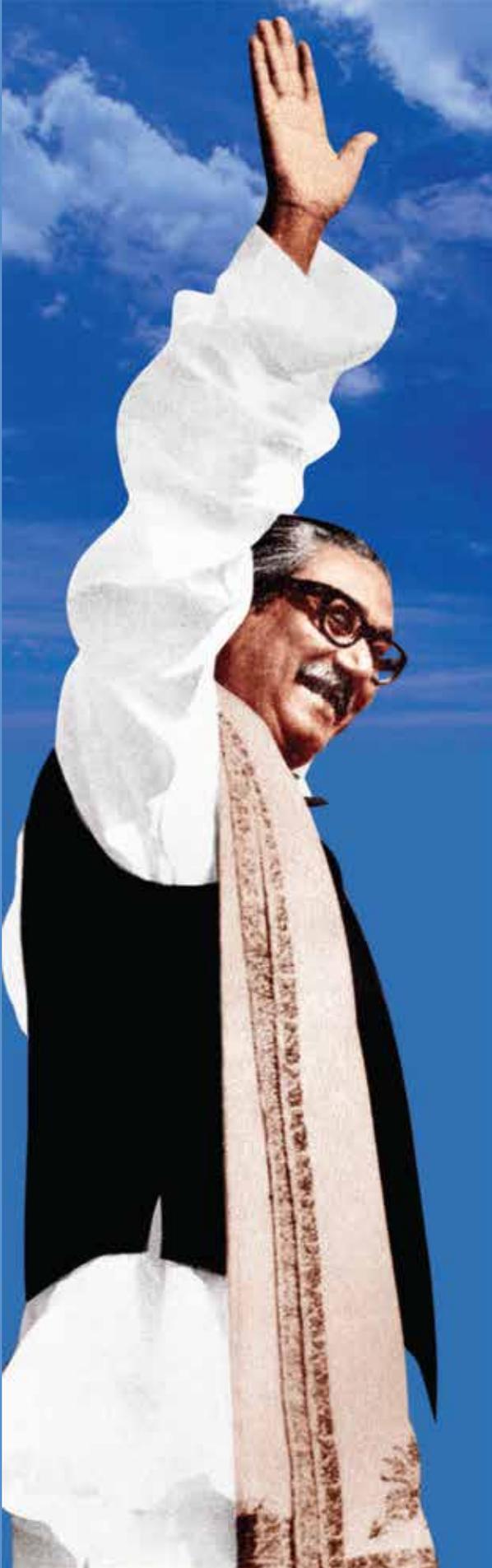




BANGLADESH AT THE UNITED NATIONS: ENGAGEMENTS IN 2016



“ অনাহার, দারিদ্র্য, বেকারত্ব ও বুভুক্ষার তাড়নায় জর্জরিত, পারমাণবিক যুদ্ধের দ্বারা সম্পূর্ণ ধ্বংস হওয়ার শঙ্কায় শিহরিত বিভীষিকাময় জগতের দিকে আমরা এগুবো, না, আমরা তাকাবো এমন এক পৃথিবীর দিকে, যেখানে বিজ্ঞান ও কারিগরী জ্ঞানের বিস্ময়কর অগ্রগতির যুগে মানুষের সৃষ্টি ক্ষমতা ও বিরাট সাফল্য আমাদের জন্য এক শঙ্কামুক্ত উন্নত ভবিষ্যৎ গঠনে সক্ষম। এই ভবিষ্যৎ হবে পারমাণবিক যুদ্ধের আশঙ্কা থেকে মুক্ত। বিশ্বের সকল সম্পদ ও কারিগরী জ্ঞানের সূষ্ঠ বণ্টনের দ্বারা এমন কল্যাণের দ্বার খুলে দেওয়া যাবে যেখানে প্রত্যেক মানুষ সুখী ও সম্মানজনক জীবনের ন্যূনতম নিশ্চয়তা লাভ করবে। ”

— জাতিসংঘে বঙ্গবন্ধু

“ Upon the wisdom of our choice will depend whether we will move towards a world haunted by fear of total destruction, threatened by nuclear war, faced with the aggravation of human suffering on a horrendous scale, marked by mass starvation, unemployment and the wretchedness of deepening poverty or whether we can look forward to a world where human creativity and the great achievement of our age in science and technology will be able to shape a better future from the threat of nuclear war and based upon a sharing of technology and resources on a global scale so that people everywhere can begin to enjoy the minimum conditions of a decent life. ”

— Bangabandhu at UN



BANGLADESH AT THE UNITED NATIONS: ENGAGEMENTS IN 2016

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জাতিসংঘ সাধারণ পরিষদে জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের প্রথম ভাষণ

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান ১৯৭৪ সালের ২৫ সেপ্টেম্বর জাতিসংঘ সাধারণ পরিষদের ২৯তম অধিবেশনে বাংলায় ভাষণ প্রদান করেন। এই ভাষণের মধ্য দিয়ে বাঙালি জাতির ভাষা “বাংলা” জাতিসংঘে প্রথম উচ্চারিত হয়।

(জাতির পিতার ঐকান্তিক প্রচেষ্টায় বাংলাদেশ ১৯৭৪ সালের ১৭ সেপ্টেম্বর জাতিসংঘের ১৩৬তম সদস্য হিসেবে সদস্যপদ লাভ করে।)

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman addressed the UN General Assembly in Bangla on 25 September 1974. That was the first time "Bangla", the language of the Bangalee nation, was pronounced at the UN.

(Due to relentless efforts of the Father of the Nation, Bangladesh became the Member of the UN on 17 September 1974 as its 136th Member.)

মি. প্রেসিডেন্ট, সম্মানিত প্রতিনিধিবৃন্দ, ভদ্র মহিলা ও ভদ্র মহোদয়গণ,

আজ এই মহান পরিষদে আপনাদের সামনে দুটো কথা বলার সুযোগ পেয়ে আমি নিজকে ভাগ্যবান মনে করছি। মানবজাতির এই পার্লামেন্টে বাংলাদেশের সাড়ে সাত কোটি মানুষ প্রতিনিধিত্ব লাভ করায় আপনাদের মধ্যে যে গভীর সন্তোষের ভাব আমি লক্ষ্য করেছি- আমিও তার অংশীদার। বাঙালি জাতির জন্য এটা এক ঐতিহাসিক মুহূর্ত। কারণ তার আত্মনিয়ন্ত্রণের অধিকার অর্জনের সংগ্রাম আজ বিরাট সাফল্যে চিহ্নিত।

একটি স্বাধীন দেশের স্বাধীন নাগরিক হিসাবে মুক্ত ও সম্মানজনক জীবন যাপনের অধিকারের জন্য বাঙালি জাতি বহু শতাব্দী ধরে সংগ্রাম চালিয়ে এসেছে। তারা চেয়েছে বিশ্বের সকল জাতির সাথে শান্তি ও সৌহার্দ্যের মধ্যে বসবাস করতে।

জাতিসংঘ সনদে যে মহান আদর্শের কথা বলা হয়েছে তা আমাদের জনগণের আদর্শ এবং এ আদর্শের জন্য তারা চরম ত্যাগ স্বীকার করেছেন। এমন এক বিশ্বব্যবস্থা গঠনে বাঙালি জাতি উৎসর্গীকৃত, যে ব্যবস্থায় সকল মানুষের শান্তি ও ন্যায় বিচার লাভের আকাঙ্ক্ষা প্রতিফলিত হবে। এবং আমি জানি আমাদের এ প্রতিজ্ঞা গ্রহণের মধ্যে আমাদের লাখো লাখো শহীদের

বিদেহী আত্মার স্মৃতি নিহিত রয়েছে। আমাদের জন্য বিশেষ সৌভাগ্যের কথা, বাংলাদেশ এমন এক সময়ে জাতিসংঘে প্রবেশ করেছে- যখন এই পরিষদের প্রেসিডেন্ট পদ অলংকৃত করেছেন এমন এক মহান ব্যক্তি যিনি ছিলেন একজন সক্রিয় মুক্তি সংগ্রামী।

মাননীয় প্রেসিডেন্ট,

গত বছর আলজিয়ার্সে অনুষ্ঠিত জোট নিরপেক্ষ শীর্ষ সম্মেলন সফল করে তোলার কাজে আপনার মূল্যবান অবদানের কথা স্মরণ করছি। যাদের মহান আত্মত্যাগে

Mr. President, Distinguished Deligates, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Today as I stated before this Assembly, I share with you the profound satisfaction that the seventy-five million people of Bangladesh are now represented in this Assembly. For the Bangalee nation this is a historic moment, marking the consummation of the struggle to vindicate its right of self-determination.

The Bangalee people have fought over the centuries so that they may secure for themselves the right to live in freedom and with dignity as free citizens of a free country. They have aspired to live

in peace and friendship with all the Nations of the world. The noble ideals enshrined in the United Nations Charter are the very ideals for which millions of our people have made the s u p r e m e sacrifice. I know that the souls of our martyrs join us in pledging that the Bangalee nation fully commits itself to the building of a world order, which the aspiration of all men for peace and justice will be realized. It is p a r t i c u l a r l y gratifying that Bangladesh has been admitted to this Assembly when its Presidency has been assumed by



Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman addressing the 29th Session of the UNGA on 25 September 1974.

one who has been an active fighter for freedom.

Mr. President,

I recall, the valuable contribution made by you to the success of the Summit Conference of Non-aligned nations held in Algiers in September last year.

I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to salute all those whose sacrifices have earned for Bangladesh a place in the comity of nations. I express our deep sense of gratitude to all those



Bangabandhu meets UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim



Bangabandhu with President Gerald Ford at White House, 1974

বাংলাদেশ আজ জাতিসংঘে স্থান লাভে সক্ষম হয়েছে- এই সুযোগে আমি তাদের অভিনন্দন জানাই। বাংলাদেশের মুক্তি সংগ্রামে যে সব দেশ ও জাতি সমর্থন জানিয়েছেন আমি তাঁদের প্রতিও জানাই আমার অন্তরের গভীর কৃতজ্ঞতা। নবলব্ধ স্বাধীনতা সংহত করার কাজে, যুদ্ধ-বিধ্বস্ত দেশ পুনর্গঠনে এবং জনগণের জন্য অধিকতর কল্যাণকর কাজে চ্যালেঞ্জ গ্রহণ করার কাজে যে সব দেশ ও জাতি বাংলাদেশকে সাহায্য করেছেন আমি তাঁদেরও আমার আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ জানাই। জাতিসংঘে আমাদের আসন গ্রহণকে যারা অভিনন্দন জানিয়েছেন- আমি তাঁদেরও বাংলাদেশের জনসাধারণের আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ পৌঁছে দিচ্ছি। বাংলাদেশের সংগ্রাম ন্যায় ও শান্তির জন্য সার্বজনীন সংগ্রামের প্রতীক স্বরূপ। সুতরাং বাংলাদেশ শুরু থেকে বিশ্বের নিপীড়িত জনগণের পাশে দাঁড়াতে এটাই স্বাভাবিক।

জাতিসংঘের জন্মের পর তার এ চতুর্থাংশ শতাব্দীর অভিজ্ঞতায় দেখা যায় যে, তার আদর্শ বাস্তবায়নে ব্রিটিশ বাধার মুখে অবিরাম সংগ্রাম চালাতে হয়েছে। জাতিসংঘের সনদে যে আত্মনিয়ন্ত্রণ অধিকারের প্রতিশ্রুতি দেওয়া হয়েছিল, তা অর্জনের জন্য এশিয়া, আফ্রিকা ও ল্যাটিন আমেরিকার লাখো লাখো মুক্তি সেনানীকে আত্মহুতি দিতে হয়েছে। এই সংগ্রাম এখনও চলছে। গায়ের জোরে বেআইনীভাবে এলাকা দখল, জনগণের ন্যায়সঙ্গত অধিকারকে নস্যাত্য করার কাজে শক্তির ব্যবহার ও বর্ণবৈষম্যের বিরুদ্ধে চলেছে এই যুদ্ধ। এ যুদ্ধ ব্যর্থ হয়নি। আলজেরিয়া, ভিয়েতনাম, বাংলাদেশ ও গিনি বিসাঁউ-এ ব্রিটিশ জয় অর্জিত হয়েছে। এ জয় দ্বারা প্রমাণিত হয়েছে যে ইতিহাস জনগণের পক্ষে ও ন্যায়ের চূড়ান্ত বিজয় অবধারিত।



Bangabandhu at Buckingham Palace with Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip

পৃথিবীর বহু স্থানে অন্যায়-অবিচার এখনো চলছে। আমাদের আরব ভাইয়েরা এখনো লড়াই করে তাঁদের ভূমি থেকে জবর দখলকারীদের সম্পূর্ণ উচ্ছেদের জন্য। প্যালেস্টাইন জনগণের ন্যায়সঙ্গত জাতীয় অধিকার এখনো অর্জিত হয় নি। উপনিবেশবাদ উচ্ছেদের প্রক্রিয়া ত্বরান্বিত হলেও চূড়ান্ত লক্ষ্যে এখনো পৌঁছিনি। একথা আফ্রিকার জন্য আরো দুঃভাবে সত্য। সেখানে জিম্বাবুয়ে ও নামিবিয়ার জনগণ জাতীয় স্বাধীনতা ও চরম মুক্তির জন্য চূড়ান্ত সংগ্রামে এখনো ব্যাপৃত। বর্ণবৈষম্য এই পরিষদে চরম অপরাধ বলে চিহ্নিত হওয়া সত্ত্বেও মানুষের বিবেককে তা এখনো ধ্বংস করছে। একদিকে অন্যায় অবিচারের ধারাকে উৎখাতের সংগ্রাম অন্যদিকে ব্রিটিশ চ্যালেঞ্জ আমাদের সামনে। আজ বিশ্বের সকল জাতি পথ বেছে নেয়ার কঠিন সংগ্রামের সম্মুখীন। এই পথ বাছাই করার প্রজ্ঞার উপর নির্ভর করছে আমাদের ভবিষ্যৎ। অনাহার, দারিদ্র, বেকারত্ব ও

nations and people who supported Bangladesh in its struggle. We would also like to thank all those who have been rendering valuable assistance to Bangladesh in consolidating our independence, in reconstructing our war-ravaged land and in meeting the formidable challenge of building a better future for our people. To all those who have welcomed us into the United Nations, I offer the most sincere thanks of the people of Bangladesh.

