



**TOWARD THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF
THE FORUM OF MINISTERS
ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF ASIA**

PRESENTED BY

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SCHEME OF PRESENTATION

- Introduction**
- Bhurban Declaration**
- Forum Structure**
- Financial Arrangements**
- Implementation Plan**

BHURBAN DECLARATION

- ❑ Institutionalize Forum of Ministers on Social Development of Asia to enhance consultations, dialogue and exchange of experience with a view to optimizing the effectiveness of social policies.
- ❑ Theme of public accountability adopted as the principal substantive focus of the Forum for the first year;
- ❑ Chairmanship of the Forum conferred on Pakistan for the first year. The Chairperson of the Forum is to:
 - Define, in consultation with participating countries, practical modalities for: organizing the Forum, promoting networking of relevant national institutions, as well as to propose modalities for collaboration with civil society and recognized research institutions;

- **Establish sustainable cooperation among networks and to propose the convening of a meeting of inter-regional Fora;**
- ❑ **Candidature of India endorsed for the next meeting.**
- ❑ **Respective host country to provide a Technical Secretariat on a rotating basis.**
- ❑ **Share the Declaration with other Asian countries and invite them to join this Forum;**

FORUM STRUCTURES

COMPOSITION OF FORUM

To begin with the Forum of Ministers on Social development of Asia comprises of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka as founding member countries. Other Asian countries are eligible to become member of the Forum for which they have been invited as provided in the Bhurban Declaration.

CHAIR

- ❑ **Organize and chair Ministerial Meetings that, at least once every year, bring together the member-countries' Ministers in charge of social areas.**
- ❑ **Draw up a working program of preparatory meetings and agenda for the Ministerial Forum.**
- ❑ **Coordinate results of the Conclusions of the Chair- a document adopted by consensus at the Meetings and which constitutes the most important tool for providing follow-up to the directions of the Ministerial Forum.**
- ❑ **Follow up on the document approved at Ministerial Meeting one year from its agreement.**
- ❑ **Administer and manage the technical secretariat.**

FOCAL POINTS

- ❑ **Identification by member countries**
- ❑ **Networking of Focal Points**
- ❑ **Focal Points to work in parallel to thematic Working Group on adopted theme**

WORKING GROUP

- ❑ **Comprises of a representative from each member countries who are experts on the topic or issue defined by the Ministers.**
- ❑ **Country representative to coordinate work related to the topic with the concerned ministries/national institutions of the respective country.**
- ❑ **Working Group to meet at least once, between each Ministerial Meeting. These Working Group Meetings shall conduct an in-depth discussion of the topic or issue defined by the Ministers and shall receive input based on the experience of each of the region's countries in programs related to the topic or issue in question: obstacles; successes; failures.**

NETWORKING OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- ❑ **Each member country to designate its relevant national institutions for the network for sharing of information and experience related to the topic or issue identified by the Ministers which shall form the title of such network.**
- ❑ **Since theme of public accountability has been selected as the principal substantive focus of the Forum for the first year, the first such network shall be titled as ‘Network of National Institutions on Public Accountability for the Forum of Ministers on Social Development of Asia’.**
- ❑ **National Institutions on Public Accountability would post a webpage containing following country specific information related to the above topic:**

- **Existing legal framework (laws, rules, regulations) and policy.**
 - **Implementation structures and programmes.**
 - **Results achieved.**
 - **Issues confronted.**
 - **Future work**
- **An interface of the above web pages shall be provided through the web page maintained by the Technical Secretariat of the Forum. In addition UNESCO has dedicated a special section devoted to the Asian Forum on Website of MOST.**

TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

- ❑ The principal function of Technical Secretariat shall be to establish communication and specify different aspects of the cooperation mechanisms, as well as to oversee the development of thematic research relating to social issues drawn up by members of the Forum.
- ❑ The specific responsibilities of the Technical Secretariat shall be, in consultation with the Focal Points and Working Group, to:
 - Oversee the periodicity of communication, which benefits the work, and the atmosphere of cordiality among the members of the Forum.
 - Be a dynamic liaison for the initial exchange of experts, know-how, or concrete projects of horizontal cooperation.

