



Bangladesh

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**Statement by
H.E. Dr. A K Abdul Momen, Ambassador
and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN
On Agenda Item 55: Questions Relating to Information**

New York, 24 October 2012

Mr. Chairman

I would like to congratulate you, on your election as chair of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly. We also extend our congratulations to the Members of the Bureau. My delegation assures you and the Bureau of its full support and cooperation in the course of this Committee's deliberations.

We would also like to congratulate Mr. Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal on his recent appointment as Under Secretary General for Communications and Public Information and wish him great success in this important endeavor.

Mr. Chairman

We have noted with great appreciation that The International Peace Keeping Day observation included wreath laying ceremony and the Dag Hammarskjold Medal ceremony for fallen peace keepers. We take get pride in the fact that 109 of Bangladeshi peace keepers made their ultimate sacrifices while working under UN umbrella. We

have been urging for a long time for DPI publication or documentary that highlights this great sacrifice. This heroic contribution by peace keepers from all countries need to be recorded for today's youth and tomorrow's leaders. Secondly, Bangladesh takes pride in encouraging women in peace keeping and peace building efforts; and now a large number of women peacekeepers from Bangladesh and other countries are engaged in peacekeeping. Promotion of their participation and sacrifice could encourage other women to come forward.

Mr. Chairman

Another area where Bangladesh will be pleased to extend support and cooperation to DPI is climate change. Even though it has no contribution to global warming, Bangladesh is one of the worst victims of it. Bangladesh faces a lot of frightening consequences because of global climate change. Among the most startling are agricultural devastation, deterioration of health, an increasing number of deadly diseases, uprooting and displacement of millions of climate refugees, economic downfall, and even national security issues. Cyclones, battering the coastal areas, have particularly been taking countless lives, and sudden floods uprooting families in thousands forcing them out of their jobs and livelihood etc. Imagine a situation where millions of people after losing everything they owned, moving towards the cities for a better life. The majority of these people would be either farmers or fishermen. What is alarming is that a meter rise in sea level would inundate 18 percent of our land mass, directly impacting an estimated 20-30 million people.

We strongly urge for greater international cooperation to support developing countries facing similar problem. Developing countries require a lot of funding to prepare as much as possible to face the consequences of global warming. We seek DPI's help to spotlight the cases of such countries to create a global consciousness and responsibility. For a long time, we have been urging for procurement of video footages by DPI's UNifeed Programme, either from its own local sources or through UN system partners, that

depict the story of coastal states and small island countries about the impending crisis facing them unless there is concrete global action to counter it.

Mr. Chairman

We always offer our assistance to make the International Mother Language Day, being observed on 21st February every year, at the United Nations and elsewhere better known. Given our historic role in defending the right to speak in one's own mother tongue, our interest in this observance is obvious. International Mother Language Day should not be a mere formal event; meaningful worldwide observance of this day will promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism specially at a time when numerous small languages are under threat due to globalization and economic disintegration. It may be recalled from the course of world history that many cultures and civilizations have been shattered because of the disappearance of their languages.

In this context, we would like to bring attention to a fact that United Nations Radio Programme had been broadcasting a half-an hour long weekly program in Bangla from early 80s to last year. The programme received overwhelming popularity among more than 270 million Bangla speaking people across the world. We have sadly noticed that the programme has recently been discontinued. Although Secretary General gave assurance, the restoration of the programme is not yet done. We call upon for restoration of this programme as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman

We recognize various promotional activities being performed by UNICs worldwide. We believe these activities will certainly contribute to eradication of poverty, bringing awareness of the youth, empowerment of women, ensuring sustainable development and so on. We also appreciate use of alternative media like social networking sites for campaign on "The future we want", "We can end poverty" and so on. Before I conclude

Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate our support for the DPI and reassure you our fullest cooperation in steering committee's work to a successful conclusion.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.