The very struggle of Bangladesh symbolized the universal struggle for peace and justice. It was, therefore, only natural that Bangladesh, from its very inception, should stand firmly by the side of the oppressed people of the world. The experience of quarter of a century since the United Nations was established, has shown how a relentless struggle has had to be waged again daunting odds in pursuit of these ideals. The right of self-determination which the United Nations Charter promised could only be redeemed through the supreme sacrifice of millions of valiant fighters for freedom in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The struggle still continues against the illegal occupation of territory by aggression, against use of force to negate the legitimate rights of people, against the practice of racial discrimination and apartheid. Great victories have been won in Algeria, in Vietnam, in Bangladesh and in Guinea-Bissau. Such victories prove that history is on the side of the people and that justice ultimately triumphs.

However, injustice and oppression still persist in many parts of the world. Our Arab brethren are still fighting for the complete vacation of all illegally occupied territories and the legitimate national rights of the people of Palestine have yet to be restored. The process of decolonization, though greatly advanced, has yet to reach its ultimate goal. This is particularly true in Africa where the heroic people of Zimbabwe and Namibia are still engaged in a grim struggle for freedom and national liberation, Apartheid, which this Assembly has repeatedly declared to be a crime against humanity, continues to outrage the conscience of human beings.

While the legacy of injustice from the past has to be liquidated, we are faced with the challenges of the future. Today, the nations of



Bangabandhu speaks at Kremlin



Bangabandhu and Tanaka, the Prime Minister of Japan

বুভুক্ষার তাড়নায় জর্জরিত, পারমাণবিক যুদ্ধের দ্বারা সম্পূর্ণ ধ্বংস হওয়ার শঙ্কায় শিহরিত বিভীষিকাময় জগতের দিকে আমরা এগুবো, না, আমরা তাকাবো এমন এক পৃথিবীর দিকে, যেখানে বিজ্ঞান ও কারিগরী জ্ঞানের বিস্ময়কর অগ্রগতির যুগে মানুষের সৃষ্টি ক্ষমতা ও বিরাট সাফল্য আমাদের জন্য এক শঙ্কামুক্ত উন্নত ভবিষ্যৎ গঠনে সক্ষম। এই ভবিষ্যৎ হবে পারমাণবিক যুদ্ধের আশঙ্কা থেকে মুক্ত। বিশ্বের সকল সম্পদ ও কারিগরী জ্ঞানের সৃষ্টি বস্টনের দ্বারা এমন কল্যাণের দ্বার খুলে দেওয়া যাবে যেখানে প্রত্যেক মানুষ সুখী ও সম্মানজনক জীবনের ন্যূনতম নিশ্চয়তা লাভ করবে।

সাম্প্রতিককালে গোটা বিশ্বে যে অর্থনৈতিক বিপর্যয় দেখা দিয়েছে তার পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে একটি ন্যায়সঙ্গত আন্তর্জাতিক অর্থনৈতিক ব্যবস্থা গড়ে তোলার কাজে আমাদের আরো ত্বরিত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা উচিত। এ বছরের গোড়ার দিকে অনুষ্ঠিত এই পরিষদের বিশেষ অধিবেশনে বিশ্বের বর্তমান গুরুতর অর্থনৈতিক অবস্থা সম্পর্কে আলোচনা হয়েছে। আমি এমন একটি দেশের পক্ষ থেকে কথা বলছি- যে দেশটি বর্তমানে অর্থনৈতিক দুর্যোগে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত দেশগুলির তালিকার শীর্ষস্থানে রয়েছে। এ ক্ষতি কতটা গুরুতর- আমি সে সম্পর্কে কিছুটা আলোকপাত করতে চাই।



British Premier Edward Heath welcoming Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib when he arrived in London after release from Pakistani prison, January 1972.

যুদ্ধের ধ্বংসাত্মকের উপরই বাংলাদেশের জন্ম হয়েছিল। তারপর থেকে আমরা একের পর এক প্রাকৃতিক বিপর্যয়ের সম্মুখীন হয়েছি। সর্বশেষে এবার নজীরবিহীন বন্যা। সাম্প্রতিক বন্যা বিপর্যয় কাটিয়ে উঠার উদ্দেশ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রতি সাহায্যের হাত বাড়িয়ে দেয়ার ব্যাপারে সক্রিয় ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করার জন্য আমরা জাতিসংঘ, সংশ্লিষ্ট সংস্থাসমূহ ও সেক্রেটারী জেনারেলের কাছে কৃতজ্ঞ। আলজেরিয়ার প্রেসিডেন্ট বুমেদীন ও পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রী বুতেফ্লিকা বাংলাদেশের সাহায্যের জন্য জোট নিরপেক্ষ দেশসমূহের প্রতি আবেদন জানিয়েছেন।

বন্ধুদেশসমূহ ও মানবকল্যাণ সংস্থাগুলোর কাছ থেকেও ভালোই সাড়া পাওয়া যাচ্ছে। প্রাকৃতিক বিপর্যয় বাংলাদেশের অগ্রগতি শুধু প্রতিহত করেনি-দেশে প্রায় দুর্ভিক্ষ অবস্থার সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। একই সঙ্গে বিশ্বব্যাপী মুদ্রাস্ফীতির দরুণ আমাদের মতো একটি দেশের জন্য দায় পরিশোধের ক্ষেত্রে কোটি কোটি টাকার ঘাটতি সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। জনসাধারণের জীবনধারণের মান নিছক বেঁচে থাকার পর্যায় থেকেও নীচে নেমে গেছে। মাথাপিছু যাদের বার্ষিক আয় ১০০ ডলারেরও কম তাদের অবস্থা আরো শোচনীয়। বিশ্বস্বাস্থ্য সংস্থার হিসাব অনুযায়ী বেঁচে থাকার জন্য যে ন্যূনতম খাদ্য প্রয়োজন তারও থেকে কম খাদ্য খেয়ে যারা বেঁচে ছিল তারা সম্পূর্ণ অনাহারে দিন কাটাচ্ছে। দরিদ্র অভাবী দেশগুলোর ভবিষ্যৎ সম্পর্কে যে আভাস দেয়া হয়েছে তা আরো হতাশাজনক।

the world are faced with critical choices. Upon the wisdom of our choice will depend whether we will move towards a world haunted by fear of total destruction, threatened by nuclear war, faced with the aggravation of human suffering on a horrendous scale, marked by mass starvation, unemployment and the wretchedness of deepening poverty or whether we can look forward to a world where human creativity and the great achievement of our age in science and technology will be able to shape a better future from the threat of nuclear war and based

upon a sharing of technology and resources on a global scale so that people everywhere can begin to enjoy the minimum conditions of a decent life.

The great economic upheavals which have recently shaken the entire world should generate a sense of urgency about building a just international economic order. The special Session of this Assembly earlier this year took note of the grave implications of the present international economic situation. Speaking for a country which heads the list of those described as being "most severely affected" by the current economic situation, I can only underline how grievous these effects are on Bangladesh which was born on the ruins of a devastating war have, ever since liberation, been plagued

by a series of natural disasters, the latest one being the unprecedented floods we have experienced this year. We are grateful to the United Nations, its agencies, and to the Secretary General for their active interest in helping Bangladesh to meet the situation. President Boumediene and Foreign Minister Bouteflika of Algeria have appealed to the Non-aligned group of countries to come forward to help Bangladesh. Friendly countries and humanitarian organizations all over the world have not only impeded Bangladesh's march towards economic progress, but have also left the country in a state of near famine condition. At the same time global inflation has meant, for a country such as ours, a balance of payments gaps in the order of hundreds of millions of dollars. Translated in terms of human suffering, this means that people with a meager annual per capita income of less than \$100 are now faced with the prospect of severe reduction in even their current subsistence level of living.

People who are consuming less than the minimum considered



Malaysian King Abdul Halim and Bangabandhu



Bangabandhu welcoming Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at airport on her first visit to Bangladesh

ক্রমাগত মূল্যবৃদ্ধির ফলে খাদ্যের দাম গরীব দেশগুলোর ক্রয়ক্ষমতার বাইরে চলে গেছে। অন্যদিকে ধনী ও উন্নত দেশগুলিই হচ্ছে খাদ্যের মূল রফতানীকারক। কৃষি যন্ত্রপাতি ও উপকরণের অসম্ভব দাম বাড়ার ফলে গরীব দেশগুলোর খাদ্য সংগ্রহের চেষ্টাও তেমন সফল হতে পারছে না। বিশ্বব্যাপী মুদ্রাস্ফীতির ফলে উন্নয়নশীল দেশগুলোর উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনার ব্যয় বহু গুণ বেড়ে গেছে। তাদের নিজেদের সম্পদ কাজে লাগানোর শক্তিও হ্রাস পেয়েছে। ইতিমধ্যেই যে সব দেশ ব্যাপক বেকার সমস্যায় ভুগছে তারা তাদের অতি নগণ্য উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনাগুলোও কেটে ছেঁটে কলেবর ছোট করতে বাধ্য হয়েছে। এই পরিকল্পনাগুলো বাস্তবায়িত

হলে মাত্র পাঁচ থেকে ছয় শতাংশ হারে আয় বৃদ্ধির সম্ভাবনা ছিল। বিশ্বের সকল জাতি ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে এই পরিস্থিতির মোকাবিলা করতে অগ্রসর না হলে মানুষের দুঃখ-দুর্দশা এমন বিরাট আকার ধারণ করবে- ইতিহাসে যার তুলনা পাওয়া যাবে না। অবশ্য বর্তমানে অসংখ্য মানুষের পুঞ্জীভূত দুঃখ দুর্দশার পাশাপাশি মুষ্টিমেয় মানুষ যে অভূতপূর্ব বৈষয়িক সমৃদ্ধি ও সুখ-সুবিধা ভোগ করছে তার তুলনা ইতিহাসে বিরল।

এ অবস্থার পরিবর্তন ঘটাতে পারে আমাদের মধ্যে মানবিক ঐক্যবোধ, ভ্রাতৃত্ববোধের পুনর্জাগরণ। পারস্পারিক নির্ভরশীলতার স্বীকৃতিই কেবল বর্তমান সমস্যার যুক্তিসঙ্গত সমাধান ঘটাতে সক্ষম। বর্তমান দুর্যোগ কাটাতে হলে অবিলম্বে

ঐক্যবদ্ধ প্রচেষ্টা দরকার। বর্তমানের মতো এতো বড় চ্যালেঞ্জের মোকাবেলা জাতিসংঘ অতীতে কখনো করেনি। এ চ্যালেঞ্জ হচ্ছে একটা ন্যায়সঙ্গত আন্তর্জাতিক অর্থনৈতিক ব্যবস্থা গড়ে তোলার জন্য যুক্তির শক্তিকে কাজে লাগানোর চেষ্টা। এ ব্যবস্থায় থাকবে নিজের প্রাকৃতিক সম্পদের উপর প্রতিটি দেশের সার্বভৌম অধিকারের নিশ্চয়তা। এ ব্যবস্থা গড়ে তুলবে আন্তর্জাতিক সহযোগিতা, বাস্তব কাঠামো, যার ভিত্তি হবে স্থিতিশীল ন্যায়সঙ্গত অর্থনৈতিক ব্যবস্থায় বিশ্বের সকল দেশের সাধারণ স্বার্থের স্বীকৃতি। এখন এমন একটি সময় যখন আমাদের দ্ব্যর্থহীন কর্তে ঘোষণা করতে হবে যে, আমাদের একটা আন্তর্জাতিক দায়িত্ব রয়েছে। এ দায়িত্ব হল বিশ্বের প্রতিটি মানুষ যাতে তার ব্যক্তিত্বের বিকাশ ও মর্যাদার উপযোগী অর্থনৈতিক, সামাজিক ও সাংস্কৃতিক অধিকার ভোগ করতে পারে তার ব্যবস্থা করা। মানবাধিকার সংক্রান্ত সার্বজনীন ঘোষণায় এ অধিকারের গ্যারান্টি দেওয়া হয়েছে। মানবাধিকার সংক্রান্ত ঘোষণা অনুযায়ী আমাদের আন্তর্জাতিক দায়িত্ব এমনভাবে পালন করতে হবে যাতে প্রতিটি মানুষ নিজের ও পরিবারের সুখ-সমৃদ্ধির জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় জীবন ধারণের

necessary for mere survival by the World Health Organization, now face starvation. The forecast for the future of the poorer countries is even gloomier. Food grains, of which the developed industrial nations are the main exporters, are gradually going out of their reach as a result of steadily increasing prices. Their efforts to attain self-sufficiency in food production are also being severely affected because of rising cost and growing scarcity of vital agricultural inputs. Side by side, as a result of global inflation, which has not only increased manifold the cost of development projects but has

also adversely reduced their ability to mobilize their own resources, countries already faced with grinding poverty and massive unemployment are threatened with the dire possibilities of cut backs in their modest development plans envisaging growth rates of 5 to 6 per cent per annum.

Unless the Nations of the world can concert their action to meet this situation, human misery will be aggravated on a scale unknown in history. Indeed, there would be no recorded parallel of such human misery having to be endured by so many side by side with such unprecedented level of affluence and prosperity enjoyed by so few.

Only a regeneration of the feeling of human solidarity and brotherhood and an acknowledgement of inter-dependence can bring about a rational solution and the urgent action needed to avoid this catastrophe.

