

Session 1: Bangladesh

Thank you respected chair for giving me floor. Excellency, ladies and gentlemen very good afternoon to all of you. I would like to thank and gratitude to UNESCAP for arranging this important, productive and appropriate programme before the Commission 71st Session.

Bangladesh has been trying to promote an integrate approach, involving all the three pillars of sustainable development, with the human being at the centre of the stage. Indeed, the ultimate goal is an inclusive society in which human dignity will be ensured for every citizen. Sustainable development is a constitutional obligation in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh, a country of rather small land size with high population pressure faces sever stresses on its environment, ecology and biodiversity, indeed, the rich bio diversity of Bangladesh is under threat from climate change. Deforestation, demolition of hills, river pollution, river erosion, loss of soil fertility, land degradation, urban congestion, sanitation problems in rural and urban areas, inadequate sewerage system in urban areas, pollution from solid and industrial wastes and natural disasters such as floods and cyclones, all contribute to environmental and ecological degradation and loss of biodiversity. This is compounded by drastically reduced water flows through trans boundary- rivers due to large scale abstractions in upper riparian's.

Bangladesh has prepared National sustainable development strategy to meet the formidable challenges that faces Bangladesh in the way of development. The NSDS has developed strategies to squarely meet the challenges of economic, social and environmental sustainability of economy. The strategy is based on the long term development vision of the Government the sixth five year plan, seventh five year plan which will be launch this year, the perspective plan 2010-2020 and existing sectoral plans and policies and strategies of government. Based on long term national vision of 2021. The vision of Bangladesh NSDS is proposed as " Achieving a happy, prosperous, and enlightened Bangladesh which will be free from hunger, poverty, inequality, illiteracy and corruption and belongs completely to its citizens and maintain a healthy environment. NSDS has addressed mainstreaming sustainable development challenges a cross sectors and integrate economic, social and environmental objectives across sector. It also include mechanism for monitoring implementation progress and institutional mechanism for people participation.

The trust of Bangladesh's macroeconomic policies is on stimulating pro-poor growth which ensuring accelerated economic growth reduces poverty at a faster rate. Ensuring gender equality is another goal emphasized in Perspective plan where every citizen will enjoy equal opportunities to achieve his/her fullest potential for attaining sustainable development. Access to basic health care services and adequate nutrition for all citizens are trying to ensure and modern technical and vocational education tailored to meet human resources needs of technologically advancing nation are trying to be provided. In addition to gender equality, right of ethnic and all other disadvantaged groups including physically challenged people are trying to be protected and safeguarde