

Statement of Bangladesh Agenda Item 2:

Strategies for leaving no one behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Mr. Chair,

Excellences,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

Bangladesh is strongly committed to the core values of SDGs that “Leaving no one behind” and as such it maintains a Whole of Society Approach in all its development interventions. As one of the top performing countries of MDGs, Bangladesh is strongly committed and equally confident to embrace the new targets of SDGs. The country has adopted coherent policies and institutional approaches and strategies to achieve the Agenda 2030. Vision 2021, the 7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020), National Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2021, National Plan for Disaster Management 2016-2020, Bangladesh National Delta Plan 2100 are aligned with SDGs.

Alongside the policy support, the government has created dedicated institutional mechanism to steer SDGs implementation. An office of Principal Coordinator for SDGs Affairs has been established in Prime Minister’s Office to coordinate and facilitate overall implementation and monitoring of SDGs. A high-level inter-ministerial "**SDG Implementation and Monitoring Committee**" has been formed, which involves CSOs, private sector and academia in order to make the effort inclusive and partnership based.

The mapping of Ministries by SDGs targets has been completed and **an Action**

Plan to implement SDGs has been prepared; a data gap analysis for monitoring SDGs has been conducted; the SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Framework has been prepared; and SDGs Data Tracker has been initiated in order to track and accordingly to take necessary measures for achieving goals and targets.

These initiatives encapsulate a strategy for inclusive growth which empowers people by creating employment opportunities, fostering the scope for greater labor force participation, particularly for women through supporting skill development, enabling access to credit for small and medium enterprises, and many other ways for people to be more productive.

Bangladesh has approved a National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) with a view to strengthening the impact of the public spending on social protection and to modernize the social security system. As the economy grows, private sector is becoming the key actor in development financing. Thus, inclusiveness is meant to capture more than income, to include opportunity, productive employment, and access to services for the marginalized, vulnerable and people with special needs.

In spite of having these initiatives, resource mobilization, population momentum, unplanned urbanization, natural disasters and climate change, limited resources, skill development and quality education, reducing inequality, meeting all needs of migrated Rohingya population and regional disparity are the mentionable challenges for implementing SDGs in Bangladesh.

The country is now on the verge of having the opportunity to seize the demographic dividend. If challenges are not addressed properly, the chances to gain the dividend will be missed out.

Another important driver of demographic change is migration. Here rural to urban migration is common which has increased in volumes in the past decades. International migration is another mega trend in Bangladesh, owing to its size,

complexity, scale and impact. The economy of Bangladesh is heavily contributed by the remittances of the migrant workers. Migrants are also vulnerable to discrimination and exploitations. The human rights of the migrant workers-should be recognised in destination countries.

Moreover, access to right fund at the right time and the right amount would be critical for climate change mitigation and adaptation activities to continue and sustain the economic growth of the country.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to overcome these challenges, Bangladesh needs collaboration at bilateral, regional and global levels for resource capacity building and share the best practices and information to achieve the SDGs targets.

I thank you all. May our dreams come true.