

## **Bangladesh statement on agenda item 2**

Mr. Chair,

Thanks for giving me floor.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, very good morning to all of you.

As all of you know Bangladesh is one of the few countries that have achieved mentionable progress in economic development in recent past. As one of the remarkable achievers in MDGs, Bangladesh is an early starter of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under the dynamic and strong leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the government of Bangladesh has pledged its highest political commitment to implement SDGs within the stipulated time. Our policy document Bangladesh Perspective Plan, 2011-2021, is guided by our development aspiration to become a middle-income country by 2021 and developed country by 2041. The Six five-year plan which was implemented in 2011-2015, was targeted so many issues which are very much aligned with SDGs. Our most of goals and targets in planning documents were same to global agenda. The seven five-year plan which started in 2016, was the first year of implementation of SDGs. This document is mostly aligned with global agenda. Our priority to eliminate poverty, zero hunger, to achieve health for all, quality education, sanitation, decent work, sustainable urbanization, industrialization, sustainable use of seas and oceans and land and climate change issue, which we are giving the more importance are the main focus areas of SDGs. Now we are on the preparation process of Eight five-year plan, which will be started on 2021. By this time, Bangladesh has become lower middle-income country and United Nation CDP recognized that Bangladesh is eligible first time to graduate from LDC. Bangladesh fulfil all three criteria in 2018 for graduate from LDCs.

Mr. Chair,

A strong economic policy and plan helps to transform the society and the economy on the way to development. Government of Bangladesh has taken a strong economic policy towards the development and government is mainstreaming SDGs in its economic and financial policies. The main focus of our economic policy is to reduce poverty and equal distribution of wealth. Macroeconomic policy of the country sets for a stable and dynamic economic growth. As a result, Bangladesh

could attend a continuous growth more than 6% in last one decade, which could help the country to attend three thresholds for graduation from the LDCs.

By reform of the Custom, VAT and income tax law, the government of Bangladesh is working to expand the Tax network and impose the progressive rate of taxes to the people which could not create any burden for them. The tax net is expanding widely in the root level and more people will come to tax net which can facilitate to increase the amount of domestic resources which will be helpful for future investments. Government is facilitating for establishing new economic zones for attracting foreign direct investment as well as local investment. The main potential of Bangladesh's economy is huge number of manpower which can be a dynamic force for productivity and growth. Large number of consumers in local market is another hidden potential for investment in Bangladesh. The government economic policy is moving on to accelerate the growth and increase the domestic resources for investment.

In every year, the government budget allocations are flowing to create more job opportunity which is a catalyst for domestic production and growth. Government is allocating huge amount of money in social protection and social safety net which reduce poverty from 40% in 2005 to 21.8% in 2018 and extreme poverty 11.2%. Government has allocated USD 9 billion which is 14.2% of total budget and 2.58% of GDP. The social safety net program is helping to reduce inequality and as well as in the reduction of poverty. The government financial and economical policy is giving emphasis to empower the women and participation of women in the formal work. All the ministries have gender responsive budget allocation for the women which can help to ensure the more participation of women in the business and jobs. For improvement of health and sanitation, Government has allocated a mentionable number of budget allocation. Government is implementing a sectoral program for improvement of health and sanitation which can help us to achieve health and sanitation related global agenda. For ensuring the affordable energy to all people, Government of Bangladesh has allocated large amount of budget. At this moment the electricity generation capacity is 21629 Mw which was 4385 mw in 2005. Government have a plan to ensure electricity to all the people before 2021. Government also working for increasing the renewable energy for people. Solar home are distributing to people without or low cost.

Mr. chair,

For ensuring the quality of education government has formulated an education policy which is the guiding policy for education sector. The construction educational institutions infrastructure is one of the important initiatives of the government. Side by side government is working for teachers training to ensure quality education for the student. Nationalization of the primary education, monthly payment order (MPO) for secondary and higher secondary teachers, distribution of free books is the major initiative of the government to ensure quality education. Besides this, government has allocated fund for stipend for female students and boys, established ICT labs in the school, mid-day meal. Government is giving more importance the education of Nano technologies, biotechnologies, robotics, artificial intelligence, internet of things, quantum computing, block chain technology and other similar technology. Government is working for ensure vocational and skill-based education for skilled manpower which can contribute in increase of productivity.

Mr. chair, for infrastructure development government has taken some mega projects which can help to increase productivity, export and communication system. For sustainable urbanization, Government of Bangladesh has taken initiative to transform the village as a town in a sustainable manner. So, the people of the rural area need not to come to urban area. For climate change issues, Government of Bangladesh raises its voice in different global forum. Bangladesh is not a contributor for global warming but Bangladesh is one of the most suffering country due to global climate change. Disaster is one of the major risk factors for the development of Bangladesh. Bangladesh has buildup a capacity to manage disaster risk reduction. By adaption and mitigation, Bangladesh is taking various activities to reduce the losses of life and properties. Now it's a best example for global community in the area of disaster management. We created climate change trust fund by our own finance which are expending for climate vulnerable people. We are requesting our development partner to finance from green climate finance fund for our climate vulnerable people and their development.

Government of Bangladesh is always raising the voice for global partnership for implementation of sustainable development goals. As LDCs coordinator Bangladesh always works for the interest LDCs countries. Bangladesh believe

without cooperation and partnership, it will not be possible for any country to implement global agenda for sustainable development. People is the center for all developments and policies. Government of Bangladesh is always focusing the development of the people in its all economic and financial plan. The upcoming Eight five-year plan will be focused the area where Bangladesh is lacking behind. Bangladesh is hoping the ESCAP member States will work together to build a cooperation and partnership for full implementation of 2030 agenda for sustainable development. We hope ESCAP will provide all technical support and cooperation to member states for strengthening their capacity to implement SDGs.

I thank you all.