

It is an immense honor to be here - and so with great humility I make these commitments on behalf of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund:

We commit, to advancing the cause of gender equality and empowerment - to ensure that women are active, informed participants in humanitarian and development assistance and action.

We commit, to **never** compromise on our value of inclusion, making gender equality an article of faith - a mandatory condition of partnership with our existing 130 civil society partners and over 570,000 community organizations, which we have nurtured and any new partnerships that we embark upon – ensuring that 50% of all our interventions, from participation in community organizations, to cash assistance during disasters, asset transfers, microcredit loans, health and education programs benefit women.

We commit, to holding ourselves accountable to the quality of our interventions - always collecting gender disaggregated data; and monitoring and evaluating our programs through credible third parties - to ensure that our work is impacting women - and do course correction in case they are not.

We commit, to overcome barriers to women participation and equality through culturally sensitive approaches – using pro-women examples from religion and indigenous culture to counter misogynist narratives and practices.

We commit, to making the voices of women audible in the corridors of power, using our first-hand knowledge of work with communities to influence policies that positively impact women.

And finally, we commit, that in all that we do, we will be driven by Ishq, Love; - informed through Ilm, Knowledge; - and always strive for Amal, Action

And in this relentless pursuit we will, as Rumi says, *“not seek for love, but seek and find all the barriers within ourselves that we have built against it.”*

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you from the core of my heart.