

**Government of Pakistan  
Benazir Income Support Programme**

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**Press Release  
April 22, 2016**

**POVERTY THREATENS NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY: MARVI**

Islamabad ( ): Nations plagued by poverty are the most vulnerable to crime and terrorism. It is not a coincidence that foot prints of terrorism are found in the poor and fragile regions of the world. Poverty threatens not only national security but regional and international security as well. This was stated by Minister of State and Chairperson BISP MNA Marvi Memon while speaking as chief guest at a Round Table discussion titled “Poverty Alleviation and National Security” organized by Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).



The other keynote speakers were Senior Economist Dr Hafiz A. Pasha, Secretary BISP Muhammad Saleem Ahmed Ranjha, Chairman Taleem Foundation Dr Zafar Qadir, CEO National Rural Support Program (NRSP) Rashid Bajwa, and CEO SDPI Abid Sulheri. The event was attended by diplomats, prominent social activists, academicians and students.

On the occasion, Chairperson BISP said that government recognizes poverty as driver of conflict and believes in providing conducive environment for sustainable growth. Benefiting from Prime Minister's Interest free loans, a number of BISP beneficiaries are expected to graduate out of poverty. E-Commerce and BISP- entrepreneurial partnerships would change the financial landscape of the country. Chairperson BISP mentioned that BISP is updating National Socio Economic Registry (NSER), updated NSER would pave path for policy making that would ensure no one falls fodder to extremism.

Chairperson BISP stressed on the need for regional cooperation on best practices for poverty alleviation as it is international commitment to safeguard the future generations from poverty as per UN charter. She

stated that BISP identifies the vulnerable, leads on poverty management and further helps them graduate out of poverty so that they do not enter the terror cycle. The Minister also gave an overview of other BISP initiatives like Waseela-e-Taleem and campaign for Climate Smart Villages which would contribute towards poverty alleviation in the long run.

DG ISSI Ambassador Masood Khan in his welcome address highlighted global perspectives of poverty and explained various paradigms of poverty. He stressed that poverty is a global concern that needs immediate international decisions to guarantee financial inclusion. Secretary BISP reiterated that social protection is state responsibility. He urged the private sector to come forward towards the noble cause of poverty alleviation and economic empowerment.

The key note speakers appreciated BISP as the country's largest social safety net and the fact that government had broadened and up scaled its budget. As no one can deny the symbiotic relationship between poverty and terrorism, institutions working on poverty like BISP, NRSP and PPAF should coordinate and synchronize their efforts to eliminate this curse.

Dr Hafiz Pasha appreciated government for its policies on poverty reduction. He stated that Pakistan is a fragile country just because of large pockets of poverty spread across the country. Poverty makes people vulnerable to militancy and as a result national security is compromised. Dr Zafar Qadir stressed on the private-public partnership on social protection and financial inclusion. He added that education and technology play an important role in this fight against poverty. Rashid Bajwa narrated that there is strong relationship between poverty and national security, investment in education and health can only cure poverty. Abid Sulheri stated that as Pakistan is faced with multi-dimensional poverty, development spending needs to be raised.