

Statement

At

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By

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Hon. Minister for Disaster Management and Relief,

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Honorable chair

Distinguished Colleagues

Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning /Afternoon

On behalf of the government of the peoples' Republic of Bangladesh I would like to thank the Government of India for organizing this important Conference and according gracious hospitality to me and my delegation. I also recall with deep gratitude unstinted support and cooperation extended by the people and the government of India during our great liberation war in 1971. I place it on record my deep appreciation to UNISDR for extending all out support to this conference and placing the disaster risk reduction a priority world-wide through continuous engagement and endeavor.

In many areas, Bangladesh has established model example before the world communities in disaster risk management. I take the opportunity to highlight commitment and success of Bangladesh in conceptualizing, framing and implementing disaster risk reduction programs.

Bangladesh is a country of 160 million with one of the most densely populated country in the world. Almost in every year the country is hit by natural disaster like flood, cyclone and storm surge, nor'wester, tornado etc. But we have learnt and developed resilience to fight and adapt to disasters. We are now able to respond quickly by strengthening preparedness mechanisms and creating stock of relief materials at even local level.

Because of our efficient early-warning system, we have marked phenomenal success in reducing the number of death in cyclone and flood nearly to the level of zero. It is to be mentioned that 1 million people died in the cyclone of 1970 whereas casualties came down to 27 at the latest spell of cyclone "Roanu" in 2016.

Loss of lives has also been drastically reduced in case of flood. The UN Secretary General termed Bangladesh as role model at the globe in the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction at Sendai, Japan in 2015.

Excellencies

Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Shiekh Hasina is determined to build a resilient nation with pursuing the principle "No more death in disaster". We have been successful in implementing Hyogo Framework for Action which is regionally and internationally recognized and appreciated. I would like to mention some of our good practices in disaster risk management during HFA regime:

- Development of necessary regulatory framework and taking steps to implement them.
 - Strengthening risk management program through mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as well as increasing capacity building
 - Success in achieving most of the targets of MDGs despite impacts of natural disaster and climate change
 - Best practices of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation by incorporating these in the curriculum of primary, secondary and tertiary level of education for institutionalization.
 - Achieved self sufficiency in food grain and significant increase in the production of fish and livestock by adopting disaster risk reduction approaches.
 - Constructed 3851 cyclone shelter and 142 flood shelters to save the vulnerable people from cyclone and flood. Construction of such shelters is continuing.
 - Japan referred Bangladesh's success story as 'best practice' in their white paper on disaster management in 2014 and requested all concerned to follow it.
 - In the mean time we have trained 55260 volunteers under Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) and 32000 volunteers for urban disaster risk management.
- Government of Bangladesh mobilized 14 ministries and 18 associated departments/ agencies to integrate disaster risk reduction to their own program policies, programmes and projects
- Government has streamlined the coordination among development partner countries and organizations, NGOs, INGOs and civil society, to ensure

emergency response to disaster, by forming and incorporating Disaster Response Emergency group (LCG-DER), Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) and clusters at national level.

- Meanwhile, we have established “National Disaster Management Research and Training Institute” and we want to elevate this institute to ‘center for excellence’ in the region.
- Government, under the visionary leadership of Honorable Prime Minister, has created ‘Climate Change Trust Fund’ to deal with climate related vulnerabilities. Hon’ble Prime Minister was honored with ‘the champions of Earth’ award for her outstanding contributions at national, regional and international level to tackle far-reaching impacts of climate change. Through Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief 138 million USD has been spent to install environment friendly solar panel as climate change adaptation measure.

Dear delegates

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 was adopted in 3rd world conference held in March 2015 in Japan. Bangladesh played active role in drafting the framework and acted as vice president of the conference. Meanwhile, Bangladesh has taken several relevant steps to implement Sendai Framework. I would like to mention some of them:

- Framework has been reaffirmed by the Cabinet and translated into local bangla language for better understanding of the general people.
- To take everyone on board, we are now in the process of consulting all relevant stake-holders in drafting short term, mid-term and long-term action plans.
- In the light of Sendai Framework we have included disaster risk management in our 7th Five Year Plan 2016-2020 and Delta Plan 2100 to ensure risk informed development.
- The draft of the new National Disaster Management Plan 2016-2020 has been prepared after evaluation of the previous National Disaster Management Plan 2010-2015

Ladies and Gentlemen

In pursuance of Sendai Framework, considering the importance of disability issue, we organized the international conference titled “Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk

Management with the participation of 18 countries. In that conference "Dhaka Declaration" was adopted with 8 specific work plans. The declaration has been accepted as a landmark document in many countries of the world.

Apart from that, International federation of Red Cross has started the campaign titled 'One Billion Coalition' world-wide. We have planned to prepare 50 million actors, capable of managing disaster risk and responding quickly, through the said campaign by 2025. I would like to make a passionate call to all the Asian leaders to act robustly and decisively in implementing the program.

We would like to inform you that Bangladesh Government has given an utmost priority for inclusion of disaster risk management in sector-wise development plan and programs, including poverty reduction and social safety net. As a result, from 2010 to 2015 the rate of poverty and extreme poverty has been declined from 31.5% to 24.7% and from 19.5% to 12.4% respectively

I would like to urge all our development partners, regional and international organizations to reaffirm their commitment and strengthen cooperation for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, with special focus on increasing investments.

We are pledged bound to make this planet peaceful and safe for future generation. We cannot say our posterity that we could not do; rather it is our shared responsibility to bring peace, progress and prosperity to the people of the world through effective partnership and collaboration. I reiterate the commitments of our government to this end.

Thank you all