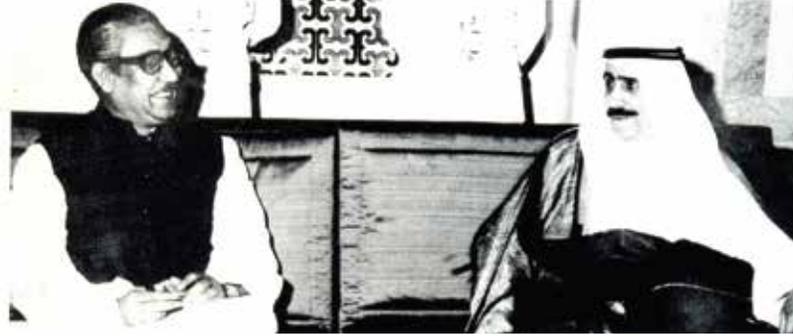
No greater challenge has been faced by the United Nations than that of marshaling the forces of reason to bring about a just international economic order. This order must not only ensure sovereignty of each state over its natural resources but should also seek to establish a framework of international cooperation based upon recognition of the overriding common interest of the countries of the world in a stable and just economic system. This is the moment when we must reaffirm in unequivocal terms that there is an international responsibility to ensure that every one everywhere should enjoy the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for human dignity and the free development of one's personality as guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This responsibility, according to the Universal Declaration, should extend to ensuring to everyone the right to a



Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during her first visit to Bangladesh



Bangabandhu at OIC Summit in Lahore, 1974



Bangabandhu with the Ameer of Kuwait

মান প্রতিষ্ঠা অর্জনের নিশ্চয়তা লাভ করে।

আন্তর্জাতিক অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠা, সমঝোতা ও শান্তিপূর্ণ পরিবেশই যে অর্থনৈতিক দূরবস্থা দূর করতে সক্ষম, সে সম্পর্কে আমরা সম্পূর্ণ সচেতন। এ প্রসঙ্গে বলা প্রয়োজন, বর্তমান অস্ত্র প্রতিযোগিতা নিয়ন্ত্রণ করার জন্য জরুরী ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা দরকার। অস্ত্র প্রতিযোগিতা হ্রাস করা সম্ভব হলে অর্থনৈতিক সঙ্কট দূর করার পরিবেশই শুধু গড়ে উঠবে না- এ প্রতিযোগিতায় যে বিপুল সম্পদ অপচয় হচ্ছে- তা মানবজাতির সাধারণ কল্যাণে নিয়োগ করা সম্ভব হবে।

বাংলাদেশ প্রথম থেকেই জোট নিরপেক্ষ বৈদেশিক নীতি অনুসরণ করছে। এই নীতির মূলকথা শান্তিপূর্ণ সহ-অবস্থান এবং সকলের সঙ্গে মৈত্রী। শান্তির প্রতি যে আমাদের পূর্ণ আনুগত্য তা এই উপলব্ধি থেকে জন্মেছে যে, একমাত্র শান্তিপূর্ণ পরিবেশেই আমরা আমাদের কষ্টার্জিত জাতীয় স্বাধীনতার ফল আন্বাদন করতে পারবো এবং ক্ষুধা, দারিদ্র, রোগশোক, অশিক্ষা ও বেকারত্বের বিরুদ্ধে সংগ্রাম করার জন্য আমাদের সকল সম্পদ ও শক্তি নিয়োগ করতে সক্ষম হবো। সুতরাং আমরা স্বাগত জানাই সেই সকল প্রচেষ্টাকে, যার লক্ষ্য বিশ্বে উত্তেজনা হ্রাস করা, অস্ত্র প্রতিযোগিতা সীমিত করা, এশিয়া, আফ্রিকা ও ল্যাটিন আমেরিকাসহ পৃথিবীর প্রত্যেকটি স্থানে শান্তিপূর্ণ সহ-অবস্থান নীতি জোরদার করা। এই নীতি অনুযায়ী ভারত মহাসাগরকে শান্তি এলাকা রাখার প্রস্তাবে আমরা অবিরাম সমর্থন জানিয়ে এসেছি। ভারত মহাসাগরকে শান্তি এলাকা রাখার প্রস্তাব এই পরিষদেও সক্রিয় শক্তিশালী অনুমোদন লাভ করেছে।

আমরা দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব এশিয়াকে শান্তি, স্বাধীনতা ও নিরপেক্ষতার এলাকারূপে ঘোষণায় অকুণ্ঠ সমর্থন জানিয়েছি। আমাদের বিশ্বাস জোট নিরপেক্ষ সম্মেলনে বিশ্বের যে উদীয়মান জাতিসমূহ একত্রিত হয়েছিলেন, তাঁরা শান্তির পক্ষে শক্তিশালী সমর্থন জুগিয়েছেন। তাঁরা বিশ্বের বিপুল সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠ মানুষের অভিন্ন প্রতিজ্ঞার কথাই আবার ঘোষণা করেছেন। এই ঘোষণার লক্ষ্য জাতীয় স্বাধীনতার রক্ষা এবং শান্তি ও ন্যায়বিচার প্রতিষ্ঠা করা।

মানবজাতির অস্তিত্ব রক্ষার জন্য শান্তি একান্ত দরকার। এই শান্তির মধ্যে সারা বিশ্বের সকল নর-নারীর গভীর আশা-আকাঙ্ক্ষা মূর্ত হয়ে রয়েছে। ন্যায়নীতির উপর প্রতিষ্ঠিত না হলে শান্তি কখনো স্থায়ী হতে পারে না।

আমরা শান্তিকামী বলে আমাদের এই উপমহাদেশে আমরা আপোষ-মীমাংসা নীতির অনুসারী। আমাদের দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস, বাংলাদেশের অভূতায় উপমহাদেশে শান্তি

standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family.

We are fully conscious that the current economic crisis can be dealt only in an environment of peace, international amity and understanding. In this context, urgent measures to control the present arms race assume special importance not only for the creation of such an environment but also for releasing for the common good of mankind the massive resources currently being wasted on armaments.



Bangabandhu delivering welcome address during Chinese Premier Chou En - Lai's visit to Dhaka

Bangladesh from its very inception, has adopted a non-aligned policy based upon the principles of peaceful co-existence and friendship towards all. Our total commitment to peace is born of the realization that only an environment of peace would enable us to enjoy the fruits of our hard-won national independence and to mobilize and concentrate all our energies and resources in combating the scourges of poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy and unemployment. We therefore, welcome every effort aimed at advancing the process of detente, relaxation of tension, limitation of armaments and the promotion of peaceful coexistence in every part of the world, whether it is in Asia, Africa, and Europe or in Latin America. In pursuance of this policy

we have consistently supported the concept of a Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean area which has received powerful endorsement of this Assembly. We have also supported the concept of South East Asia as a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality.

We believe that the Nations of the emerging world assembled in the Non-aligned Conference provide powerful support to the cause of peace. They have reaffirmed the common determination of the over-whelming majority of the people of the world to preserve national independence and to promote peace and justice.

Peace is imperative for the survival of humanity. It represents the deepest aspirations of men and women throughout the world. Peace to sustain must be, peace based upon justice.

Consistent with our own total commitment to peace, we have striven to promote the process of reconciliation in our own Sub-continent. It was our firm belief that the emergence of



Senegal's President Leopold Senghor with Bangabandhu.



Bangabandhu with Zambia's President Kenneth kaunda

ও স্থিতিশীলতা প্রতিষ্ঠার সহায়ক হয়েছে। এবং অতীতের সংঘাত ও বিরোধের বদলে আমাদের তিনটি দেশের জনগণের মধ্যে কল্যাণকর সহযোগিতা ও বন্ধুত্বের সম্পর্ক প্রতিষ্ঠা করা সম্ভব হবে। আমরা আমাদের মহান নিকট প্রতিবেশী ভারত, বার্মা ও নেপালের সাথে বন্ধুত্বপূর্ণ সম্পর্ক প্রতিষ্ঠা করেছি। অতীত থেকে মুখ ফিরিয়ে পাকিস্তানের সাথে নতুন সম্পর্ক স্থাপনের প্রচেষ্টায়ও লিপ্ত রয়েছি।

অতীতের তিজতা দূর করার জন্য আমরা কোন প্রচেষ্টা থেকেই নিবৃত্ত হই নাই। ১৯৫ জন যুদ্ধ অপরাধীকে ক্ষমা প্রদর্শন করে এই উপমহাদেশে শান্তি ও সহযোগিতার নতুন ইতিহাস রচনার কাজে আমরা আমাদের আন্তরিকতার প্রমাণ দিয়েছি। এই ১৯৫ জন যুদ্ধ অপরাধীর বিরুদ্ধে মানবতা বিরোধী অপরাধে লিপ্ত থাকার অসংখ্য সাক্ষ্য প্রমাণ ছিল, তবু সকল অপরাধ ভুলে গিয়ে আমরা ক্ষমার এমন উদাহরণ সৃষ্টি করতে চেয়েছি, যা এই উপমহাদেশে শান্তি, সমৃদ্ধি ও সহযোগিতার এক নতুন অধ্যায়ের সূচনা করবে। উপমহাদেশের শান্তি নিশ্চিত করার কাজে আমরা কোন পূর্বশর্ত দিই নাই কিংবা দর কষাকষি করি নাই। বরং জনগণের জন্য আমরা এক সুকুমার ভবিষ্যৎ প্রেরণা দ্বারা উদ্বুদ্ধ ও প্রভাবান্বিত হয়েছি। অন্যান্য বড় বিরোধ নিষ্পত্তির কাজেও আমরা ন্যায়বিচার ও পারস্পরিক সমঝোতার উপর গুরুত্ব আরোপ করেছি। ৬৩ হাজার পাকিস্তানী পরিবারের দুর্গতি একটি জরুরী মানবিক সমস্যা হয়ে রয়েছে। পাকিস্তানের প্রতি আনুগত্যের কথা তাঁরা আবার প্রকাশ



One-on-one, Bangabandhu with Cuban Leader Fidel Castro

করেছেন এবং স্বদেশে প্রত্যাবর্তনের জন্য তাঁদের নাম রেডক্রসের আন্তর্জাতিক কমিটির কাছে তালিকাভুক্ত করেছেন। আন্তর্জাতিক বোঝাপড়া ও আইন অনুসারে স্বদেশ প্রত্যাবর্তন করার অধিকার তাঁদের রয়েছে। একই সঙ্গে মানবতার তাগিদে তাঁদের সমস্যার আশু সমাধান প্রয়োজন। সাবেক পাকিস্তানের সম্পদের ন্যায়সঙ্গত বাটোয়ারা আর একটি সমস্যা, যার আশু সমাধান দরকার। বাংলাদেশ আপোষ মীমাংসার জন্য প্রস্তুত। আমাদের প্রত্যাশা এই উপমহাদেশের জনগণের বৃহত্তম স্বার্থে পাকিস্তান আমাদের আহ্বানে সাড়া দেবে এবং ন্যায়বিচার ও পারস্পরিক বোঝাপড়ার ভিত্তিতে অমীমাংসিত সমস্যার সমাধানে এগিয়ে আসবে। তাহলে উপমহাদেশে পরিস্থিতির স্বাভাবিকীকরণের প্রচেষ্টা সফল হওয়ার পথে আর কোন বাধা থাকবে না। বাংলাদেশ তার সকল প্রতিবেশী দেশের সঙ্গে সং প্রতিবেশীসুলভ সম্পর্ক প্রতিষ্ঠার প্রচেষ্টা চালিয়ে যাবে। যে সম্পর্কের ভিত্তি হবে শান্তিপূর্ণ সহ-অবস্থান, পরস্পরের সার্বভৌমত্ব ও আঞ্চলিক অখণ্ডতার প্রতি শ্রদ্ধা প্রদর্শন এবং একে অন্যের আভ্যন্তরীণ বিষয়ে হস্তক্ষেপ না করা।

Bangladesh would materially contribute towards creating a structure of peace and stability in our Sub-continent and that the confrontation and strife of the past could be replaced by relations of friendship and cooperation for the welfare of all our peoples. We have not only developed good relations with our immediate neighbors - India, Burma and Nepal, but have striven to turn away from the past and open a new chapter of relations with Pakistan.

We have spared no efforts towards liquidating the legacies of the past and made our ultimate contribution by granting clemency even to those 195 prisoners of war against whom there was overwhelming evidence of having committed grave crimes, including crimes against humanity. This was our investment towards opening a new chapter and towards building a future of peace and stability in our tormented Sub-continent. In doing this, we insisted on no pre-conditions nor did we seek to strike any bargain for we were influenced only by the vision of better future for all our peoples.

We look forward to the resolution of other outstanding problems in a spirit of fair play and mutual accommodation. The plight of the 63,000 Pakistani families, who have reaffirmed their allegiance to Pakistan and have registered themselves with the International Committee of the Red Cross for repatriation to their country, remains a pressing humanitarian problem. Not only is their right to be repatriated to the country to which they retain allegiance, based on the strongest foundations of law and international agreement, but the dictates of humanity call for an urgent solution of their problem. The just division of the assets of former Pakistan is the other problem which awaits urgent solution. Bangladesh on its part was, and remains, ready to move forward towards reconciliation. We expect that in the over-riding interest of the welfare of the peoples of the Sub-continent, Pakistan will reciprocate by coming forward to resolve these outstanding problems in a spirit of fair play and mutual accommodation so that the process of normalization can be carried to a successful conclusion.

Bangladesh will maintain friendly relations with her neighbors following the principles of peaceful co-existence, respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference



Bangabandhu shares his thoughts with Egypt's President Anwar Sadat



10 January 1972, Bangabandhu returned to his beloved motherland Bangladesh.

বিশ্বের এ এলাকায় এবং সর্বত্র শান্তি প্রতিষ্ঠার প্রচেষ্টায় আমাদের সমর্থন অব্যাহত থাকবে।

এই দুঃখ দুর্দশা সংঘাতপূর্ণ বিশ্বে জাতিসংঘ মানুষের ভবিষ্যৎ আশা আকাংখার কেন্দ্রস্থল। নানা অসুবিধা ও বাধা বিপত্তি সত্ত্বেও জাতিসংঘ তার জন্মের পর সিকি শতাব্দী কালেরও বেশী সময় ধরে রাজনৈতিক, অর্থনৈতিক, সামাজিক এবং সাংস্কৃতিক ক্ষেত্রে মানবজাতির অগ্রগতিতে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অবদান রেখেছে। এমন দেশের সংখ্যা খুব কম, যারা বাংলাদেশের মতো এই প্রতিষ্ঠানের বাস্তব সাফল্য ও সম্ভাবনা অনুধাবনের সক্ষম হয়েছে। ড: কুর্ট ওয়াল্ডহাইম এবং তাঁর যোগ্য ও নিবেদিতপ্রাণ সহকর্মীদের প্রেরণাদানকারী নেতৃত্বে এই জাতিসংঘ আমাদের

in the internal affairs of other countries. We will also continue our support for the pursuit of regional and global peace. In a world that is marked by strife and human misery, the United Nations remains the focus of Man's hope for the future. Despite many difficulties and obstacles placed in its way, the United Nations, during more than a quarter century of its existence, has significantly Contributed towards human progress in the political, economic, Social and cultural fields. There are few countries in the world that have a better realization than Bangladesh of the concrete achievements and the potential for good of this organization. It was under the inspired leadership of Dr. Kurt



Historic 7th March Speech, 7th March 1971, Ramna, Dhaka

দেশে বিরাট ত্রাণ, পুনর্বাসন ও পুনর্গঠনের কাজ করেছে। বাংলাদেশের বুক থেকে যুদ্ধের ক্ষত দূর করা, যুদ্ধবিধ্বস্ত অর্থনীতির উৎপাদন ক্ষমতার পুনরুজ্জীবন এবং মুক্তিযুদ্ধের সময় ভারতে আশ্রয়গ্রহণকারী কোটিখানেক উদ্বাস্তের পুনর্বাসনের ব্যবস্থা করা একাজের লক্ষ্য। সেক্রেটারী জেনারেল, তাঁর সহকর্মীবৃন্দ এবং বিভিন্ন আন্তর্জাতিক সংস্থা এই বিরাট দায়িত্ব পালনে সমন্বয় সাধনের প্রেরণা জুগিয়েছেন ও নেতৃত্ব দিয়েছেন। বাংলাদেশের সরকার ও জনগণের পক্ষ থেকে তাদের প্রতি কৃতজ্ঞতা জানাই। আমার দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস, উপমহাদেশে অবশিষ্ট যে মানবিক সমস্যা রয়েছে, তার সমাধানেও জাতিসংঘ এই রকমের গঠনমূলক মনোভাব নিয়ে এগিয়ে আসবে।

বাংলাদেশের সাম্প্রতিক সর্বনাশা বন্যায় ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত লোকদের সাহায্যের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় ত্রাণ সামগ্রী আহরণের কাজে জাতিসংঘ যে প্রচেষ্টা চালাচ্ছে, তার জন্যও আমরা কৃতজ্ঞ। প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগের কবলে পড়ে যে সব দেশ বার বার

Waldheim and his able and dedicated colleagues that the United Nations mounted a Major relief and reconstruction program in our country to heal the wounds of war, to restore the productive capacity of our war ravaged economy and to rehabilitate millions of returning refugees from India who had to take shelter there during our struggle for liberation. To the Secretary General, members of his staff and the various humanitarian agencies who have contributed to the success of this gigantic operation I would like to offer the sincere expression of gratitude of the Government and of the people of Bangladesh. We are confident that the United Nations in the solution of the remaining humanitarian problem in sub-continent.

