Speech by
Additional Secretary, RTHD

Excellencies, Honourable chair

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentleman,

Good Afternoon

1. It is a great pleasure to be joined with you all in this 4th ministerial conference on Transport. The COVID 19 pandemic has changed the meeting beyond recognition, but it has made it more important than ever.

2. Under the leadership of our Honorable Prime Minister, the pace of economic development has been continued. Even in the Covid situation our economy is doing well. Government of Bangladesh has been undertaking necessary steps with a fresh endeavor to become an upper middle-income country by 2031 and high-income country by 2041.

3. The transport system is a vital physical infrastructure which acts as a prerequisite of the socio-economic development of any country. Bangladesh in particular, The sectoral share of Land Transport to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 6.94% and the growth rate was 5.99 % during 2020-21 at constant price. The role of road transport in carriage of both passenger and freight traffic over the years had been increasing almost consistently. Recognizing the important role of transport, Bangladesh has put top priority to the development of its transport network. Bangladesh witnessed rapid growth and magnificent development of transport sector particularly since last decade.

Dear Ladies and gentlemen
4. Bangladesh is committed to achieve the SDG. Transport is one of the area that connects directly to five SDGs targets.

5. The 8th five year plan of Bangladesh sets strategy to develop an efficient, sustainable, safe and regionally balanced transportation system in which various modes complement each other, interface appropriately and, where possible, provide healthy competition to each other. Particular emphasis has been placed on introducing modern technology to increase capacity and improve the system's quality and productivity.

Ladies and gentleman

6. For ensuring environmental sustainability, Government of Bangladesh has initiated different mitigation measures to reduce GHG emissions from the transport sector and updated the NDC. Bangladesh has proposed 3.4 million tons CO₂ eq. (Mt) GHG emission reduction by 2030 as unconditional contribution from Transport sector.

7. We all know that road safety is global problem, Bangladesh is not an exception. To improve the road situation government has taken a number of projects targeting to develop safe and inclusive transport system. Bangladesh is planning to introduce iRAP star rating system to assess the Highway network and to take necessary countermeasure to improve the rating.

Distinguish Delegates

8. Government of Bangladesh has accorded highest priority on cross border connectivity issue in development of road network taking into account the globalization and modern market economy as well as particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries. Government of Bangladesh has been making relentless efforts to improve the global and regional road
connectivity through various regional cooperation forums and initiatives. The key connectivity issues in Bangladesh are implementation of Asian Highway Network in Bangladesh and integration of Sub Regional Transport Networks.

**Dear Excellencies, Delegates and ladies and gentlemen**

9. I hope this Ministerial conference will facilitate to achieve universal accessible safe, affordable, efficient, resilient transport system among member countries.

Have a good day.

**Thank you chair**

Thank you all.