

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA
AND THE PACIFIC

Advisory Panel Meeting on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the
Pacific

28-29 September 2004
UNCC Theatre, UNCC, Bangkok

CLOSING STATEMENT BY
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United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Distinguished Members of the Advisory Panel, ladies and gentlemen,

Although I have not been able to join you in your deliberations, I have been keeping close interest in your discussions. I am certain that this Meeting has inspired rich debate on the challenges of the MDGs. I believe that each one of you have worked hard to come up with specific recommendations that are not only valuable but also realistic considering the time constraints of this project.

It came to my attention that the meeting unanimously agreed to take institutional change as special theme topic of the second regional MDG report. As we know this topic is a broad one. I am very happy that the Meeting has clarified the specific areas of focus to make the production of the report manageable and achievable.

After this meeting, we will revise the concept note based on your comments and recommendations and send it to you by 15 October 2004. Further comments on the revised concept note are most welcome. We would also appreciate receiving from you relevant materials to feed into the report.

In my opening statement, I emphasized the need to strengthen partnership in our efforts to accelerate progress towards achieving the MDGs. We will continue to strengthen collaboration with UNDP and ADB as well as with other UN agencies. Complementing this effort, we will work with governments, media, civil societies, non-government organizations and private sector to mobilize political support and action for the MDGs. I believe that with our concerted efforts much can be done to assist the countries in achieving the MDGs.

I wish to close by thanking you all for your very active participation in this meeting. I would particularly like to thank Mr Hafiz Pasha, Regional Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and Mr Brahm Prakash, Director, Poverty Reduction and Social Development Division, Asian Development Bank for their valuable support and inputs. I would also wish the members of the Advisory Panel a safe and pleasant trip back home and I look forward to meeting with you all again in the next Advisory Panel Meeting scheduled for May 2005.

Thank you.

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