As I mentioned earlier, we are grateful to the United Nations for the efforts in mobilizing assistance in aid of the victims of the current catastrophic floods in Bangladesh. As a country which has



Bangabandhu's ancestral home at Tungipara, Gopalganj



Bangabandhu with his family members

ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হয়, বাংলাদেশ তাদের অন্যতম। তাই প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ থেকে উদ্ধৃত্ত পরিস্থিতির মোকাবেলায় এবং বিশ্ব সমাজের দ্রুত এগিয়ে আসার উপযোগী নিয়মিত প্রতিষ্ঠান গঠনে বাংলাদেশের বিশেষ স্বার্থ নিহিত রয়েছে। অবশ্য, সূচনা হিসাবে এই ধরনের একটি ব্যবস্থা ইতিমধ্যেই হয়েছে। এই ব্যবস্থা জাতিসংঘের বিপর্যয় ত্রাণ সমন্বয়কারীর অফিস স্থাপন। সংস্থাটি যাতে কার্যকরভাবে তার ভূমিকা পালন করতে পারে, সেজন্য তাকে শক্তিশালী করে গড়ে তোলা একান্ত দরকার। জাতিসংঘের সকল সদস্য দেশেরই এ ব্যাপারে বিশেষ দায়িত্ব রয়েছে।

প্রিয় প্রেসিডেন্ট,

সর্বশেষে আমি মানবের অসাধ্য সাধন ও দুরূহ বাধা অতিক্রমের অদম্য শক্তির

repeatedly been exposed to the ravages of natural calamities, Bangladesh has special stake in the creation of an institutional arrangement by which the international community can move effectively to meet and prevent such calamities. Indeed a beginning, though modest, has already been made in this respect by the establishment of the office of United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator. However, in order that it can effectively play the role assigned to it there is an imperative need to strengthen the organization. The members of the United Nations have a special responsibility to concert their efforts for the achievement of this objective.



Bangabandhu's two daughters praying at his grave

প্রতি আমাদের পূর্ণ আস্থার কথা আবার ঘোষণা করতে চাই। আমাদের মতো দেশসমূহ, যাদের অভ্যুদয় সংগ্রাম ও ত্যাগের মধ্য দিয়ে, এই আদর্শে বিশ্বাসই তাদের বাঁচিয়ে রাখবে। আমাদের কষ্ট স্বীকার করতে হতে পারে। কিন্তু আমাদের ধ্বংস নাই। এই জীবন যুদ্ধের মোকাবেলায় জনগণের প্রতিরোধ ক্ষমতা ও দৃঢ় প্রতিজ্ঞাই শেষ কথা। আত্মনির্ভরশীলতাই আমাদের লক্ষ্য। জনগণের ঐক্যবদ্ধ উদ্যোগই আমাদের নির্ধারিত কর্মধারা। এতে সন্দেহের কোন অবকাশ নাই যে, আন্তর্জাতিক সহযোগিতা এবং সম্পদ ও প্রযুক্তিবিদ্যায় অংশীদারিত্ব আমাদের কাজকে সহজতর করতে পারে, জনগণের দুঃখ কষ্ট লাঘব করতে পারে। কিন্তু আমাদের ন্যায় উদীয়মান দেশসমূহের অবশ্যই নিজেদের কার্যক্ষমতার প্রতি আস্থা রাখতে হবে। মনে রাখতে হবে শুধু জনগণের ঐক্যবদ্ধ ও সম্মিলিত প্রচেষ্টার মাধ্যমেই আমরা আমাদের নির্দিষ্ট লক্ষ্যে পৌঁছতে সক্ষম হতে পারি, গড়ে তুলতে পারি উন্নততর ভবিষ্যৎ।

Dear President,

I should like to conclude by re-affirming my faith in the indomitable spirit of human beings, in the capacity of the people to achieve the impossible and to overcome insurmountable odds. This is the faith which sustains nations like us which have emerged through struggle and sacrifice. Our nations may suffer but they can never die. In facing the challenge of survival the resilience and determination of the people is an ultimate strength. Our goal is self-reliance, our chosen path is the united and collective efforts of our people. International cooperation and the sharing of resources and technology could no doubt make our task less onerous and reduce the cost in human suffering. But for us in the emerging world, ultimately we must have faith in ourselves, in our capacity through the united and concerted efforts of our peoples to fulfill our destiny and to build for ourselves a better future.

৭১তম অধিবেশনে প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার ভাষণ

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের পদাঙ্ক অনুসরণ করে প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা সরকার প্রধান হিসেবে দায়িত্ব গ্রহণের পর থেকে প্রতিবছর (১৯৯৬-২০০০ এবং ২০০৯ থেকে অদ্যাবধি) জাতিসংঘ সাধারণ পরিষদের মূল অধিবেশনে বাংলায় ভাষণ প্রদান করে আসছেন।

২০১৬ সালের ২১ সেপ্টেম্বর জাতিসংঘ সাধারণ পরিষদের ৭১তম অধিবেশনে বাংলায় প্রদত্ত প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার ভাষণের পূর্ণ বিবরণ।

Following the footsteps of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been delivering her speech at the UN General Assembly in Bangla each year since her assumption of office (from 1996 to 2000 and from 2009 till to date).

English version of the Speech of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivered at the UN General Assembly on 21 September 2016.

বিসমিল্লাহির রাহমানির রাহিম

জনাব সভাপতি,

আসসালামু আলাইকুম এবং শুভ অপরাহ্ন।

জাতিসংঘ সাধারণ পরিষদের ৭১তম অধিবেশনের সভাপতি নির্বাচিত হওয়ায় আপনাকে আন্তরিক এবং উষ্ণ অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি। বিগত এক বছর সাধারণ পরিষদে অসাধারণ নেতৃত্ব প্রদানের জন্য আমি আপনার পূর্বসূরী মি. মগেনস লিকেটফট-কে (Mogens Lykkesoft) আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ জানাচ্ছি।

জনাব সভাপতি,

জাতিসংঘ মহাসচিব বান কি-মুন এবছর তাঁর দায়িত্ব গ্রহণের পূর্ণ মেয়াদ শেষ করতে যাচ্ছেন। গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিভিন্ন বিষয়ে আমাদের মধ্যে অনেক বৈঠক এবং আলোচনা হয়েছে। আমি কৃতজ্ঞচিত্তে সেগুলো স্মরণ করছি। তিনি সবসময়ই একজন বিশ্বস্ত বন্ধু হিসেবে বাংলাদেশের উন্নয়নের অর্জনগুলোকে বাকি বিশ্বের জন্য 'রোল মডেল' হিসেবে তুলে ধরেছেন। আমি তাঁর এবং Madame Ban-এর অব্যাহত সাফল্য ও সুস্বাস্থ্য কামনা করছি।

জনাব সভাপতি,

বাংলাদেশের জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান ১৯৭৪ সালে এই মহান সাধারণ পরিষদে বলেছিলেন, “শান্তির প্রতি যে আমাদের পূর্ণ আনুগত্য, তা এই উপলব্ধি থেকে জন্মেছে যে, একমাত্র শান্তিপূর্ণ পরিবেশেই আমরা ক্ষুধা, দারিদ্র্য, রোগ-শোক, অশিক্ষা ও বেকারত্বের বিরুদ্ধে সংগ্রাম করার জন্য আমাদের সকল সম্পদ ও শক্তি নিয়োগ করতে সক্ষম হবো।” (আনকোট)

আমাদের বিশ্ব বর্তমানে এমন এক সঙ্কটক্ষেত্রে দাঁড়িয়ে আছে, যখন এসকল অভিধাণ থেকে মুক্তি খুব একটা দূরে নয়। অনেক সৃজনশীল এবং প্রায়োগিক সমাধান এখন আমাদের নাগালের মধ্যে। প্রযুক্তি, নব্য চিন্তাধারা এবং বৈশ্বিক নাগরিকদের বিস্ময়কর ক্ষমতা আমাদের একটি ‘নতুন সাহসী বিশ্ব’ সম্পর্কে ভাবতে উদ্বুদ্ধ করেছে।

BismillahirRahmanir Rahim

Mr. President,

Assalamu Alaikum and a very good afternoon to you all.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on your election as President of the 71st session of the General Assembly.

I commend the exemplary manner your predecessor Mr. Mogens Lykkesoft presided over the Assembly last year.

Mr. President,

UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon marks the completion of his tenure this year. I recall our many meetings and conversations on host of issues of importance. Always a true and trusted friend, he recognized Bangladesh's development gains as 'role model' for the rest of the world. I wish him and Madame Ban continued success and good health.

Mr. President,

Our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had stated in this august Assembly

in 1974, “Our total commitment to peace is born of the realization that only an environment of peace would enable us to ... mobilize and concentrate all our energies and resources in combating the scourges of poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy and unemployment”.

Our world is now at a juncture, when we have the end of these scourges in sight. There are many creative and practical solutions in our hands. The amazing power of technology, ideas and global citizens make us imagine a 'brave new world'.

Yet, our world is not free from tension and fear. Violent conflicts



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivering her statement in Bangla at the 71st Session of the UNGA on 21 September 2016



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a High-level Reception in support of the First Anniversary of the Adoption of the UNSDGs and the Importance of ICT & Competitiveness as a Tool for Sustainable Development, 19 September 2016, Hotel Millennium, New York.

তবে এখনও আমাদের এই বিশ্ব দুশ্চিন্তা এবং ভীতিকর পরিস্থিতি থেকে মুক্ত নয়। বেশ কিছু স্থানে সহিংস-সংঘাতের উন্মত্ততা অব্যাহত রয়েছে। অকারণে অগণিত মানুষের প্রাণহানি ঘটছে। যারা সংঘাত থেকে পালিয়ে বাঁচার চেষ্টা করছেন, প্রায়শঃই বিভিন্ন দেশ তাঁদের নিরাপত্তা দিতে অস্বীকার করছে। কখনও কখনও অত্যন্ত জরুরী মানবিক চাহিদা অগ্রাহ্য করা হচ্ছে অথবা সেগুলো প্রবেশে বাধার সৃষ্টি করা হচ্ছে।

কী অপরাধ ছিল সাগরে ডুবে যাওয়া সিরিয়ার ৩-বছর বয়সী নিষ্পাপ শিশু আইলান কুর্দীর? কী দোষ করেছিল ৫-বছরের শিশু ওমরান, যে আলোপ্পো শহরে নিজ বাড়িতে বসে বিমান হামলায় মারাত্মকভাবে আহত হয়েছে? একজন মা হিসেবে আমার পক্ষে এ সকল নিষ্ঠুরতা সহ্য করা কঠিন। বিশ্ব বিবেককে কি এসব ঘটনা নাড়া দিবে না?

গত ১৯ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৬ তারিখে জাতিসংঘে অভিবাসী ও শরণার্থী বিষয়ক একটি ঐতিহাসিক সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে। আমি আশা করি, এই সম্মেলনের ফলাফল বর্তমান সময়ে অভিবাসনের ধারণা এবং বাস্তবতাকে নতুনভাবে সংজ্ঞায়িত করতে সাহায্য করবে। অভিবাসী ও শরণার্থীদের স্বদেশ এবং গন্তব্য উভয় স্থানের জন্যই সম্ভাবনাময় পরিবর্তনের নিয়ামক হিসেবে বিবেচনা করতে হবে। বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ, সুসুজ্ঞান এবং নিয়মিত অভিবাসন সংক্রান্ত Global Compact-এর রূপরেখা প্রণয়নে সহযোগিতা করতে আগ্রহী। আগামী ডিসেম্বর মাসে আমরা Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) আয়োজন করতে যাচ্ছি। এই ফোরামে আমরা অভিবাসন-সম্পর্কিত সকল বিষয়ে গঠনমূলক সংলাপের প্রত্যাশা করছি।

জনাব সভাপতি, গত বছর অর্থাৎ ২০১৫ সালে আমরা একটি উচ্চাভিলাষী উন্নয়ন এজেন্ডা-টেকসই উন্নয়ন লক্ষ্যমাত্রা (এসডিজি) গ্রহণ করেছি। এই এজেন্ডার রাজনৈতিক অঙ্গীকারকে পশ্চাত্পদ দেশগুলোর জন্য একটি পূর্ণাঙ্গ এবং অর্থবহ অবলম্বনে রূপান্তরিত করা প্রয়োজন। এজন্য উন্নয়নশীল দেশগুলোতে পরিবর্তনশীল প্রযুক্তির প্রবেশাধিকার নিশ্চিত করতে হবে।

সান্তর্জাতিকভাবে সম্মত উন্নয়ন প্রতিশ্রুতিসমূহের সঠিক বাস্তবায়নের মধ্য দিয়েই



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the event on 'South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Scaling up Innovation in Public Service Delivery', 20 September 2016, UN Headquarters, New York.

continue to rage in several places, with heavy toll of human lives. Those fleeing from conflicts are often denied protection across borders. Dire humanitarian needs are at times ignored or access blocked. What crime Aylan Kurdi, the 3-year innocent child of Syria who drowned in the sea, had committed? What was the fault of 5-year old Omran, who was seriously wounded by airstrike at his own home in Aleppo? It is indeed hard to bear all these cruelties as a mother. Won't these happenings stir the world conscience?