- **Coordinate the Focal Points and Working Group Meeting prior to each Ministerial Meeting.**
- **Define parameters for the preparation and submission of the conclusions of the Working Group Meeting to be presented at the upcoming Ministerial Meeting.**
- **Seek new economic opportunities and follow up on requests for funding and financial support sent to international organizations, inviting them to participate in discussing the topics on the agenda of the Ministerial Meetings.**
- **Approach donors/international organizations for funding the Working Group/Forum meetings.**

- **Contribute toward and propagate horizontal cooperation among the different Forum member countries.**
- **Coordinate programs for the Ministerial Meetings.**
- **Encourage the participation of Forum members in regional and international conferences.**
- **Provide a webpage titled ‘Network of National Institutions on Public Accountability for the Forum of Ministers on Social Development of Asia’ with an interface of web pages of the designated national institutions of the member countries for consultation on issues brought forth at the Forum and related meetings/initiatives.**

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- ❑ **Local Cost including boarding and lodging for the meetings of Focal Points/Working Group and meetings of the Forum may be borne by the country holding Chair of the Forum in collaboration with donors.**
- ❑ **Travel cost for the above meetings may be borne by the participating countries.**

OUTLINE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

S.N	Activity	Action taken or to be taken	Responsibility	Time Frame
1.	Establishment of Technical Secretariat of Forum	<p>Technical Secretariat established in National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB) with following details:</p> <p>Focal Point: Brig Muhammad Saleem, Retd</p> <p>Consultant NRB, PM Secretariat Cabinet Block, Islamabad</p> <p>Tele: 0092-51-9201486</p> <p>Fax: 0092-51-9206726</p> <p>Email: nrbce3@isb.paknet.com.pk saleemwains@hotmail.com</p>	Chair	Completed
2.	Share Bhurban Declaration with other Asian countries and invite them to join the Forum.	Being processed through the respective Pakistan Missions	Technical Secretariat	-----

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OUTLINE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

S.N	Activity	Action taken or to be taken	Responsibility	Time Frame
3.	Identification of Focal Points of member countries	Member countries requested to identify focal points vide letter dated 23 Aug, 06. Focal point has been identified by Maldives , while response from other countries is still awaited	Technical Secretariat	15th Nov, 06
4.	Define, in consultation with member countries the practical modalities for organizing the Forum, promoting the networking of relevant national institutions, as well as to propose modalities for collaboration with civil society and recognized research institutions	a. Draft framework for institutionalizing the forum has been developed and views of UNESCO on draft frame- work have been obtained. b. Finalize draft framework in consultation with the Focal Points of member countries.	Technical Sectt in consultation with UNESCO and Focal Points of member countries “	a. Completed b.15 Dec, 06

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OUTLINE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

S.N	Activity	Action taken or to be taken	Responsibility	Time Frame
		<p>Implementation of framework as follows:</p> <p><u>Networking of National Institutions</u></p> <p>i. Identification and Networking of National Institutions and development of their respective_ WebPages containing country specific information related to the adopted theme of Public Accountability.</p> <p>i. Interfacing of countries WebPages through Website maintained by Technical Secretariat of the Forum.</p>	<p>Focal Points of Member Countries</p> <p>Technical Sectt in consultation with Focal Points of member countries and UNESCO</p>	<p>30 Dec, 06</p> <p>15 Jan, 07</p>

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OUTLINE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

S.N	Activity	Action taken or to be taken	Responsibility	Time Frame
4.		<u>Working Group</u> i. Nomination of country representative ii. Working Group meeting for an in-depth study of public accountability and development of agenda of collaboration for the Forum meeting. <u>Forum Meeting</u> Forum meeting to consolidate space for collaboration in the area of public accountability and adoption of the Forum theme for the next year	Focal Points of member countries Technical Sectt in consultation with Focal Points Technical Sectt in consultation with Focal Points	15 Dec, 06 Feb, 07 Apr, 07

OUTLINE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

S.N	Activity	Action taken or to be taken	Responsibility	Time Frame
5.	Establish sustainable cooperation among networks and to propose the convening of a meeting of inter-regional Fora	Compile results/achievements of the Forum cooperation in the area of public accountability for sharing in a meeting of inter-regional Fora i.e Forum of Ministers of Social Development in the Latin America, Forum of Ministers of ECOWAS and Forum of Minister on Social Development from Asia which may be proposed to UNESCO for convening at a midway venue (possibly Cairo).	Technical Sectt in consultation with UNESCO	May 2007

THANK YOU