

Islamabad Declaration on Inclusive Education

National Consultation
Islamabad, 27th April 2005



Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education
Ministry of Education
Braillo Norway
IDP International Development Partners

Islamabad Declaration on Inclusive Education

Allah says in The Holy Qur'an:

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ

We have indeed created human being in the best of moulds. [Sūrah 95: Ayeh 4]; and

خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ وَصَوَّرَكُمْ فَأَحْسَنَ صُورَكُمْ وَإِلَيْهِ الْمَصِيرُ

Thy have created the heavens and the earth. In just Proportions, and has given you shapes, and made your shapes Beautiful: and to Him is the final Goal [Sūrah 64: Ayeh 3]; and

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً

Behold, thy Lord said to the angels: "I will create a vice regent on earth. [Sūrah 2: Ayeh 30]

We recognise that all children have equal right to freedom of expression, quality education and have access to a safe and healthy environment; in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan [1973]; to have full rights and obligations as citizens as confirmed in; the UN Declaration of Human Rights [1948], reinforced by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child [1989], World Declaration on Education for All [1990], UN Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities [1993], Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action [1994], Dakar Framework for Action [2000], UN Millennium Development Goals [2001] and the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities [2002] guarantee the rights of all children, both with and without disabilities, to obtain quality education adapted to their individual needs, abilities and aspirations and full and equal participation in all other aspects of life.

Therefore we, the participants at the **National Consultation on Inclusive Education** held in Islamabad, Pakistan on 27th April 2005 urge the federal, provincial and district governments, education institutions, schools, parents, religious institutions, non-governmental organisations, organisations of/for persons with disabilities, donor community, business community and the society at large to:

1. Ensure that all children regardless of gender, abilities, disabilities and socio-economic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds:
 - are treated with dignity and respect;
 - have equal access to education, health services, work and all other aspects of life;
 - are enabled to develop their full academic, physical, emotional and social potential;
 - have access to learning material in appropriate media and technical devices; and
 - develop confidence in their own abilities, skills and future prospects.
2. Design federal and provincial policies, Plans of Action and provide sufficient resources to match with the development and comprehensive implementation of inclusive education in all public and private schools throughout Pakistan.
3. Develop and implement a co-ordinated mechanism between all federal, provincial and district governments, institutions under the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education and the Higher Education Commission [HEC]. All efforts should be made in line with the National Plan of Action [NPA].
4. Develop inclusive, child- and learning friendly environments on all levels of the mainstream public and private education system [from pre-primary to tertiary education] throughout Pakistan.
5. Eliminate barriers to learning, participation and development;
 - at all levels of the mainstream public and private education system [from pre-primary to tertiary education] throughout Pakistan; and
 - in all public areas [i.e. parks, shopping centres and public transport].
6. Create, develop, support and strengthen structures to meet the needs and develop the unique abilities of all children through extensive co-operation amongst all ministries, institutions and organisations concerned.
7. Ensure that all teachers and school administrators in pre- and in-service education and training, learn to embrace and encourage the diversity of needs and abilities of children, among others through;
 - development and implementation of flexible curricula and evaluation systems;
 - use of technology to improve teaching and learning process;
 - networking of resource persons within the social, medical, vocational and other relevant fields; and
 - introduction of “Embracing Diversity - UNESCO/ UNICEF Toolkit on Creating Inclusive, Learning-Friendly Environments”.

8. Continuously promoting and raising awareness about the concept of inclusive education through teacher education and training, human resource development within the government and non-government sector, advocacy, research forums, mass media, etc.
9. Develop mechanisms to secure efficient co-ordination of all efforts related to education among the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and other line ministries in order to implement the idea of inclusion in public and private sector schools.
10. Incorporate inclusive education into all laws, policies and plans [incl. EFA Plans, EMIS, etc.] related to education, health, etc.
11. Actively engage and involve children, parents, teachers, professionals, community and religious leaders, civil society organisations [incl. charitable foundations, welfare organisations, etc.], business community and philanthropists in all aspects of school development, policy, management and support to children.

Islamabad, 27th April 2005

Participants from:

Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education ● Ministry of Education ● Ministry of Finance ● Higher Education Commission ● Provincial Government of Baluchistan ● Provincial Government of the Punjab ● Provincial Government of Northwest Frontier Province ● Provincial Government of Sindh ● Government of Islamabad ● Government of AJK ● Government of the Northern Areas ● University of the Punjab ● Allama Iqbal Open University ● Royal Norwegian Embassy ● Braillo Norway ● IDP International Development Partners [Norway, Indonesia and Pakistan] ● Sight Savers ● Hassan Academy ● UNESCO ● UNICEF