We have just concluded a historic Summit on migrants and refugees. The outcome of the Summit should help redefine perceptions and realities of human mobility in our time. Migrants and refugees must be seen as potential change agents in both their places of origin and destination.

Bangladesh offers to co-facilitate the work on the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. We look forward to a constructive dialogue on all related issues at the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) that we are hosting in December this year.



Honorable Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina receiving the "Agent of Change" Award by UN Women and Global Partnership Forum, 21 September 2016, 50 UN Plaza, New York

Mr. President,

In 2015, we adopted a transformative development agenda with a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The political will behind the agenda needs to be translated into concrete and meaningful support for countries that are lagging behind. In order to catch up, the developing world needs access to transformative technologies. The internationally agreed development commitments for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) must be fulfilled to pave the way for their graduation. The Technology Bank for LDCs should be geared at promoting innovation and predictable resource flow.

In Bangladesh, we have already mainstreamed most SDGs into our national development plans. A platform under the supervision of Prime Minister has been created to coordinate and



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets with the then UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the UN on 24 October 1996

স্বল্পোন্নত দেশগুলোর পক্ষে তাদের বর্তমান অবস্থান থেকে উত্তরণ সম্ভব। উদ্ভাবন এবং সম্ভাব্য সম্পদ সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থা জোরদার করতে স্বল্পোন্নত দেশগুলোর জন্য প্রস্তাবিত প্রযুক্তি ব্যাংক-কে দ্রুত কার্যকর করতে হবে।

আমরা ইতোমধ্যেই বেশিরভাগ এসডিজিগুলোকে আমাদের জাতীয় উন্নয়ন নীতিমালায় সম্পৃক্ত করেছি। কাজের সমন্বয় ও যাচাইয়ের জন্য আমার তত্ত্বাবধানে একটি প্রাটফর্ম তৈরি করা হয়েছে। স্থানীয় সরকারের প্রতিনিধি, সুশীল সমাজ, গণমাধ্যম এবং শিক্ষাবিদদের সঙ্গে আলোচনা ও পরামর্শ চলমান রয়েছে।

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের ক্ষুধা, দারিদ্র্য, নিরক্ষরতা এবং শোষণমুক্ত স্বপ্নের “সোনার বাংলাদেশ” প্রতিষ্ঠার জন্য আমরা যে “ভিশন-২০২১”



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets with the then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, 16 September 1999, United Nations, New York

monitor the work. Consultations are ongoing with the local governments, civil society, media and academia.

These are in tandem with our “Vision-2021” and “Vision-2041” towards realizing our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s dream of building a hunger-, poverty, illiteracy- and exploitation-free “Sonar Bangladesh” – the Golden Bangladesh.

Mr. President,

Our aim is to build an inclusive, empowered, digital and knowledge-based society. My Government is focusing on



HPM Sheikh Hasina received South South Award at Grand Ballroom, Hotel Waldorf Astoria, New York, 19 September 2011 (Left), HPM Sheikh Hasina received UN Champion of the Earth Award at Hotel Cipriani, New York, 27 September 2015 (Right)

এবং “ভিশন-২০৪১” বাস্তবায়ন করছি, তার সঙ্গে এগুলোর সমন্বয় করা হয়েছে।

আমাদের লক্ষ্য একটি অন্তর্ভুক্তিমূলক, শক্তিশালী, ডিজিটাল এবং জ্ঞানভিত্তিক সমাজ প্রতিষ্ঠা করা। সেজন্য আমাদের সরকার উদ্ভাবনমূলক সরকারি সেবা বিতরণ, জনসাধারণের তথ্য লাভের অধিকার এবং রাষ্ট্র পরিচালনা ও সেবা খাতে স্বচ্ছতা ও জবাবদিহিতা নিশ্চিতকরণের ওপর গুরুত্ব দিচ্ছে।

জনগণের দোরগোড়ায় ২০০ ধরনের সেবা পৌঁছে দিতে আমরা দেশব্যাপী প্রায় ৮ হাজার ডিজিটাল কেন্দ্র স্থাপন করেছি। স্বাস্থ্যসেবা পৌঁছে দিতে সারাদেশে ১৬ হাজার ৪৩৮টি কমিউনিটি ও ইউনিয়ন স্বাস্থ্য কেন্দ্র প্রতিষ্ঠা করা হয়েছে। মোবাইল ফোন এবং ওয়েব পোর্টালের মাধ্যমেও এসব সেবা দেওয়া হচ্ছে। আগের তুলনায় আরও অধিক সংখ্যক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে মাল্টিমিডিয়া শ্রেণিকক্ষ এবং ডিজিটাল ল্যাব ব্যবহৃত হচ্ছে।

বাস্তব ও পরাবাস্তব সংযোগের ক্রমবর্ধমান বিস্তৃতি বিশ্বের সকল মানুষের জন্য নতুন

innovative public service delivery, mass access to information, and enhanced transparency and accountability.

We have set up about 10,000 digital centres across the country in order to cater 200 different services to our people’s doorsteps. Health services through mobile phones and a 24-hour web-portal are complementing the work of 16,438 community and local health clinics. Digital Laboratories and Multi-media classrooms are operating in growing number of educational institutions.

Mr. President,

The growing web of physical and virtual connectivity is creating new opportunities for our peoples. As a key enabler of economic development, broadband connectivity should reach every citizen of the world. I invite world leaders and other international partners to join hands in making this possible. Our Government is



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with the immediate past UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, 27 September 2014, United Nations, New York

নতুন সুযোগ সৃষ্টি করেছে। অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নের অন্যতম প্রধান নিয়ামক হিসেবে বিশ্বের সকল নাগরিকের কাছে ব্রডব্যান্ড সংযোগ পৌঁছে দেয়া প্রয়োজন। এই লক্ষ্য বাস্তবায়নের জন্য আমি বিশ্ব নেতৃবৃন্দের পাশাপাশি আন্তর্জাতিক সহযোগীদের সমবেত প্রয়াস কামনা করছি। সকলের দোরগোড়ায় ভয়েস ও ডাটা সংযুক্তি পৌঁছে দিতে আমাদের সরকার দৃঢ় প্রতিজ্ঞ।

জনাব সভাপতি,

কৌশলগত অবস্থান বাংলাদেশকে আঞ্চলিক সংযোগ, বৈদেশিক বিনিয়োগ এবং বৈশ্বিক আউটসোর্সিং-এর ক্ষেত্রে একটি উদীয়মান কেন্দ্রস্থলে পরিণত করেছে। আমাদের উন্নয়ন উচ্চাকাঙ্ক্ষার সঙ্গে সঙ্গতি রাখতে আমরা বেশ কিছু বৃহাদাকার



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the World Future Energy Summit, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 17 January 2011

committed to provide voice and data connection to every citizen by 2021.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh's strategic location makes it an emerging hub for regional connectivity, foreign investments and global outsourcing. We have embarked on large-scale infrastructure projects to match our development aspirations. Multi-modal transport networks are being built to promote trade and people-to-people contacts among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN).



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina receiving "Tree of Peace" award of UNESCO in recognition of her outstanding contribution to girls from UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova at Bangabandhu International Conference Center, Dhaka on 8 September 2014 (Left), Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina receiving "ICT Sustainable Development Award" from ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao at a Gala Dinner programme at UN headquarters on 26 September 2015 (Right)

অবকাঠামো প্রকল্প গ্রহণ করেছে। বাংলাদেশ, ভূটান, ভারত এবং নেপাল (বিবিআইএন)-এর মধ্যে বাণিজ্য এবং নাগরিকদের মধ্যে যোগাযোগ বৃদ্ধির জন্য মাল্টি-মোডাল ট্রান্সপোর্ট নেটওয়ার্ক তৈরি করা হচ্ছে।

নিজস্ব অর্থায়নে আমরা ৬ দশমিক ১৫ কিলোমিটার দীর্ঘ পদ্মা বহুমুখী সেতু নির্মাণ করছি। একটি গভীর সমুদ্র বন্দর নির্মাণের আলোচনা চলছে। তৃতীয় সমুদ্র বন্দর পায়রার কার্যক্রম শুরু হয়েছে। রাজধানী ঢাকা শহরে মেট্রোরেলের নির্মাণ কাজও শুরু হয়েছে।

সম্ভাব্য বিনিয়োগকারীদের বাংলাদেশে বিনিয়োগ করার সুযোগ তৈরি করে দিতে দেশব্যাপী একশ'টি অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চল প্রতিষ্ঠা করা হচ্ছে।

জনাব সভাপতি,

সামষ্টিক এবং আর্থ-সামাজিক সূচকের উল্লেখযোগ্য অগ্রগতি আমাদের অব্যাহত উন্নয়ন অভিযাত্রাকেই সমর্থন করে। ২০১৫-'১৬ অর্থ-বছরে আমাদের অর্থনৈতিক



The work of the 6.15 km long Padma Multi-Purpose Bridge has been commissioned with our own resources. Discussions are underway to build a deep seaport, while our third seaport in Paira has commenced operations. Work on the metro rail in capital Dhaka city is also underway.

One hundred Economic Zones (EZs) are being developed across the country to allow potential investors to invest in Bangladesh.

Mr. President,

Such forward-looking thrust in our progress is supported by impressive performance of our macro- and socio-economic indicators. In 2015-16 fiscal year, our economy posted a GDP growth rate higher than 7%.

Bangladesh has experienced one of the fastest poverty reduction



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the 16th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, Tehran, 31 August 2012

প্রবৃদ্ধির হার ছিল ৭ শতাংশের বেশি।

বাংলাদেশ বিশ্বের অন্যতম দেশ যেখানে সীমিত সম্পদের সদ্যবহারের মাধ্যমে দারিদ্র্যের হার দ্রুত হ্রাস পাচ্ছে। দারিদ্র্যের হার ১৯৯১ সালের ৫৬.৭ শতাংশ হতে বর্তমানে ২২.৪ শতাংশে হ্রাস পেয়েছে। আমরা ইতোমধ্যে ইউএনডিপি'র মানব উন্নয়ন ক্যাটাগরিতে মধ্যম এবং বিশ্বব্যাংকের মান অনুযায়ী নিম্ন মধ্যম-আয়ের দেশে উন্নীত হয়েছি।

বিশ্ব মন্দা সত্ত্বেও বিগত সাত বছরে আমাদের রপ্তানি আয় প্রায় তিন গুণ বৃদ্ধি পেয়ে ৩৪.২৪ বিলিয়ন মার্কিন ডলার হয়েছে। প্রবাসীদের পাঠানো রেমিটেন্স তিনগুণ বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার রিজার্ভ ৩.৫ বিলিয়ন থেকে সাড়ে আট গুণ বৃদ্ধি পেয়ে ৩১ বিলিয়ন ডলার ছাড়িয়ে গেছে। এ সময়ে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন সক্ষমতা প্রায় তিনগুণ বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। সরাসরি বৈদেশিক বিনিয়োগের পরিমাণও তিনগুণ বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে।

সামাজিক সুরক্ষা, শোভন কর্মসংস্থান এবং অন্তর্ভুক্তিমূলক অর্থনীতি নিশ্চিতকরণের মাধ্যমে অসমতা দূর করা আমাদের উন্নয়ন কৌশলের অন্যতম প্রধান লক্ষ্য। আমরা আমাদের বাজেটের প্রায় ১৩ শতাংশ সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা বেটনী খাতে বরাদ্দ করছি, যা আমাদের মোট জিডিপি'র ২.৩ শতাংশ।

জনাব সভাপতি,

জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন আমাদের অনেকগুলো উন্নয়ন অর্জনকে হুমকির মুখোমুখি করছে। ঐতিহাসিক প্যারিস জলবায়ু চুক্তিটি অভিযোজন, ক্ষয়ক্ষতি এবং জলবায়ু সম্পর্কিত ন্যায় বিচারের গুরুত্বকে স্বীকৃতি দিয়েছে। বাংলাদেশ ইতোমধ্যেই এই জলবায়ু চুক্তি অনুসমর্থন করেছে। আমি আশা করি বৃহৎ কার্বন নিঃসরণকারী দেশগুলি অতি সত্ত্বর চুক্তিটিতে অনুসমর্থন জানাবে।

পরবর্তী প্রজন্মের জন্য প্রাকৃতিক সম্পদকে সংরক্ষণ করতে আমাদের অবশ্যই একসঙ্গে কাজ করতে হবে। বাংলাদেশ 'ব্লু ইকোনমি'র সম্ভাবনাকে কাজে লাগাতে সামুদ্রিক সম্পদ সংরক্ষণ ও এর টেকসই ব্যবহারের প্রয়োজনীয়তাকে গুরুত্ব দিয়ে আসছে।

জীবনধারণের জন্য অত্যাবশ্যকীয় পানি একটি সীমিত সম্পদ। অভিন্ন পানি সম্পদের বিচক্ষণ ও ন্যায়সঙ্গত ব্যবহার নিশ্চিত করা আমাদের সম্মিলিত দায়িত্ব। সকলকে নিরাপদ ও সুপেয় পানি এবং স্যানিটেশন সুবিধা প্রদান করতে আমরা অঙ্গীকারবদ্ধ। এ বিষয়ে সবাইকে অবশ্যই অবিচল থাকতে হবে। পানি সম্পর্কিত উচ্চ পর্যায়ের প্যানেলের একজন সদস্য হিসেবে আমি এ বিষয়ে সর্বদা সোচ্চার থাকব।



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received MDG Award, 2010



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivering statement at the High Level Plenary of the General Assembly on 'Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants', 19 September 2016, UN Headquarters, New York.

rates in the world with a modest resource base. We have brought down poverty from 56.7% in 1991 to 22.4% today. We have already graduated from the UNDP's low human development category to medium, and also the World Bank's lower-middle income status. Despite global recession, our export earnings grew by more than 3 times to USD 34.24 billion; remittance flow increased nearly 3 times; and, foreign currency reserve jumped by 8.5 times from US\$ 3.5 billion to over US\$ 31 billion over the last seven years.

During the same period, power generation capacity grew up by almost 3 times and foreign direct investment also rose by 3 times.

