

**Bangladesh Statement on  
Multi-Stakeholder Roundtable on Integration and Transformation for  
Sustainable Development  
Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development**

**19 May 2014, Pattaya, Thailand**

**Mr. Chairman**

**Hon'ble Ministers**

**Excellencies**

**Ladies and Gentleman**

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me the floor. I complement the Royal Thai Government and ESCAP for organizing the Forum on this very topical issue which is very timely and relevant as the deadline of target date 2015 draws near.

2. The 2010 MDG Summit initiated thinking on the global development agenda beyond 2015 and the 2012 Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development initiated an inclusive process to develop a set of sustainable development goals. There is broad agreement that the two processes should be closely linked and should ultimately converge in one global development agenda beyond 2015 with sustainable development at its core. The goals should address in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and be coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

**Mr. Chairman,**

3. Before we share our views on the one global agenda, let me briefly share our experiences in implementing MDGs in Bangladesh.

4. Over the four decades since our independence, we have made noteworthy progress: our real per capita increased by over 130 percent, while poverty was reduced by 60 percent. Despite shrinking farmland due to growing urbanization, our rice production tripled to over 35 million metric tons by now. Deep structural transformation in the economy has taken place as Bangladesh progressed to become the second largest ready-made garments exporter in the world, with annual exports registering over 25 billion USD during the last fiscal. We are now better equipped and more resilient to natural disasters, compared to 15 years ago.

**Mr. Chairman,**

5. Now, let me share briefly on our National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), 2010-2021, which we have already prepared. This NSDS has been formulated to guide the country to face the challenge for sustainable economic growth with environmental safety and ensuring social justice. The strategy is based on the long term development vision of the government, the Sixth Five Year Plan FY 2011-FY2015, the Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2010-2021 and other existing plans, policies and strategies of the government.

6. In Bangladesh, to develop the proposal for UN "Post 2015 Development Agenda", we were consulted in a year-long national multi-sectoral dialogue. We submitted our position to UN in June 2013. In the process, we identified 11 goals, 58 targets with 241 indicators:

- Goal 1: Unleash human potentials for sustainable development
- Goal 2: Eradicate poverty and reduce inequality
- Goal 3: Ensure sustainable food security and nutrition for all
- Goal 4: Universal access to health and family planning services
- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality
- Goal 6: Ensure quality education and skills for all
- Goal 7: Increase employment opportunities and ensure worker rights
- Goal 8: Ensure good governance
- Goal 9: Promote sustainable production and consumption
- Goal 10: Ensure environmental sustainability and disaster management
- Goal 11: Strengthen international cooperation and partnership for sustainable development

7. I would like to mention here that 80 countries have been selected to submit their proposal on MDGs beyond 2015 based on their MDG performances. Bangladesh is one of them.

**Mr. Chairman,**

8. The post-2015 Development Agenda needed to have an open and inter-governmental process with poverty eradication at its core and reflect equally the interest of all countries. There was also a need to have a transformative agenda that would put people at the centre of all development strategies. Peace, effective rule of law, open and accountable institutions are the prerequisites for further progress.

9. Economic progress for all countries should be ensured. Fragile countries and other countries with special needs have to receive the international support they need to end extreme poverty and access technologies enabling them to pursue their own economic transformations.

10. Inequality in access to land and productive assets, nutritious food, safe drinking water has remained wide spread. Violence against women, widening income inequality, unemployment, food and energy security should receive due consideration in the formulation of the post 2015 development agenda.

11. Ensure that all people enjoy equal opportunities regardless of gender, race, religion, etc. Provide personal security and freedom from all forms of violence. Promote a comprehensive approach to measuring human well-being that goes beyond GDP per capita.

12. It is not only the question of Aid or grant anymore, not even the innovative financing proposition; there has to be goals/targets aimed at enabling the developing countries, in particular the LDCs, to participate in the global trading system. Here the question of market access is crucial.

13. The question of transfer of technology needs to be adequately addressed on the ground. We have to devise a mechanism to link with HLPF with the scientific community. This will help developing countries like us with the technological leapfrogging that we have been striving for.

14. In line with the UNGA resolution 69/270, HLPF should be the "Home of the SDGs". Regional Commissions such as ESCAP should be in a position to compile SDG development efforts while continuously flagging the on the ground difficulties faced by countries in their SDG achievement efforts. The future sessions of APFSD beyond 2015, may do the annual reporting and seek views of the APF Member States.
15. Ensuring universal access to health and education services is vital for inclusive social development. Our experience is that social security and social empowerment interventions have contributed in reducing incidence of poverty and increasing labour wages and should be a critical element for post-2015 vision. Under the scenario universal education and skill development should be promoted to foster decent jobs and economic opportunities so that inequalities are reduced and all groups within the society are able to share in the progress.
16. International migration affects every region. International migration benefits both the sending and receiving countries. However many immigrants continue to work and live in hazardous condition and often marginalized and subject to discriminations and social exclusion.
17. Addressing the means of implementation would be crucial to spell the difference between success and failure in implementing the post-2015 Development Agenda, particularly for the LDCs, where national action was often not adequate to meet the development challenges. We stressed on technology and finance as the two key resources for implementation. We emphasized the importance of partnerships and leadership with credibility in mobilizing the means of implementation. A mechanism should be developed to facilitate transfer of appropriate technology to developing countries.
18. Indicators for monitoring progress for sustainable development will need to develop, in order to help decision makers.
19. The post-2015 development framework must be grounded in renewed and committed global partnership, with every country in the Asia-Pacific region expressing clear political commitment to realizing equity, resilience and sustainability. All stakeholders needed to be involved, along with judicious use of science, technology and innovation, and information and communication technologies to facilitate implementation, and supported by peace, effective rule of law and accountable institutions to ensure sustainability.
20. Today's challenges are becoming increasingly cross border and multilayered. Single country cannot tackle these complex issues. Regional cooperation and sub-regional initiatives are vital for attaining more sustainable equitable and balanced growth and development.

**Mr. Chairman,**

21. Finally, the voices of all countries in the Asia Pacific region, especially in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), as well as the voices of vulnerable groups of people, should reflect in the Development Agenda. We expect that Asia Pacific region to take leadership under the platform of ESCAP in the global exercise of development for a next global development agenda would express our aspirations to address challenges of 2030.

Our delegation thanks you all attending the deliberation.

Thank you, Sir