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BismillahirRahmanir Rahim

Chair of the Session

Hon'ble Head of State and Government

Executive Secretary

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum and Good Morning

I express my sincere gratitude and thanks to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific for hosting this prestigious event.

Excellencies,

According to a research on the effects of climate change, Bangladesh might be losing 0.11% of its GDP, equivalent to Taka 29.9 billion, by 2030 as impact of the climate change [7th Five Year Plan]. Of course, the impact of such environmental calamities will not be uniform throughout all the districts. The Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP II, 2015) and other analysis suggest that 10-15% land of the country will be inundated due to sea level rise [SLR] of 45 cm by 2050.

Nonetheless, significant economic losses due to disasters continue to occur and the industrial sectors are highly vulnerable. Despite the disaster and other challenges,

Bangladesh has made major recent socio-economic gains, achieving a lower middle-income country status through its continued increase of economic growth and human development. The country is known as Role Model of Disaster Management internationally because of its well functional regulatory framework, mobilized community and institutions in the aspects of disaster preparedness, response, and rebuilding in a build back manner.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The country has formulated the 100-year Bangladesh Delta Plan-2100. The Delta Plan divides the country into six disaster and climate hotspots based on disaster levels. In the first phase of the delta plan, 80 projects have been proposed. Thirty-five percent (35%) of the total investment has been earmarked for flood control, river bank erosion prevention, increased water holding capacity and increased navigability. Bangladesh has prepared National Disaster Management Plan for the period 2021-2025 for the enhancement of investment through Disaster Risk Reduction, Adaptation and Post Disaster Rehabilitation initiatives in line with the Delta Plan, Eighth-Five Year Plan and SDGs. The country has developed Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA) tools to ensure the risk informed development planning and project formulation to address the risk and vulnerability.

Dear Colleagues,

Early warning is a key component of effective disaster risk management. One of the seven targets of the Sendai Framework calls for substantial increase in the availability and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessment by 2030.

Bangladesh currently has around 75,000 cyclone preparedness programme (CPP) volunteers, while 50% of them are women. The CPP has a network of radio communication infrastructure along the coast linked to central communication center in Dhaka. The warning dissemination, search & rescue, evacuation, and post disaster relief & rehabilitation process are well-designed and functional that resulted in the very minimal casualties in the recent cyclone Sitrang. It is to mention that the country has around 5 million volunteers from Bangladesh Scouts, Red Cross & Red Crescent, Bangladesh National Cadet Corps, Ansar and Village Development Party who are instrumental in supporting to disseminate early warning, search and rescue and assist the relevant national disaster responding & disaster management agencies.

The construction of resilient infrastructure shelters such as, earthen killa named as Mujib Killa (after the name of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman), Go-down cum Information Centre, disaster resilient houses to homeless

and poor women, men through extensive housing scheme helped Bangladesh become a disaster resilient nation. The Government has also been providing humanitarian assistance including shelter and food for 1.2 million forcibly displaced Myanmar Nationals. Bangladesh established a 24/7 service – the National Disaster Response Coordination Centre (NDRCC). The country has also been working for establishing National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) where disaster information management and communication wing would be the key. The disaster information management facility would be linked with the Asia and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management.

Distinguished Guest,

The relevant targets of Sendai Framework are integrated in the National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) 2021-2025 which include the DRR and adaptation together to reduce the disaster risk. Disaster Shelters are inclusive that address the separate room and facilities for women, accessible to persons with disability. The programme focuses on gender responsive and disability inclusive disaster risk management. Bangladesh has signed Memorandum of understanding with neighboring countries like India and China regarding disaster prevention risk reduction and rehabilitation activities in compliance with Sendai Framework.

We would like to propose the following steps that ESCAP may take into account:

- The Regional cooperation for sharing real time data and warning communication among the trans-boundary nations are critical to save the lives and livelihood of the millions as well as protecting the hard-earned economic gains.
- Sharing the risk assessment tools and technique and technology including best practices are important areas for regional and international cooperation.
- Development Partners and the international organizations need to intensify and integrate commitment and support in developing and scaling up disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures for strengthening the resilience.

Excellencies,

On the endeavour towards vision 2041, the country has been working to mainstream Disaster Risk Management and climate change with development plans and programme. Apart from the risk of disaster and climate change, Bangladesh achieved LDC graduation status. Managing disasters and climate risk including the pandemic is one of the key drivers for remarkable progress of SDGs that acknowledged by UN and globally.

Bangladesh is also a unique example of climate vulnerability and resilience and people here have time and again shown their resilience against natural or man-made disasters. ‘Yet, there remain a lot of things to be changed. And countries in the region also have similar experiences and some good practices on disaster risk reduction and adaptive measures.

We believe, together we can safeguard and build a resilient and better future for all of us.