

79th Session of Economic and Social Commission for  
Asia and Pacific (ESCAP)

Draft Speech

Agenda 4(a)

Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

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## **Agenda 4 (a)**

### **79th Session of UNESCAP: Country Statement on SDGs Implementation of Bangladesh**

Respected Chair, Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

At the outset, on behalf of the Bangladesh Delegation, I would like to thank the UNESCAP for organizing the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development which is a unique opportunity to share experiences of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, best practices, and lessons learned.

**Respected Chair,**

2. Just yesterday, we celebrated the 52nd anniversary of our independence. Bangladesh being one of the most densely populated countries in the world, has made impressive and remarkable achievements: evolving from a war-torn country to one of the leading economic powers in South Asia, standing at the threshold of upcoming graduation from LDC in 2026, and planned achievement of the SDG by 2030 based on an increasingly well-educated workforce, and a dynamic youth demographic. Along with economic development, Bangladesh has a significant cultural legacy, leadership on a global stage for

countries, and immense generosity in welcoming and hosting a million Rohingya.

3. The progress in social, economic, and biospheres is evident, particularly in the last one and half decades under the dynamic and visionary leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Against this backdrop, the UN-sponsored SDSN in September'21 conferred her with the "SDG Progress Award" for making the most progress towards the SDGs between 2015 and 2020.

4. The Government has been implementing the 8th Five-Year Plan, which has incorporated almost all targets of SDGs. The Government has been following the "Whole of the Society Approach" to ensure wider participation of all relevant stakeholders in the process of formulating the SDGs Action Plan for implementing the SDGs.

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

6. The average GDP growth in the last fourteen years has been 6.3% even taking the dire consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The GDP witnessed 7.1% growth in FY 2021-22, which along with other macroeconomic indicators reveal that the

economy is turning around. Credits go to Government's right interventions on some strategies, policies, and implementation of different stimulus packages for different sectors. The spending on social protection along with coverage has been increased in recent years. The government has widened the coverage of the old age allowances by including all eligible persons in 50% of Upazilas in the country.

7. The initial challenges of COVID have been tackled by supplying necessary logistics and recruiting necessary human resources in the health sector and freely vaccinating the majority of the population. Following the Food Systems Summit, 2021, and Transforming Education Summit 2022, arranged by the UN, the government is in the process of implementing the commitment of actions.

8. During the "Mujib Year", the year commemorating the birth centenary of our Father of the Nation, 100% access to electricity has been declared and the government has constructed and handed over 215,827 homes to the homeless. Around 43% of sub-districts have been declared land & homeless-free. The Government has also provided 600 climate refugees with new homes in Cox's Bazar.

9. Bangladesh has launched 'Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan 2030', 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.

10. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult for developing countries to achieve SDGs by 2030. We believe that coordination, partnerships, and sharing experiences and good practices among the Asia-Pacific region will be the key to achieving our goals. 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.

11. 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 as “SMART Bangladesh”. We believe the framework of SDGs itself, built on inclusiveness, solidarity, and partnership will help us to rebuild our world to the desired level.

12. I thank you all for your attention.