

Statement

At

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By

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**Honourable Chair,  
Distinguished Colleagues,  
Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen  
Good Morning/Afternoon**

I feel honoured and privileged to be here in Ulaanbaatar to express our profuse thanks on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Govt. of Mongolia for organizing this important regional conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. This is the apex regional platform which will review progress made so far and successes in the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan, adopted by UN member states two years ago at AMCDRR 2016, New Delhi, India.

For disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific, this is the greatest forum for information exchange, discussion of latest developments, knowledge and partnership-building across sectors with the goal of improving implementation of disaster risk reduction through better communication and co-ordination amongst stakeholders. I believe that at the end of this conference the member countries will be able to draw the 2018 version of Asia Regional Plan to add momentum to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

I must echo appreciation on behalf of my country to UNISDR for its continuous engagement and endeavour in disaster risk reduction world-wide.

**Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Bangladesh is facing one of the world largest humanitarian crises. We are hosting, Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals, around 1.2 million in number. The government of Bangladesh has invested all possible resources to tackle this mega humanitarian crisis. We are thankful to our friends for their generous support to face this situation. Our tested humanitarian capacity has spoken again, within three months we could shelter around a million Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals. All the UN Agencies, NGOs, INGOs, Philanthropic Organisations, Individual came forward to uphold the highly reputed Bengali nature of hospitality by giving emergency shelter and food. The Government of Bangladesh has proved its firm commitment towards humanity. In this crisis, visionary leadership of H.E. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has made us proud. We are thankful to Mother of Humanity. Now we urge you all to stand with us to ensure dignified, safe and rightful repatriation of these people to their motherland. Please don't forget that the Children are not getting proper education that can take many faces in future, assure healthy life is a great challenge. As you know, Bangladesh is already an ecologically

challenged country. The said situation is putting extra pressure on forest ecology in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar area. That has long term impact on country's ecology and economy. Loss of parent stock of local forest resources in this area will be irreversible.

Besides this mega crisis, last one year we had faced from number of disasters including Flash Flood, Cyclone, Lightening, Landslides and Monsoon Flood. We had converted all these disaster sufferings into learnings. Accordingly, drastic measures have been taken to avoid similar disasters. But some of these are still far beyond our control. Namely lightening and salinity intrusion. These two disasters are taking lives and livelihoods of people. Second one becomes a big threat to our development in terms of sustainability since a vast area of the country is coastline and catchment area. Additional costing for climate induced disasters are pressuring our economy. We urge for increased global cooperation with respect to technology and funding to address climate induced loss and damage to provide better leverage of national resources and efforts towards development sustainability.

### **Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Government of Bangladesh has completed Multi Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Modelling and Mapping for risk informed planning. Our Government is supporting investment in hollow block manufacturing while restricted brick manufacturing using top soil. Community Based Disaster Preparedness Model is developed and institutionalized; Community Risk Assessment tools are updated those are used to assess the risks and develop local level risk reduction action plan that integrate into local development plan through local government institutions. More than one third of local government institutions (Union) have risk informed local development plan. National Disaster Management Research and Training Institute (NDMRTI) has been established and contributing in capacity building and knowledge generation.

National Plan for Disaster Management has been renewed for the period of 2016-2020 considering all the global policy instruments of 2015 and 2016. Standing Orders on Disaster 2010 has been reviewed accordingly and awaiting for final approval. Role of women are promoted through Women Led Disaster Risk Management initiatives. In the revised SoD women are considered as the key role player at the frontline disaster management starting from Ward Disaster Management Committee (at village level). National Platform for DRR is active through regular meeting. Government is supporting National Alliance for Humanitarian Actors (NAHAB), National Alliance for Risk Reduction and Response Initiatives (NARRI) and other platforms to promote civil society participation and their agenda on DRM.

### **Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen**

A coherent action plan is in the process of development to keep harmony with the 2030 development agenda at the local and national level involving the relevant national authorities. MoDMR is working on establishing a National Mechanism on Loss and Damage in collaboration with MoEF, MoFA, INGOs and NGOs. This mechanism will show ways to calculate and address climate induced disaster loss and damages in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Bangladesh is also developing a Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA) Framework; would be completed by 2019. This framework will give

better leverage to our risk informed development and resilience against hazards in the given/ chosen ecosystem. That will ensure optimal use of resources in this regard.

Our government is working on localisation of disaster management; Bangladesh has made a provision in the Disaster Management Act 2012 to establish District Disaster Fund to enhance capacity of local government. Monitoring has been increased to ensure compliance of the National Building Code, Fire Safety Law, Industrial Safety Laws and Environmental Conservation Laws to protect lives and livelihoods of the people from disasters. Respective authorities are working in coordination with the MoDMR.

We are investing in human resource development in an institutional manner. Education in emergency framework has been enacted by the ministry of education to ensure comprehensive school safety. More than 13 Universities have been operating disaster management department/ courses. Mass casualty management become a part of medical education. Scaling up of hospital contingency planning and mass casualty management is progressing in twelve districts. Community clinics are playing a significant role across the country to address the health issues at local level. MoDMR, Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW), Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), Ministry of Liberation War Affairs (MoLWA) are working together on health and social safety net. MoDMR has ensured 10-15% allocation for persons with disabilities in the projects taken by the development partners and NGOs in this regard.

