



**Statement in the General Debate of the
Second Committee
67th UNGA**

08 October 2012

ECOSOC Chamber

NLB, UN HEADQUARTERS

**The Permanent Mission of the
People's Republic of Bangladesh
to the United Nations
New York**

Statement by H.E. Dr. A.K Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, New York during the General Debate of the Second Committee on 08 October 2012 at ECOSOC Chamber, NLB, UN Headquarters.

Mr. Chair,
Under Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives,

I congratulate you and your Bureau on your election to shepherd the work of the Second Committee during the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I hope, under your able leadership, our deliberations will result in good fruition. In this regard, I align myself with the statements made by Algeria and Benin on behalf of G-77 & China and LDCs respectively.

Mr. Chair,

The global financial meltdown along with food and fuel insecurity and climate change has taken a heavy toll on world economy, particularly those of the least developed countries. It has nevertheless, reminded us of the necessity of our unity to face the global challenges and redressing the historic inequality. It has also heralded a signal that, unilateral protectionism and reckless market has lost its place in the era of globalization. It reminded us to think afresh where we should draw a line between 'free enterprise or market mechanism' and government regulations and oversight. The ongoing world financial and economic crisis has severely affected and in many instances reversed the achievement of the developing countries towards the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Just a couple of months ago, we have had UNCTAD meeting in Doha. While we take note of the reaffirmation of the AAA commitments in Doha, We believe, an immediate action plan should be in place to analyze and deduce on the major reasons hindering the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs. We echo with G-77 and China that, any development framework for post-2015 must also take into account how the context for development has changed since the MDG's were agreed. It will need to consider patterns of inequalities between and within countries as well as trends relating to technology transfer, demography, capacity building, urbanization, and migration, among others.

We reiterate the people's demand to implement the ODA commitment, in particular 0.2% GNI to LDCs. We urge all the development partners to come forward in full filling their pledges they made 10 years ago in Monterrey. We reiterate that, ongoing impacts of global crises should in no way be made excuses

for non-compliance of the ODA commitments. This is not what the developing countries want. The ODA commitments were made long before the crises shoot up recently and we spelt out our demand to scale up the ODA and bilateral development assistance to address the current crisis, which is of course, distinctly different from the ODA commitments of .7% GNI made first for the First decade of development and confirmed repeatedly many times later.

With regard to the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the United Nations Operational Activities, we thank you and the bureau that the agenda has been placed in the first half of the schedule. At the same time, we would like to see due importance given by the UN system and partner countries to ensure a better future for the developing countries, particularly for LDCs in the developmental agenda of the new QCPR. We underscore that, the fundamental characteristics of the UN operational activities for development should be, among others, the universal nature, the neutrality and the multilateralism, as well as the quantity, quality and predictability of development assistance from the UN System. We totally endorse the concerns raised by G-77 and China as to the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources for operational activities; the unpredictability; the fragmentation; the increase transaction costs and the subsidization; the improvement of the Resident Coordinator System and the streamlining of the programming instruments at country level. We hope that the new QCPR will come up with a resounding solution to these core problems.

Mr. Chair,

Climate Change is indeed, one of the most serious challenges humanity have ever faced. Only in last year, as per media, nearly US\$80 billion was lost due to disasters. Many of our development goals are swept away in a blink of time from an erratic climate debacle. We need urgent action as to immediate activation and replenishment of the 'Adaptation Fund' and its fair and just distribution amongst the most vulnerable countries. Unless these measures are taken, it would be a difficult for many countries to achieve the MDGs by 2015. These constitute the minimum support, which the countries involved could give as redemption for their abuses and misuses of resources, reckless drive for development which now threatens the existence of countries like ours. Resources and technology are imperative for adaptation and mitigation programs. Bangladesh has already adopted a 134-point climate change action plan, most of which face delay in implementation due to paucity of funds, and unavailability of modern green technology, in spite of the fact that it created a climate Trust Fund with its own domestic resources.

We call for an integrated and more systemic approach towards sustainable development and look forward to place this call high on the agenda of Second Committee. In this context, we hail the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development- UNCSD, "The future we want", which reaffirmed that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge of today.

We urge the General Assembly to successfully and expeditiously launch the follow-up processes agreed on in the UNCSD, by ensuring a balanced representation of developing countries, effective and full implementation of the outcomes of the conference, including effective institutional frameworks for sustainable development at all levels, as well as the provision of adequate means of implementation to developing countries. In this regard, we flag that, the most lagged behind segment of the humankind- the LDCs with nearly 800 million people should and must have proper representation in the working group which is mandated to frame out the Sustainable Development Goals. Bangladesh, being the most vulnerable country in terms of climate debacle and external economic shock thereof, demands and deserves to have its voice heard in the Working Group deliberations and decisions.

Mr. Chair,

The deadlock of international trade negotiations remains a big concern for the developing countries, particularly for LDCs. We repeat our call to the development partners for showing more flexibility and the political will towards an early conclusion of the Doha Round of the trade negotiations with quota and duty free access of the least developing countries' product in the international market and the free movement of labor under the Mode-4. We reiterate our principled position towards an early harvest of DFQF market access for all products of the least developed countries pending the finalization of the WTO outcome document.

Finally, Mr. Chair, my delegation remains committed to working closely with you and our partners in this 67th General Assembly to devise action-oriented resolutions and decisions towards realization of a world free of poverty, illiteracy, war and exclusion and development with a 'human face', which, not to speak, were enshrined in the seven-point Empowerment and Development Philosophy of H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh. I hope and believe, the Second Committee, under your leadership will lead us towards that path of socio-economic and political realization.

I thank you.