A key to our development strategy is our focus on addressing inequality through social security, decent work and financial inclusion. We allocate over 13 per cent of our budget to social safety net spending, which is 2.3 per cent of our GDP.

Mr. President,

Climate change threatens many of our development gains. The landmark Paris Climate Agreement recognizes the importance of adaptation, loss and damage, and climate justice. Bangladesh has ratified the Agreement. We hope that the large carbon emitting

countries would ratify the Agreement soon.

We must join ranks to preserve our natural resources for our succeeding generations. Bangladesh reaffirms the need for conservation and sustainable use of marine resources for tapping the potential of a 'Blue Economy'.

The life sustaining force of water is a finite resource. We have a shared responsibility to ensure judicious and equitable use of our common waters. We must stand by our pledge to provide clean drinking water and sanitation for all. I shall continue to champion these issues as a member of the High-level Panel on Water.

Mr. President,

I firmly believe that without women's participation, sustainable development would simply not be tenable. A host of measures, including promoting girls' education, undertaken half a decade ago started yielding dividends.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (center of 2nd row) with participants of the ministerial-level Climate Vulnerable Forum on 14 November 2011, Dhaka, Bangladesh

জনাব সভাপতি,

আমি দৃঢ়ভাবে বিশ্বাস করি, নারীর অংশগ্রহণ ছাড়া টেকসই উন্নয়ন সম্ভব নয়। প্রায় অর্ধ দশক পূর্বে নারী শিক্ষার উন্নয়নে গৃহীত বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপের ফল আমরা পেতে শুরু করেছি। বাংলাদেশের নারীরা এখন উন্নয়নের অবিচ্ছেদ্য অংশীদার। প্রায় ৩.৫ মিলিয়ন নারী এখন আমাদের প্রধানতম রপ্তানি খাত 'তৈরি পোশাক' শিল্পে কর্মরত। সকল পেশায় নারীর অংশগ্রহণের হার দ্রুত বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে।

সম্ভবতঃ বাংলাদেশ বর্তমানে পৃথিবীর একমাত্র দেশ যেখানে প্রধানমন্ত্রী ও সংসদ নেতা, বিরোধী দলীয় নেতা, স্পিকার এবং সংসদ উপনেতা সকলেই নারী। চলমান



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with the Commonwealth Heads of Government attending the 22nd Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Nations in Perth on 28 October 2011.

Women in Bangladesh are now increasingly becoming an integral part of our development endeavours. Around 3.5 million women are now working in the garments industry, the leading export earning sector. The percentage of women in all professions is rapidly rising. Bangladesh is perhaps the only country in the world today that has a woman Prime Minister and Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition, Speaker and Deputy Leader of the House. Presently, we have 70 women Members of Parliament constituting 20% of the House. Over 12,500 elected women representatives are serving in the local government bodies.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with the Leaders of 9th ASEM Summit 2012, Vientiane, Lao PDR

জাতীয় সংসদে আমাদের ৭০ জন নারী সংসদ সদস্য রয়েছেন, যা সংসদের মোট আসনের ২০ শতাংশ। ১২ হাজার ৫ শ'র বেশী নির্বাচিত নারী প্রতিনিধি স্থানীয় সরকার ব্যবস্থায় কাজ করছেন।

জনাব সভাপতি,

গত বছর আমি বলেছিলাম, বর্তমান সময়ের দু'টি প্রধান বৈশ্বিক চ্যালেঞ্জ হচ্ছে সন্ত্রাসবাদ ও সহিংস চরমপন্থা। আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি যে, এই চ্যালেঞ্জগুলো এখন কোন নির্দিষ্ট গণ্ডির মধ্যে আবদ্ধ না থেকে বিশ্বের সকল স্থানেই ছড়িয়ে পড়ছে। কোন দেশই আপাতঃদৃষ্টিতে নিরাপদ নয়, কোন ব্যক্তিই এদের লক্ষ্যবস্তুর বাইরে নয়।

আমেরিকা থেকে ইউরোপ, আফ্রিকা থেকে এশিয়ায় অগণিত নিরীহ মানুষ সন্ত্রাসবাদের শিকার হচ্ছে।

আমরা মনে করি, সন্ত্রাসীদের কোন ধর্ম, বর্ণ বা গোত্র নেই। এদেরকে সর্বোভাবে সমূলে উৎপাটন করার সংকল্পে আমাদের ঐক্যবদ্ধ থাকতে হবে। সন্ত্রাস ও সহিংস জঙ্গিবাদের মূল কারণগুলো আমাদের চিহ্নিত করতে হবে। একইসঙ্গে এদের পরামর্শদাতা, মূল পরিকল্পনাকারী, মদদদাতা, পৃষ্ঠপোষক, অর্থ ও অস্ত্র সরবরাহকারী এবং প্রশিক্ষকদের খুঁজে বের করতে হবে। তাদের বিরুদ্ধে কঠোর

Mr. President,

Last year, I mentioned terrorism and violent extremism as one of the two major global challenges of our time. We see these menaces sweeping across borders. No country seems immune, no individual beyond their target.

The terrorists are killing now and often numerous innocent people everywhere from USA to Europe, Africa to Asia.

We believe, terrorists have no religion, caste or creed. We must unite in our resolve to defeat and degrade them in all forms and manifestations. We have to identify the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism. At the same time, we have to find out the mentors, masterminds, abettors, financiers, arms suppliers and trainers of the terrorists and extremists, and take strong action against them.

As a victim of terrorist attacks myself, I have a 'zero tolerance' approach to terrorism and violent extremism. Our Government



Secretary-General Kofi Annan with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (left), and her sister, Sheikh Rehana (right), at the Netherlands Congress Centre. 15 May 1999, The Hague, Netherlands



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (left) with Danish Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen (centre) and Ex-Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (right) at the Bella Centre in Copenhagen, during the United Nations Climate Change Conference on 16 December 2009

ব্যবস্থা নিতে হবে।

নিজে একজন সন্ত্রাসী হামলার শিকার হিসেবে সন্ত্রাস ও সহিংস জঙ্গিবাদের বিরুদ্ধে আমি 'জিরো টলারেন্স' নীতিতে বিশ্বাসী। আমাদের দেশে যেসব সন্ত্রাসী গ্রুপের উদ্ভব হয়েছে, তাদের নিষ্ক্রিয় করা, তাদের নিয়মিত অর্থ সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থা নিয়ন্ত্রণ করা এবং বাংলাদেশের ভূখণ্ড থেকে আঞ্চলিক সন্ত্রাসীদের কার্যক্রম নির্মূল করার ক্ষেত্রে আমাদের সরকার সফল হয়েছে। কয়েকটি আন্তর্জাতিক সন্ত্রাসীচক্রের উত্থানের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে স্থানীয় কিছু প্রান্তিক গোষ্ঠী তাদের দ্বারা অনুপ্রাণিত হয়ে পুনঃসংগঠনের মাধ্যমে নতুনরূপে আবির্ভূত হয়ে থাকতে পারে।

বাংলাদেশ একটি অসাম্প্রদায়িক দেশ। গত পহেলা জুলাই আমরা এক ঘণ্য সন্ত্রাসী হামলার শিকার হই। ঢাকার একটি রেস্টোরায়ে কিছু দেশীয় উগ্রপন্থী সন্ত্রাসী ২০ জন নিরীহ মানুষকে হত্যা করে। এসময় ১৩ জন জিন্মিকে আমরা উদ্ধার করতে সমর্থ

did succeed in disintegrating the homegrown terrorist groups, plugging their regular financing pipelines, and flushing out the regional operatives from our territory. With the vicious rise of certain international terrorist entities, it appears some of the local fringe elements have drawn inspiration and managed to regroup and rebrand themselves.

Bangladesh, a unique country of religious harmony, experienced a grisly attack on 1 July 2016 when homegrown terrorists killed 20 people at a Dhaka restaurant. We were able to rescue 13 hostages unhurt. The horrific incident imprinted a deep scar on the hearts of Bangladeshi people.

We are now in battle with this new wave of terrorism. We have



হই। এই ভয়ঙ্কর ঘটনা বাংলাদেশের জনগণের মনে এক গভীর ক্ষতের সৃষ্টি করেছে।

বর্তমানে আমরা এই নতুন সন্ত্রাসের বিরুদ্ধে যুদ্ধ চালিয়ে যাচ্ছি। সন্ত্রাস ও জঙ্গিবাদ প্রতিরোধে জনগণকে সচেতন করতে এবং এর বিরুদ্ধে অবস্থান নিতে আমরা ব্যাপক কর্মসূচি হাতে নিয়েছি। এতে সাড়া দেওয়ার জন্য আমি সমগ্র জাতির প্রতি আহ্বান জানিয়েছি। আমরা সমাজের প্রতিটি স্তর থেকে অভূতপূর্ব সাড়া পাচ্ছি। আমি আত্মবিশ্বাসী যে, জনগণের দৃঢ়তা ও সহযোগিতায় আমরা বাংলাদেশের মাটি থেকে সন্ত্রাসীদের সমূলে উচ্ছেদ করতে পারব।

একই সঙ্গে আমি সন্ত্রাসী এবং উগ্রপন্থীদের অর্থ ও অস্ত্র-শস্ত্রের যোগান বন্ধ এবং তাদের প্রতি নৈতিক এবং বৈষয়িক সমর্থন না দেয়ার জন্য বিশ্ব সম্প্রদায়কে আহ্বান জানাচ্ছি।

জনাব সভাপতি,

বাংলাদেশ জাতিসংঘের অন্যতম প্রধান কর্মসূচি 'শান্তির সংস্কৃতি'র বিস্তারের পক্ষে প্রচার চালিয়ে যাবে। শান্তি রক্ষা এবং শান্তি প্রতিষ্ঠায় আমাদের অবদান অব্যাহত থাকবে। ঢাকায় 'Peacebuilding Centre' স্থাপনের সিদ্ধান্ত সহিংসতার কবল

undertaken massive programs to awaken people against radicalization and stand against militancy and extremism. I have called for whole of society response and got unprecedented response.

Our women, youth, families and communities can be our vanguards in offsetting extremism and radicalization. I am confident, with our people's resilience and support, we will make sure terrorists will have no place in our soil.

At the same time, I would like to urge the world community to plug the sources of fund, arms and ammunition as well as moral and material support for the militants and terrorists across the borders.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh will carry on promoting a Culture of Peace at the heart of the UN's agenda. We shall uphold our contribution to peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Our decision to set up a Peacebuilding Centre in Dhaka will allow us to share our



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at the Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation hosted by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, 19 September 2011, United Nations, New York

থেকে বেরিয়ে আসা দেশগুলোর সঙ্গে আমাদের অভিজ্ঞতা বিনিময়ের সুযোগ করে দিবে।

একইভাবে, আমরা নির্বিচারে হত্যার ক্ষেত্রে দায়বদ্ধতা ও বিচার নিশ্চিত করতে জাতীয় বিচারিক প্রক্রিয়ার ভূমিকাকে গুরুত্ব প্রদানে সোচ্চার থাকব। ১৯৭১ সালে আমাদের মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধের সময় গণহত্যা এবং মানবতাবিরোধী অপরাধের জন্য স্থানীয় অপরাধীদের বিচার নিশ্চিত করার মাধ্যমে আমরা বিগত কয়েক দশকের বিচারহীনতার সংস্কৃতি থেকে বেরিয়ে আসতে সক্ষম হয়েছি।

মধ্যপ্রাচ্য শান্তি প্রক্রিয়া পুনরায় চালু ও ভ্রাতৃত্বপূর্ণ ফিলিস্তিনী জনগণের প্রতি বৈরিতা



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a special moment with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at a high-level meeting on peacebuilding, 25 September 2012, United Nations, New York

experience with other countries emerging from conflicts.

Likewise, we shall remain vocal about recognizing the role of national judicial processes in ensuring accountability and justice for mass atrocities. We have moved past decades of impunity to ensure the trial of the local perpetrators of genocide and crimes against humanity during our Liberation War in 1971.

The recent efforts to resume the Middle East Peace Process and end hostilities against the brotherly Palestinian people must be pursued in the right direction.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (in the 2nd row, 5th from the right) with other participants of the High-level Leaders' Summit on Refugees on 20 September 2016, United Nations, New York

নিরসনের জন্য সাম্প্রতিক প্রচেষ্টাগুলোকে অবশ্যই সঠিক দিকে পরিচালিত করতে হবে।

জনাব সভাপতি,

বিশ্বায়নের এই যুগে আমাদের সামনে অনেক চ্যালেঞ্জ রয়েছে। তবে, যদি আমরা সঠিক পন্থা অবলম্বন করি, তাহলে এখানে সম্ভাবনা ও সুযোগও রয়েছে প্রচুর।

‘এক মানবতার’ জন্য কাজ করার উদ্দেশ্যে আমরা সকলে এখানে সমবেত হয়েছি। মতের ভিন্নতা থাকা সত্ত্বেও আসুন আমরা মানবতার স্বার্থে সকলে অভিন্ন অবস্থানে উপনীত হই এবং বিশ্ব থেকে সংঘাত দূর করে শান্তির পথে এগিয়ে যাই। এক্ষেত্রে জাতিসংঘই হতে পারে আমাদের জন্য একটি অনন্য প্ল্যাটফর্ম। আসুন আমরা এই সংস্থাকে আরও টেকসই এবং প্রাসঙ্গিক করে তুলতে নতুন করে শপথ গ্রহণ করি।

জনাব সভাপতি, আপনাকে ধন্যবাদ।

খোদা হাফেজ।

জয় বাংলা, জয় বঙ্গবন্ধু

বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক।

Mr. President,

In our globalized world, there are challenges. But, there are also potential opportunities and benefits for all, only if we know how to manage it right.

We are all gathered here to serve our ‘One Humanity’. Let us work through our differences, and find common grounds to make pragmatic changes we wish to see in the world around us. The UN provides us a unique platform to do so. Let us renew our resolve to create an organization of enduring relevance.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu

May Bangladesh Live Forever.

BANGLADESH AT THE HIGH-LEVEL WEEK OF THE 71ST UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA) 19-26 SEPTEMBER 2016

The High-Level Week of the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) spanned from 19-26 September 2016. Led by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh had a very successful participation at the 71st UNGA from 18-25 September 2016.

