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Agenda 4(c)

Committee on

“Environment and Development”

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“Environment and Development”

BismillahirRahmanir Rahim

Chair of the Session

Hon’ble Head of State and Government

Executive Secretary

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum and Good Morning

Excellencies,

According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2021 published by Germanwatch , Bangladesh is ranked 7th among the countries affected most in 2000-2019 due to climate change. Extreme temperatures, erratic rainfall, flood and drought, more intense tropical cyclones, sea-level rise, seasonal variation, riverbank erosion, and ocean acidification are causing severe negative impacts on the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in Bangladesh.

- Sea Level Rise (SLR) is the biggest threat for Bangladesh among all the external drivers related to climate change. A recent study by the Department of Environment (DoE) on the sea-level rise shows that the

average sea-level rise in the coastal zone of Bangladesh is 3.8-5.8 mm/year over the last 30 years.

- According to IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), Bangladesh faces the following vulnerabilities due to sea-level rise:

- Almost 26 million people are currently exposed to very high salinity in shallow groundwater in coastal Bangladesh.
- Many low-lying coastal aquifers are contaminated with increased salinity due to land-use change, rising sea levels, reduced stream flows, and increased storm surge inundation.
- Indo-Gangetic Basin reveals that sustainable groundwater supplies are constrained more by extensive contamination (e.g., arsenic, salinity) than depletion.
- Between 2012 and 2050, the freshwater river area is expected to decrease from 40.8% to 17.1% in the southwest coastal zone of Bangladesh.
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Dear Colleagues,

In October 2022, Bangladesh formulated and submitted the National Adaptation Plan 2023-2050, which will significantly enhance our adaptation ambitions. The estimated cost for implementing 113 interventions, including 90 high-priority and 23 moderate-priority under 8 (eight) thematic areas, is around US\$ 230 billion for 2023-2050.

- As per the commitment to the Paris Agreement, Bangladesh revised and submitted its Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) on 26 August 2021, where Bangladesh put forward quantified

emission reduction commitments of 6.73%, i.e., 27.56-million-ton CO₂-equivalent reductions in the unconditional and an additional 15.12%, i.e., 61.91-million-ton CO₂-equivalent reductions in the conditional scenario by 2030.

- Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) was formulated in 2009. This is one of the most credible initiatives of any developing country to address climate change in a comprehensive manner for a 10-year programme, built on six thematic areas. Recently, the Government is about to finalize a revised and updated BCCSAP, built on eleven thematic areas to be more focused and action-oriented, which will be finalized and published soon.
- Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund has been established under the direct guidance of Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. It is a national financing mechanism from our Govt.'s own resources, and has so far allocated about 490 million US dollars since 2009.
- Bangladesh has already drafted the “Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan 2022-2041,” with the vision of achieving energy independence (maximizing its share of renewable energy & energy efficient technologies) and setting Bangladesh's trajectory from one of vulnerability to resilience to prosperity (VRP).
- Bangladesh adopted Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF) in 2014 (updated in 2020) to make climate inclusive Public Financial

Management (PFM) system. The climate-relevant budget allocation accounts for 8.07% of the total national budget for FY2022-23. Over the last eight years, the climate-relevant allocation has increased by two and a half times from US\$ 1.44 billion in FY2015-16 to US\$ 3.08 billion in FY2022-23.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Even though the main focus of Bangladesh's activities is on increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change, Bangladesh is also committed to following a progressive approach to developing its economy on a low-carbon pathway. The country has taken the following initiatives on renewables for reducing GHG emissions as well as promoting green energy:

- Bangladesh canceled 10 coal-based power plant projects worth USD 12 billion of foreign investment.

- Over 6 million solar-home systems (SHSs) have been installed across the country, meaning that almost 18 million beneficiaries are getting solar electricity, around 12% of the total population of Bangladesh.

- To reduce emissions from biomass burning, over 4.5 million Improved Cook Stoves (ICSs) have already been distributed in rural areas across the country.

- A major transformation is ongoing in the transport sector; Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is ongoing in Dhaka.
- Bangladesh has recently drafted National Solar Energy Roadmap, 2021-2041, and set a time-bound achievable target of 30 GW by 2041.

Distinguished Guest,

ESCAP member countries should build strong partnerships by sharing best practices and experiences, increasing financial support, and improving regional and subregional cooperation. This is necessary for a safer and more resilient future.

As climate victims in Asia and the Pacific, we must work together and form new partnerships to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. We should also enhance our national capacities to achieve this goal.

Thank you all for your attention.