#### **Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Among the other ministries, Ministry of Agriculture has integrated disaster risk management to reduce disaster loss. In the time of disaster, Control Room of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) is open for 24/7 to collect crop damage reports and information. In normal time DAE Control Room is open for office hours. Weather forecasts received from the Bangladesh Meteorological Department disseminated among framers via DAE control room to concerned regions, districts and *upazillas* of the country. The information's were re-disseminated through electronic and print media. Disaster & Climate Risk Management Core Group is established at DAE to translate the warning/signal for the use of farmers. In case of flood warning, emergency seedbeds are prepared at *upazila* and national level for free supply of paddy seedlings. During the last cold wave in the country DAE has disseminated information to the farmers' to protect seedlings of paddy in seed beds.

Technologies that are disseminated among farmers to minimize the risk reduction of disaster are:

Dry Seed Bed (to protect seedlings of rice from cold wave) management. Short duration rice varieties (BINA Dhan-7, BRRRI Dhan-49) are developed to avoid drought. Dissemination of submergence tolerant rice varieties (BRRRI Dhan 51,52). Technologies like floating seedbed of vegetables for waterlogged areas has been adopted. Extension of heat tolerant wheat varieties like BARI wheat-25 and BARI wheat-26 has been promoted to address climate impacts. Dissemination of salt tolerant rice varieties (BINA Dhan-8, BRRRI Dhan 41, 47, 53, 54) have been expedited.

Drought research is ongoing for development of drought resistant varieties/germplasm and technologies to ensure food security. Initiatives have been taken to develop Seed Bank (SB) to overcome

drought crisis for crop/food production. Online knowledge platform disaster knowledge Bank (DKB) has been developed for sharing of good practices on drought and other disaster risk management for crop/food production and improved livelihood.

### **Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Another ministry is Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA). Government of Bangladesh has formulated National Women Development Policy 2011 for overall development of women. The policy suggested specific activities for Pre-disaster, During Disaster and Post-disaster Protection of Women and Children including preparedness, response and recovery. Toll free hot number 109 is introduced to address the issues of Violence Against Women and Children at any time. Providing Psycho-social supports with material assistance and women friendly social security programs.

Presently 1,000,000 (one million) ultra poor women are being provided with 30 kg rice per month for a 24 months cycle under Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) program with life skill enhancement training. This training program includes a special module on disaster awareness and activities to be done before, during and after disaster.

9 One Stop Crisis Centers and 60 One Stop-Crisis Cells in 40 districts and in 20 *upazilas* have been set up in Govt. Medical College Hospitals to provide necessary services to the women and children survivors of disaster along with other violence. Recently a trauma counseling center and 10 camps have also been established in Cox's Bazar for the Rohingya women and children. National Trauma Counseling Center has been set up in the Department of Women Affairs in order to support mental and health services to the women and children victims. A 24/7 hours Toll Free Help Line number 109 (One Zero Nine) has been introduced to provide emergency counseling to the women and children survivors.

### **Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Bangladesh being a country moving towards developing nation has been facing lots of challenges in addressing the new disaster threats induced by climate change and trans-boundary issues. Realizing the commitments by the member countries to address the climate impact in the affected countries should be expedited. That will enable the countries like Bangladesh to increase investment in reducing disaster losses and damages. Trans-boundary real time data sharing has not yet been taking place that is a major challenge in addressing the disasters in a better way. Trans-boundary natural resources sharing in an equitable manner is another challenge in maintaining ecological balance in the lower riparian countries. If we can't address this issue immediately that will bring irreversible consequences to all the countries in the same delta. Among others, desegregated data is still a challenge.

### **Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief is working on implementation of SFDRR keeping coherence with the SDGs. By 2020 our government will implement the National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) 2016-2020, building on past achievements and tackling new risks, the vision of NPDM is: "Winning resilience against all odds". Government of Bangladesh has initiated ground work on establishing the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC). Incident Management System (IMS)

development work is also in progress. We are also working on establishing National Mechanism on Loss and Damage in light of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage. National Resilience Project (NRP) and Urban Resilience Project (URP) is in progress to enhance national and urban resilience. National disaster Volunteers Organisation will be established as per Disaster Management Act 2012. A guideline drafting is underway to guide the process. Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 has been drafted to facilitate ecosystem-based approaches to build resilience. Our government is ever increasing investment for disaster risk reduction. Increasing engagement of Private Sector has been taken as a strategy. We expect all these initiatives will lead us to achieve the targets of Asia Regional Plan on DRR and SFDRR.

### **Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Bangladesh has successfully organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management 2018 aligning with the Whole of Society Approach. Reflecting the solid commitment of our government led by H.E. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, 16 Ministers and 29 Secretaries have participated in the conference. We are thankful to them for proving solidarity of their respective ministries to the mission that Disaster Risk Management is a shared responsibility. We got the Dhaka Declaration 2015+ to be implemented by the member states.

We highly appreciate UNISDR for acknowledging the First Conference of 2015 and recognising the Dhaka Declaration 2015 as the practical guideline for inclusive implementation of the SFDRR.

Now we need to extend mutual cooperation among the member states to take this conference forward to spread the spirit of collectiveness. A world with all. We hope another Asian country will organise the third conference in 2020; where we intent to be a Co-Organiser.

### **Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen**

In spite of the challenges, we are optimistic and inspired by our success in the MDGs and Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) implementation. Those successes will help us attain our vision 2021 which will reinforce to get a prosperous Bangladesh by 2041.

2016 was the beginning year of three international interrelated processes- the Sendai framework for DRR, the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, and COP 21 Paris Agreement for Climate change action. Bangladesh, as an active participative country, will once again prove to be Champaign of DRR through better preparedness at all levels and across all sectors, battling every type of disasters.

We are committed and determined 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.

Joy Bangla  
Long Live Bangladesh