

Intervention made by Irfan Soomro, Third Secretary Pakistan Permanent Mission to the United Nations, on Rural Development in the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for Commission on Sustainable Development, New York 25th February, 2009.

I thank the panelists for their comprehensive presentations.

2. Pakistan aligns fully with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Sudan on behalf of Group of 77 and China.

3. While we will be submitting our suggestions in writing in due course, we have one point to make that policy options and suggestions that we can have should come from real life examples and lessons learnt, what has happened and how it has happened. Rural development has become an even more daunting challenge in the face of a development emergency that we face today. We already face the stress being an agrarian economy and belonging to a region which hosts almost half of the poorest poor.

4. We have rural support and development programs in place. For many of the development practitioners in this room, names of Akhtar Hameed Khan of Komila Model and Orangi Pilot fame and Shoaib Sultan Khan of the Agha Khan Rural Support programme would be familiar.

5. We have through these models demonstrated how a bottom up approach with full local ownership, community participation and active international collaboration including through public-private partnership could produce positive results.

6. My delegation is ready to share those experiences with the international community through this Commission – and would accordingly make submission to this effect in writing in due course.

I thank you, Chair.