

Bangladesh Statement on agenda 1

Reviews of social development issues and challenges in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals

Good Morning. Thanks Mr. Chair for giving me the floor. I would like to thanks ESCAP Social Development Division for successful arranging the Fourth session of Committee of Social development.

Mr. Chair, Bangladesh has made outstanding progress in MDGs achievement, like reducing headcount poverty and poverty gap ratio, reducing prevalence of underweight children, attaining gender parity at primary and secondary education, under-five mortality rate reduction, containing HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs, children under five sleeping under insecticide treated bed nets, cure rate of TB under DOTS and others. In addition has made remarkable progress in increasing enrolment at primary schools, lowering the infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio improving immunization coverage and reducing the incidence of communicable diseases.

Mr. Chair, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Bangladesh has made a vision to become a middle income country by 2021 and a developed nation by 2041. Government has made a policy document to give a guideline how country can achieve this goal. The document is well known as Prospective Plan of Bangladesh 2010-2021. According to the guidance of the policy document Government prepared 6th Five year plan, which already executed. From this year Bangladesh is going to implement its 7th Five Year plan which will be finished on 2020 one year before the planed vision period.

Mr. Chair, Continuation of progress in different social sectors Bangladesh has highly committed to implement the goals and targets of Sustainable Development Goals. With 160 million people with a small area of land Bangladesh has continuously struggling against different natural and man make disasters. Bangladesh has been suffering different challenges due to climate change and global warming with all these challenges Bangladesh has tried to make a remarkable progress in development aspect.

Mr. Chair, Bangladesh has made commendable progress in respect of eradication of poverty and hunger .Bangladesh has continuously achieved more than 6 percent growth last one decade. The sustained growth rate in excess of 6 percent achieved in recent years has played positive role in eradicating poverty. The robust growth has been accompanied by corresponding improvements in several social indicators such as increased life expectancy and lower fertility rate despite having

one of the world's highest population densities. This impressive performance is the result of persuasion of pro-people and inclusive growth strategy. Inclusive growth has resulted in impressive poverty reduction from 56.7% in 1991-92 to 31.5% in 2010. Now it comes below 25 percent. The incident of poverty has declined on an average 1.74 percent. To achieve the SDG 1 and 2 Government puts different initiative in seventh five year plan. In the plan period target to attain average 7.4% GDP growth rate, headcount poverty ration by about 6.2 percent point, substantial reduction in extreme poverty 8% in 2020, create additional 12.9 million jobs.

In health sector Bangladesh is one of the well performing country. The under-five child mortality rate was 151 per 1000 live birth in 1990 which has come down to 41 per 1000 live birth in 2013 and thereby achieving MDG target before stipulated time. Infant mortality rate was 94 per 1000 live birth in 1990 which has reduced to 32 per 1000 live child in 2013. The maternal mortality Ratio (MRR) in Bangladesh was 574 per 100000 live birth in 1990, which was one of the highest in the world. It has declined 322 in 2001 and 194 in 2010. Bangladesh has performed well in halting communicable diseases. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh currently less than 0.1 percent. Government. For developing the health sector Government has a plan to invest large amount of money in 7th five year plan.

Mr. Chair, Bangladesh has already achieved the targets of gender parity in primary and secondary education at the national level. This positive development has occurred due to some specific public interventions focusing on girl students, such as stipends and exemption tuitions fees for girl in rural area, and the stipend scheme for girls at secondary level. Government has established Education Assistance Trust for helping the poor and meritorious female student for their education. Government maintaining quota system for women. So women are not now in behind.

Mr. ^{Chair} Government of Bangladesh is strongly committed to reducing poverty and inequality. Government has started different social safety net programs for vulnerable people. Block allocation, allowance for the financially disabled people, Economic Empowerment of the Poor, Asrayan project, Residence for landless and poor freedom fighters, Rural Employment and Road Maintenance Program, Graduations Relief Food, Allowances for Widow, deserted people, Honorarium for the Insolvent Freedom Fighters, Fund for Climate Change, School feeding Program, One Household one Farm program, Vulnerable Group Development, Old age allowances etc. Government already formulated a policy on National Social Security Strategy in last year.

Mr. Chair, Government is highly committed to eradicate poverty and ensure social equality. For equal distribution of wealth to all people Government has taken different initiatives and program. By this Bangladesh is recognized as lower middle income country. We want to become a middle income country by 2021.

Thanks Mr. Chai and thanks to all for patient hearing.