Hon'ble Prime Minister's entourage included, among others, Hon'ble Local Government, Rural Development & Co-Operatives Minister, Hon'ble Foreign Minister, Hon'ble Expatriates Welfare & Overseas Employment Minister, Hon'ble Information and Communication Technology Affairs Adviser to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble State Minister for Labour & Employment, and Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs. Hon'ble Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a number of Hon'ble Members of Parliament and Secretaries to the Government were also part of the delegation. A high-profile business delegation and some eminent persons from Bangladesh accompanied the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Hon'ble Prime Minister's participation at the 71st UNGA featured, among others, delivering country statement at the General Debate; chairing round tables with other world leaders; attending and speaking at plenaries of various high-level events; participating in high-level panels as panelist; having bilateral meetings with her counterparts; meeting heads of various international organizations/think tanks and high international dignitaries.

SUMMIT TO ADDRESS LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS:

This year's General Assembly, for the first time in the history of the United Nations, convened a Summit for Heads of State and Government to address the unprecedented large movements of refugees and migrants with a view to developing a better international response. It was a watershed moment. The 'boat people crisis' had earlier mobilized the United Nations Member States to embark on an intense negotiation to develop global guiding principles to address the issue of human mobility. On the day of the Summit, 193 member states signed up one plan wherein world leaders agreed to discuss a "Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration" and a

"Global Compact on Responsibility-Sharing for Refugees" and came up with a set of political commitments.

In her statement at the Summit, Hon'ble Prime Minister presented developing countries' perspective about migration in the light of a positive, new narrative and called upon world leaders to seize this historic opportunity to redefine perceptions and realities of human mobility in our time and deal with population movements in a comprehensive manner within a broader development context. She identified the critical elements to address migration and emphasized on having general agreement on these universal principles. Referring to Bangladesh's proposal for a Global Compact on Migration to address some of the long-standing gaps in migration governance, she outlined the important elements that the Compact should capture. There were 6 round-tables held on the sidelines of the Summit. Hon'ble Prime Minister Co-Chaired round table 5 entitled 'Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration' along with the President of Mexico and Prime Ministers of Sweden and Italy.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivering Statement at the General Debate of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly, 20 September 2016, UN Headquarters, New York

GENERAL DEBATE:

Quoting from the statement in the General Assembly in 1974, the commitment of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to peace in combatting the scourges facing the world, Hon'ble Prime Minister banked upon the amazing power of technology, ideas and global citizens to make us imagine a 'brave new world'. She shared our Government's efforts in mainstreaming most SDGs into our national development

plans. She also shared our use of ICT for innovative public service delivery, mass digitization, virtual connectivity, mass access to information and education, and enhanced transparency and accountability to build an inclusive, empowered, digital and knowledge-based society.

While portraying Bangladesh's prospect of an emerging hub for regional connectivity, foreign investments and global outsourcing, she mentioned our efforts in developing multi-modal transport network among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN). She also informed about the large-scale infrastructure projects that we have undertaken to match our development aspirations. She highlighted our tremendous socio-economic performance over the past several years, citing our impressive macro- and socio-economic indicators.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attending the Launching Event of the Global Deal Initiative organized by Stefan Lofven, Prime Minister of Sweden, 21 September 2016, UN Headquarters, New York



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina participating in the Launching Event of "Making Every Woman and Girl Count" organized by the Government of Australia, UN-Women, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and UN Foundation/Data2x, 21 September 2016, UN Headquarters, New York

Referring to ending inequality through social security, decent work and financial inclusion as keys to our development strategy, Hon'ble Prime Minister put emphasis on addressing climate change, preserving natural resources, equitable use of common water resources, tapping the potential of a 'Blue Economy' in our development endeavours. She also shared our successes in advancement of women.

Expressing concern about the rise of terrorism and violent extremism worldwide, Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasized on identifying their root causes and urged upon the world community to plug the sources of fund, arms and ammunition as well as moral and material support for the militants and terrorists across the borders. Referring to the battle with the 'new wave of terrorism' in the aftermath of the Holy Artisan attack, she mentioned about the massive programme her government undertook to awaken people against radicalization including her 'whole of society' approach and the unprecedented public response in this regard.

Hon'ble Prime Minister vowed to carry on promoting a Culture of Peace at the heart of the United Nation's agenda and uphold our contribution to peacekeeping and peacebuilding. She also affirmed the role of national judicial processes in ensuring accountability and justice for mass atrocities particularly in the context of our Liberation War in 1971.

OTHER HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS:

1. Leaders' Summit on Refugees: Hosted by US President Barack Obama, Hon'ble Prime Minister was one of the select world leaders invited to the Summit. In her statement, referring to the difficulties of separating refugees, migrants and other displaced people in the group of people on the move but the common challenges they faced, she emphasized on the need to treat them with compassion, solidarity and fairness.

She shared how Bangladesh, out of moral responsibility, was

hosting for decades a large number refugees and displaced persons from Myanmar despite multifarious challenges. Hon'ble Prime Minister expressed optimism for working with the new Myanmar leadership to find a lasting solution to this issue.

2. Women's leadership and Gender Perspectives on Preventing Violent Extremism: Prime Minister of Norway hosted this event where our Hon'ble Prime Minister was a special invitee. In her statement, reiterating her government's 'zero tolerance' policy against terrorism and violent extremism, Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasized on making women a part of the solution. She expressed her belief that societies that created space for women's participation and empowerment would have no room for violent

extremism and resolved to continue to enlarge that space for building a sustainable future. She shared how our progress in empowering women sidelined the religious extremist agenda and how our education system was spreading the values of tolerance, inclusion and diversity among young minds. She expressed her belief that education for all,

especially for girls, was a powerful tool to address radical behaviour and violent extremism. She encouraged mothers to act as role models and mentor their children against extremist narratives. Referring to the new trend among violent extremists to recruit women, she underscored the need for understanding the root causes that prompted these women to join such a wrong ideology.

3. Global Deal Initiative on Enhanced Social Dialogue for Decent Work and Inclusive Growth: Hosted by the Prime Minister of Sweden, our Hon'ble Prime Minister was invited to speak at this event. The Global Deal Initiative aimed at initiating dialogue among the development stakeholders for building a prosperous, harmonious and just society.

In her speech, Hon'ble Prime Minister shared our people-centric



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attending the 'Leaders Summit on Refugees' hosted by Barack Obama, President of the United States, 20 September 2016, UN Headquarters, New York



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attending the Second Meeting of the High-level Panel on Water with the UN Ex-Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, 21 September 2016, UNHQ, New York

and inclusive economic development efforts 'leaving no one behind' as well as our Government's efforts to ensure the welfare of labourers. Recognizing the importance of further raising the capacity and awareness of industry associations, trade unions, factory management and workers, she called upon the global stakeholders to deliver on their commitments on responsible business conduct, fair pricing and access to development finance.

4. Making Every Woman and Girl Count: This event was organised by the Government of Australia, UN-Women, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and UN Foundation/Data2x.

In her statement, emphasizing on the imperative of implementing the SDGs in a gender-responsive manner, Hon'ble Prime Minister highlighted Bangladesh's achievements with gender-related



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a Press Briefing on the High-level Panel on Water, 21 September 2016, UNHQ, New York

trans-boundary water bodies, including integrated management of river basins; investing in water related infrastructures; creating a global fund for SDG-6; and making water an integral part of the new development architecture.

6. South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Scaling up Innovation in Public Service Delivery: Hosted by Bangladesh Mission and UN Office for South-South Cooperation, in this event Bangladesh launched the idea of a network of public sector entities for promoting innovation through South-South and triangular cooperation.

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden co-chaired this programme. Hon'ble Information and Communication Technology Affairs Adviser to Hon'ble Prime



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the event on 'South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Scaling up Innovation in Public Service Delivery', 20 September 2016, UN Headquarters, New York

MDGs and expressed commitments to go further beyond. Referring to our gender-informed system-wide national efforts such as adoption of the National Women Development Policy, gender responsive budget, she emphasized, among others, on monitoring and evaluation, sound and gender-sensitive data base, partnership of men and boys, and public-private partnership.

5. High-Level Panel on Water: Set up by UN Secretary-General, Hon'ble Prime Minister is one of the distinguished members of the Panel which consists of 11 sitting Heads of State/Government and 1 Special Adviser. The core focus of the Panel is to provide leadership and commitment to attain SDG 6 as well as to contribute to the achievement of other SDGs that rely on the development and management of water resources. On 21 September 2016, the Panel called for a fundamental shift in the way the world looked at water and issued an Action Plan for a new approach to water management. In her statement, Hon'ble Prime Minister shared Bangladesh's achievements in ensuring safe water and sanitation for all.

She put forth some important actions such as, developing less water-intensive varieties of crops; promoting access to water-intensive technologies; ensuring equitable sharing of

Minister attended it. Referring to the huge potential of South-South and triangular co-operation in realizing SDGs, Hon'ble Prime Minister highlighted some of the Government measures and best practices in extensively utilizing ICTs to find creative solutions to development challenges and how these brought transformative changes in our society. Bangladesh was sharing these experiences with some other countries in the region as well. She proposed to establish a 'South-South Network of Public Organizations' to develop a broader understanding and exchange of public sector innovations among the global South.

BILATERAL MEETINGS:

Hon'ble Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with some of the world leaders on the side lines of the UNGA.

1. Meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Foreign Minister of Myanmar: Hon'ble Prime Minister expressed her pleasure at the return of democracy in Myanmar under Daw Suu Kyi's leadership and stressed that the two neighbouring countries should have continuous dialogue to resolve the problem in the Rakhine state through peaceful means. Daw Suu Kyi agreed to this proposition. Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasized on the early conclusion of the two MOUs, one on the Security Dialogue and



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivering statement at the High Level Plenary of the General Assembly on 'Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants', 19 September 2016, UN Headquarters, New York



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Co-Chairing the Roundtable titled 'Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration: Towards Realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Achieving Full Respect for the Human Rights of Migrants', 19 September 2016, UN Headquarters, New York

Cooperation and the other one on establishing 'Border Liaison Offices'. Daw Suu Kyi also expressed similar sentiments on these two MOUs.

- Meeting with Baroness Patricia Scotland QC, Commonwealth Secretary General: The Commonwealth Secretary General (CWSG) praised women's leadership in Bangladesh. She expressed her desire to motivate the huge youth population of the world, including Bangladesh in realizing the 2030 Agenda.

She also envisaged a more effective role for Commonwealth in attaining SDGs, addressing climate change and countering violent extremism. On countering terrorism, our Hon'ble Prime Minister stressed on two things, firstly, to find out the financial resources of the terrorist groups and secondly, the underlying causes of young generations to join these terrorist groups. The CWSG



ICT Advisor to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sajeed Ahmed Wazed receiving the 'ICT for Development' Award by the World Organization of Governance and Competitiveness, Plan Trifinio, Global Fashion for Development & School of Business, New Haven University, Connecticut, USA, 19 September 2016, Hotel Millennium, New York

appreciated the de-radicalization measures taken by our Government involving people from all walks of life. She deeply commended our efforts in maintaining communal harmony. Then the CWSG shared her vision to "put wealth in Commonwealth" by working more closely with Commonwealth business entity to enhance trade flow. Hon'ble Prime Minister praised her vision.

- Meeting with Mr. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council: Hon'ble Prime Minister appreciated the continued support from the EU on DFQF access of Bangladeshi products in the EU market. The President of the European Council highly praised the speech of the Hon'ble Prime Minister delivered at the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants. Upon query, she informed the President of the status of the huge number of unregistered/undocumented Myanmar nationals staying in Bangladesh for decades. She also elaborated on the measures taken by her government after the July terrorist attacks and the subsequent massive de-radicalization

process involving the entire society. The President deeply appreciated our efforts.

- Meeting with Mr. Johann Schneider - Ammann, President of Switzerland: Commending the socio-economic developments of Bangladesh under the present leadership, the Swiss President commented that Europe on the other hand was suffering from uncertainties. Hon'ble Prime Minister recalled that the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, had considered Switzerland as a model and wanted to develop

Bangladesh as the 'Switzerland of the East'. She called for more investments from Switzerland in Bangladesh and technical assistance particularly in the energy sector.

The President agreed to Hon'ble Prime Minister's proposals. Referring to the waiver for service sector issued for the LDCs in WTO, she requested the President to consider similar treatment for

Bangladesh. The President agreed to look into this issue.

- The President of World Bank Dr. Jong Yong Kim and Professor Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman and Founder of World Economic Forum also called on the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS:

- Hon'ble Prime Minister attended the Luncheon Reception hosted by the United Nations Secretary-General and also the Reception hosted by the US President.
- Meeting with the Business Council of International Understanding (BCIU): In her statement, calling the present relationship between Bangladesh and USA as the best, Hon'ble Prime Minister reflected on how the strategic partnership was getting broader and deeper being complemented by the growing business relationship. Explaining that our apparel industry was contributing not only to economic development but also to our fight against terrorism and extremism, she exhorted for US's DFQF access of our apparel to its



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina having a bilateral meeting with Mr. Donald Tusk, President, European Council, 21 September 2016, UN Headquarters, New York



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina having a bilateral meeting with Mr. Johann Schneider-Ammann, President of Switzerland, 20 September 2016, UN Headquarters, New York

market. She also encouraged for greater US investments in Bangladesh and urged upon the US business community to join the mutually lucrative Bangladesh-US partnership in a bigger way. Assistant Secretary of US Department of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, US business leaders including from American Tower Corporation, Walmart, MetLife, Boeing, Chevron Corporation, General Electrics, Coca Cola attended the meeting.

- Hon'ble Prime Minister attended a reception organized by the Bangladesh community in her honour. She also addressed a press briefing at the Mission.

Other senior members of the delegation also attended a host of high-level events pertaining to their respective areas of interest.

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS RECEIVED:

Hon'ble Prime Minister received the 'Planet 50-50 Champion' award given by UN-Women and the 'Agent of Change Award' given by Global Partnership Forum, as the recognition of her outstanding contribution and untiring efforts towards women's empowerment in Bangladesh.

In her acceptance speech, Hon'ble Prime Minister dedicated the awards to the people of Bangladesh for having faith in her vision for



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attending a Reception organized by the Bangladesh Community in the USA, 21 September 2016, Hotel Grand Hyatt, New York

MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENTS:

Hon'ble Foreign Minister handed over the instrument of ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change to the UN Secretary General at a high-level event on 21 September 2016. He chaired a session of the General Debate of the 71st UNGA. Special Water Envoy of the Netherlands Mr. Henk Ovink handed over the Chairmanship of Delta Coalition to the Hon'ble Foreign Minister. Hon'ble Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and Russia signed the 'Agreement on Visa Free Visit for Persons Holding Diplomatic and Official (Service) Passports'. Besides, Hon'ble Foreign Minister and Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs chaired/participated/spoke at various Ministerial events of Commonwealth; LDCs; SAARC; OIC; ACD; D8; UN OHRLLS, Alliance of Civilization, Antimicrobial Resistance; and had bilateral meetings with their counterparts. Foreign Secretary had bilateral meetings with several of his counterparts as well as some UN high officials; and participated in a number of events/panels on migration, climate change and connectivity.

change and termed this as a recognition of the women of Bangladesh as the true agents of change. She reaffirmed her pledge to implement the SDGs, with gender equality at the core.

