

## **Balanced Development:**

Balanced development is a prerequisite for sustainable economic growth and shared prosperity. This must encompass strengthening linkages between urban centres and rural areas and between more developed and less developed regions, and equitable distribution of necessities of life and creation of productive remunerative employment. Efficient infrastructure and services can facilitate complementary rural-urban development with diversification and commercialisation of rural economies.

The balanced development envisages establishing a just and sustainable economic system for reducing poverty, achieving SDGs, and building a strong and prosperous nation having a fully integrated economy with a sense of common and shared destiny. The balanced development vision aims to accelerate development in rural, urban, and less developed areas with a greater emphasis on 'good governance', 'employment and income generation' and 'housing for all'.

**Shelter** is one of the basic necessities of life. The balanced development strategy for housing is aimed at undertaking mass housing programs with enhanced supply of institutional finance and long term fixed rate financing options; increasing availability of developed land; enhancing proportion of small-size plots for low-income groups; undertaking high rise condominium development, where appropriate, to utilise land more effectively; building capacity for land administration; discouraging speculation in land; improving housing construction technology; increasing community participation in physical infrastructure and service delivery through citizen community boards; and ensuring sufficient and affordable credit for rural housing for meeting the needs of landless poor.

The **employment** generation, poverty reduction and human resource development are the main features of the development. The employment led growth rate occupies a central place in sustainability of development efforts and is critically linked with the availability of decent work opportunities. The balanced development strategy of employment-intensive economic growth particularly focuses on agriculture, livestock, SMEs, telecommunications and IT services, housing and construction, and natural resources.

The main features of integrated and balanced **rural-urban development** are the Spatial Strategy, Development Plans, Master Plans and Action Plans. For the development of rural areas, a holistic approach will be adopted for rural development with local governments in the lead role, supported by the provincial and federal governments. Apart from the rural urban development, the balanced development gives special attention to accelerate the development process in the **less developed areas**. These areas lag behind the national, provincial and rural indicators in terms of income, patterns of land ownership and availability of public infrastructure and services.

Good **governance** relates to a pluralistic and holistic view where responsibility is jointly shared by players in public sector, the corporate private sector, and civil society by addressing the issues of accountability, transparency, participation, openness, rule of law and predictability. It is also a key link between growth and reduction of poverty and inequality.