11th APFSD: Country Statement on SDGs Implementation of Bangladesh

Session Theme: Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific

Respected Chair, Excellency, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

1. At the outset, on behalf of the Bangladesh Delegation, I would like to thank the UNESCAP for organizing the Meeting.

Respected Chair,

2. As you know, Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries. We are scheduled to graduation from LDC in 2026, and as achieving the SDGs by 2030. Our well-educated workforce, a dynamic youth demographic leadership with political and developmental have contributed to this achievement.

3. In the last decade and a half under the dynamic and visionary leadership of our Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has become instrumental in making social and economic growth in Bangladesh. In this context, she won the “SDG Progress Award” in 2021.

4. The Government has been implementing the 8th Five-Year Plan, the flagship strategic document of the Government that has incorporated all targets of the SDGs. The Government has been following the “Whole of the Society Approach” to ensure wider participation of all relevant stakeholders.

5. SDG Localization has been emphasized more by identifying 40 (39+1) national priority indicators at the local level. Apart from a national apex committee, three committees at different strata of field administration have been formed with representatives of relevant stakeholders to expedite the process of implementation of the SDGs.

6. The average GDP growth in the last fifteen years has been 6.7% even taking the dire consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Bangladesh GDP witnessed 6.3% growth in FY 2022-23. Credits go to Government’s right interventions on some strategies and policies in the context of Covid-19. The spending on social protection coverage has been increased in recent years. Bangladesh is committed to reducing poverty and food insecurity through the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS).

Initiatives like the Universal Pension Scheme and Employment Injury Scheme aim for financial security of the citizens. Moderate poverty has decreased from 40% in 2005 to 18.7% in 2022, while extreme poverty has fallen from 25% to 5.6% during the same period. Universal access to electricity and self-sufficiency in rice production have enhanced food security. Gender equality has improved and making Bangladesh in a higher position in South Asia.
Respected Chair,

7. Our Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s Unique initiative to provide home for all homeless people in Bangladesh. Following Her directive, “Not a single person in Bangladesh will be left homeless”, through the flagship project of Ashrayan (Shelter), around 0.56 million landless-homeless families have been rehabilitated; around 68% of sub-districts have been declared land & homeless-free. The Government has also provided 600 climate refugees with new homes in Cox's Bazar.

8. Bangladesh has launched ‘Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan 2022-2041’, which will leverage the financing of the 8th FYP, “Vision 2041” and “Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100” to unlock a pathway for a fast-tracked delivery of the SDGs by 2030.

Respected Chair,

9. We would urge more regional cooperation to accelerate SDGs in inter and intra-regional and paperless trade, easier connectivity through Asian highways, Asian railways, dry ports, and investment networking through PPPs.

10. Our Hon’ble Prime Minister owns the SDGs. She has been implementing some people-centric transformational projects with a view to materializing her “Vision 2041” to be a “Developed and Smart Bangladesh” by 2041 focusing on four pillars like, smart citizen, smart economy, smart government, and smart society. We believe the framework of SDGs itself, built on inclusiveness, solidarity, and partnership will help us to rebuild our world to the desired level.

11. I thank you all for your attention.