,

We, on behalf of GCAP-Pakistan, appreciate Ministry of Education's recent public statements, commitments and efforts for allocation 4% of GDP in the development and promotion of education in Pakistan till 2010. (Press statements attached)

Here, we would also like to emphasize that **Pakistan is one of the 164 signatories of Dakar Education for All- EFA**, which clearly identifies State's responsibility to ensure education for all. Further, **Pakistan is also one of the 189 signatories of the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** – signed in September 2000 during UN Millennium Summit at New York. The MDG-2 demands ensuring every child, boy and girl alike is able to complete a full course of primary schooling by 2015. However, the National Education Policy- 2009 (*Draft*) also accepts this as a challenge and has gained greater momentum in the intervening years and demand fresh considerations. (Introduction P-1)

Following the Draft Policy 2009, we, the representatives of civil society organizations, networks and coalition like GCAP-Pakistan seek your support to include clear indicators in the relevant sections of the draft policy to address challenges described therein regarding plight of education in the country.

- Realizing the dismaying situation of education in the country “ Education Emergency” be introduced for taking up education related issues at highest priority,
- Allocation of 4% of GDP by 2010 and 7% of GDP by 2015 should be mentioned clearly at Page –21,
- 50% reduction in under-spending of allocated resources for education by 2010 and 100% by 2015 should be stated clearly in the document,
- Ensure that no midway budgetary cuts will be done in allocated resources for education,
- Improvement in retention rate in primary education, (20% retention by 2010 and 60% by 2015),
- Reduction in dropout rate in primary education, (20% reduction by 2010 and 60% by 2015),
- Improvement in physical infrastructure of primary schools by provision of Basic facilities like water, toilet, furniture (20% schools by 2010 and 60% by 2015),
- Enhancement in primary school teachers' capacity and behavioural change for ensuring quality primary education.

National Secretariat (Interim) at:

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Currently many organizations, networks, alliances and coalitions including GCAP-Pakistan, are working in Pakistan for promotion and development of education sector and sharing the

State's responsibility. The suggestions and recommendations appended above are based on a series of discussions held through various dialogues and forums.

Pakistan's obligations towards international commitment to provide *Quality Education for All* calls inclusion of above mentioned suggestions in the Education Policy - 2009 (draft). We are confident and trust that you being the head of the education ministry would play a key role to meet this commitment.

Mohammad Zia-ur-Regman
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ae

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