Mr. Sajeeb Ahmed Wazed, Hon'ble Information and Communication Technology Affairs Adviser to Hon'ble Prime Minister received the 'ICT for Development Award 2017' given by the World Organization of Governance and Competitiveness for the UN SDGs for his enormous contribution to the ongoing digitalization of Bangladesh.

Hon'ble Prime Minister was present on this occasion. In her remarks, she shared how ICT became a critical enabler for our inclusive growth, sustainable development and good governance as well as for building a knowledge-based society. She also recognized ICT as a key to unlocking the full potentials of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CONCLUSION:

Hon'ble Prime Minister's participation in the 71st UNGA assumed significance for a number of reasons. It took place in the backdrop of several important global developments such as the 'boat people



Patricia Scotland QC, the Commonwealth Secretary General calling on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, 19 September 2016, UNHQ, New York



Professor Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman and Founder, World Economic Forum (WEF) calling on the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, 22 September 2016, UNHQ, New York

crisis, rise of terrorism and violent extremism, adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, adoption of the SDGs, selection of a new UN Secretary-General and the upcoming US presidential election, to name a few. It was also significant for being the last session for President Obama and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Hon'ble Prime Minister's presence in the Summit to Address Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants was a vindication of the importance Bangladesh attaches to the issue of migration. The early deposition of the Instrument of Ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change by Bangladesh during this session, was another

partners for bilateral meetings of their Heads of State/Government with our Hon'ble Prime Minister; as well as by international organizations and internationally reputed think tanks for calls on by their Heads/Chiefs. These are testimonies of Hon'ble Prime Minister's high stature in the league of world leaders.

In the bilateral meetings with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, all the dignitaries noted Bangladesh's impressive socio-economic achievements. These engagements proved to be very effective since they featured discussion on some important bilateral issues.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a High-level Reception in support of the First Anniversary of the Adoption of the UNSDGs and the Importance of ICT & Competitiveness as a Tool for Sustainable Development, 19 September 2016, Hotel Millennium, New York

important development. The launching of our idea of innovative public service delivery drew quite some attention among the Member States.

The presence of our Hon'ble Prime Minister in the 71st UNGA assumed prominence which could be made out of the large number of invitations she received to attend various high-level events on the margins. In fact, she was quite sought after by many countries including the developing ones to have her as co-chair or panelist alongside their Heads of State and Government. They wanted to hear about our development endeavours. So, while her presence enhanced the profile of these events it was also a good opportunity to share our success stories. Bangladesh being one of those countries which exhibited consistent and fruitful implementation of many United Nations development programmes, relevant United Nations entities were also keen to have our Hon'ble Prime Minister in their events to project their success stories. Understandably the high-level events which Hon'ble Prime Minister graced were very prestigious. Similar interests were expressed by many Member States/development

Through Hon'ble Prime Minister's participation, we could project the perspectives of our and other developing countries on various issues from a different level which is expected to have made greater impact. In the aftermath of the Holy Artisan incident, it was particularly important for us to inform and reassure the global community about our efforts in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. This UNGA provided us with a very good platform in this regard. And that having been done at our highest political level and during the high-level week—it could not be better. This also showed our commitment.

The vision, political guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister which transpired in her statements/interventions/interactions with world leaders has been important for formulating and adjusting Bangladesh's country positions on issues of our interest and incorporating those in the subsequent General Assembly resolutions and proceedings of the United Nations over the remainder of the session.

71ST UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA): A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF MISSION'S ACTIVITIES

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) opened its 71st session on 13 September 2016, with an emphasis on ensuring that implementation of the new global development goals, adopted by its 193 Member States last year, is well underway. "The 70th Session launched the SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals], and for integrity's sake the 71st must be the year we witness the wheels turning on the implementation of all 17 SDGs," the President of the General Assembly, Peter Thomson, said as he took an oath of office before proceeding to open the new session.

Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the United Nations actively participated in the works of the 71st UNGA which will continue till the second week of September 2017. The Mission successfully handled both logistically and substance-wise the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the United Nations in New York from 18-25 September 2016 to attend the high-level segment of the 71st UNGA. In addition to delivering country statement at the General Debate, Hon'ble Prime Minister attended a number of Summits, panels and some prestigious side-events alongside other Heads of State/Government.

The Mission, through its designated delegates/experts, extensively covered and actively engaged in the works of all the six Main Committees of the General Assembly namely, First Committee (Disarmament & International Security); Second Committee (Economic & Financial); Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural); Fourth Committee (Special Political & Decolonization); Fifth Committee (Administrative & Budgetary) and Sixth Committee (Legal). The Committee works began on 29 September 2016 and continued till 23 December 2016. In addition, the Mission followed and participated in other activities of the General Assembly, Security Council, ECOSOC and the Secretariat.

The work of the 71st UNGA will continue till 12 September 2017, the very same day the work of the next session (72nd) to begin.

This is an attempt to share the highlights of the important activities of the Mission at the United Nations which are clustered into three broad categories namely, Peace and Security; Human Rights; and Development, in line with the three founding pillars of the United Nations.

PEACE AND SECURITY

- Peacekeeping: Peacekeeping comes at the forefront of Bangladesh's image at the UN and to the world. This is what Bangladesh is best known for at the UN in terms of her contribution to global peace and security. We have consistently been one of the leading troop and police contributing

countries. The professionalism, sincerity, dedication, diligence and amiability of our peacekeepers-- often regarded as 'Model Peacekeepers', are highly praised among the Member States.

A significant achievement of the year 2016 was selection of Major General Mohammad Humayun Kabir as the Force Commander of United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). This reflects the professionalism and leadership quality of our peacekeepers.

There is now stiff competition among troop and police contributing countries to send peacekeeping personnel to peacekeeping missions. Still Bangladesh received offer of one infantry battalion (850) and an engineering company (260) for speedy deployment to South Sudan which is underway. This has been possible due to our high reputation and consistent endeavour. Bangladesh will also deploy one Formed Police Unit from Bangladesh Police (180) in Mali soon.

- Peacebuilding Commission: As the coordinator of the NAM Caucus in the Peacebuilding Commission, Bangladesh delegation played a lead role in negotiations on the substantively identical General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions on UN peacebuilding architecture review.

- Terrorism and violent extremism: In the aftermath of the terrorist attack in Gulshan on 01 July 2016, Bangladesh delegation further enhanced its engagement with the UN, its counter-terrorism related bodies and interested Member States to keep them apprised of the comprehensive measures taken by the Government to combat terrorism and prevent violent extremism pursuant to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's 'zero tolerance' policy.



Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, addresses the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping. Leaders of more than 50 countries gathered for the Summit to pledge new commitments and strengthen existing capabilities, 28 September 2015, United Nations, New York

The Hon'ble Prime Minister's own pronouncements in this regard at the 71st UNGA received positive response from the international community in general. The Mission also actively participated in various debates and negotiations taking place at the UN from time to time on counter-terrorism (CT) and preventing violent extremism (PVE). We also hosted events along with other Member States and UN counter-terrorism bodies to inform the international community of our domestic efforts and policy perspectives.

To showcase the effective and unique combination of Government's and society's efforts in this regard particularly those of religious leaders, the Mission facilitated the visit of the Grand Imam of Sholokia Mowlana Masoud to engage with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (UNCTITF) as well as with the High Representative of UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) where he shared



Permanent Representative of Bangladesh Masud Bin Momen delivering his speech at UNGA during the adoption of "Culture of Peace" resolution on 23 December 2016.



An event on Terrorism and Violent Extremism at the UNHQ jointly organised by the Permanent Missions of Bangladesh, Norway and Jordan on 01 February 2017 where Maulana Fariduddin Masud was present

his organization's work in preparing and disseminating counter-narratives to terrorist and violent extremist propaganda in the light of Quran and Hadith. This was deeply appreciated by UNCTIF and UNAOC.

- Peace and Security: The Mission closely followed the work of the Security Council and participated in the monthly open debates of the Council on various thematic issues. On behalf of NAM countries, we also took a lead role in the negotiations on adopting and defining the landmark and comprehensive notion of 'sustaining peace' as a centerpiece of the UN's peace and security agenda. Besides, Bangladesh delegation is getting increasingly involved in the activities of UN for addressing various non-traditional and new security threats related to cyber security, space security, asymmetric security, maritime security, and nuclear security.

Despite not being a member of the Security Council, with the help of

different member countries of the Council, we managed to contribute to various subject-oriented Security Council resolutions such as those on peacekeeping, counter-terrorism, nuclear non-proliferation where our interests were involved. As a major troop and police contributing country, we took active part in various security related meetings of the Security Council.

- Issue of Palestine: Bangladesh voted in favour of all the 13 resolutions of the UN on Palestine this year. We also gave strong statements in favour of Palestine in various meetings of the General Assembly and Security Council.
- Culture of Peace Resolution: Bangladesh's flagship resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace" was adopted on 23 December 2016 at the General Assembly. We have been presenting this resolution since 2001. Due to this long association, Bangladesh and Culture of Peace have become almost synonymous in the UN parlance.

Although more than 15 years have passed since its first adoption, this resolution due to its universal appeal and global nature of substance has been continuously receiving overwhelming support of Member States which is evident from the growing number of co-sponsorship. This year

102 countries cosponsored this resolution which is the testimony of Bangladesh's acceptance in the world as a proponent of peace. Culture of Peace is now recognized also as a thematic tool for attaining global peace. This wide acceptance had led to the convening of the High-Level Forum on Culture of Peace by the President of General Assembly since 2012 which provides a unique opportunity to bring together Member States and stakeholders and to reinvigorate our common endeavour for promoting a Culture of Peace.

DEVELOPMENT

- Migration: For Bangladesh, migration is a very important issue and the Government is committed to ensuring the welfare of our migrants and safe, regular and orderly migration worldwide. Bangladesh delegation has been the resounding voice on migration in the recent time. The New York

Declaration for Refugees and Migrants was adopted in the 19th September Summit in New York. Bangladesh delegation played a leading role in bringing out specific commitments in that declaration to ensure the interest of migrants. Earlier, during the negotiations in the run up to the New York Declaration, we coined the idea of a Global Compact for safe, regular and orderly migration which is expected to pave the way for setting global norms



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2015 in Bangladesh

for migrants particularly for migration governance. Negotiation on the Global Compact has started and Bangladesh delegation is playing an important role in these negotiations as well.

The Mission also lunched the 'Friends of Migration' Group in New York to consolidate our migration related interests. As the Chair for Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) for 2016, Bangladesh hosted a number of international events in Dhaka, New York and Geneva to promote safe, regular and orderly migration. Bangladesh has successfully hosted the 9th GFMD Summit in Dhaka in December 2016 which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. All these events are providing important inputs for shaping the Global Compact negotiation.

- Implementation of the 2030 Agenda: Bangladesh will be one of the 40 odd countries to take part in the Voluntary National Review this year on the



A dialogue on Global Migration Compact arranged by Bangladesh at UNHQ.



Bangladesh leading the LDCs at the event of establishing the Technology Bank for the LDCs on 23 December 2016 at UNHQ.

domestic implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the High Level Political Forum (10-19 July 2017) under the auspices of the ECOSOC. Having decided to be subject to the review so early is a demonstration of our high confidence.

- Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Bangladesh was one of the first countries to ratify the Paris Agreement, as early in April 2016. Hon'ble Foreign Minister deposited the Instrument of Ratification of the Agreement to the United Nations Secretary-General on 21 September 2016. Besides, Bangladesh delegation actively took part in all the meetings / negotiations on climate change and disaster risk reduction held at the UN this year.
- Efforts to graduate from LDC category: Considering our national interest in graduating from the least developed countries (LDCs) category, Bangladesh delegation, as the current chair of the LDCs, ensured the insertion of graduation issues in several resolutions such as those on LDCs, QCPR (Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review) etc. We have strongly called upon Member States to provide targeted and time-specific support to the graduating as well as the graduated countries.
- Technology Bank: The UN Member States unanimously decided to establish the Technology Bank for the LDCs, the newest organ of the General Assembly, to foster technological leapfrogging and access to modern technologies by LDCs. Bangladesh delegation played the lead role, as the G77 coordinator, in ensuring consensus among Member States. This was a milestone achievement for the LDCs under the chairmanship of Bangladesh. The President of General Assembly particularly acknowledged with appreciation the role played by Bangladesh delegation in the entire process.
- Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR): The QCPR resolution provides strategic guidance to the United Nations Development System (UNDS) to better support the developing countries in their efforts to achieve internationally agreed development goals particularly the 2030 Agenda. The negotiation of the QCPR this year was among the most contentious ones. Bangladesh delegation successfully incorporated some

vital issues in the resolution ensuring that the developing countries like Bangladesh got prioritized allocation from the UNDS. First, recognition in the QCPR for the first time that the LDCs needed special attention of the global community in their development process. Second, recognition that LDCs needed support from the UNDS for their implementation of the IPOA (Istanbul Programme of Action) and the SDGs. Third, assertion that ODA commitments must be fulfilled for the developing countries which was a critical source of UNDS. Fourth, commitment that countries looking at graduation from the LDCs category must be supported for graduation.

Similarly, the graduated as well as the graduating countries to get targeted support for a specific period after the graduation. Fifth, the Technology Bank for the LDCs to receive support from the UNDS for its effective operationalization.

- Mid Term Review (MTR) of the Istanbul Program of Action: The political declaration of the MTR reflects the commitment of the international community to support the LDCs in graduation and also in implementing the



Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, MP leading the LDC's Ministerial Meeting at UNHQ on 24 Sept 2016.

2030 Agenda. Bangladesh delegation coordinated the negotiation on the political declaration and played an important role in having a balanced outcome document.

- Blue Economy: Currently significant work is going on at the UN on Sustainable use of Oceans and Seas and Maritime Resources. We are playing an active role in it to protect the interest of Bangladesh as well as developing countries.
- Participation in ECOSOC: Bangladesh had high-level participation and active engagement in the functional commissions as well as affiliated bodies of ECOSOC such as Commission for Social Development (CSocD), Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Commission on Population and Development (CPD), UN Statistical Commission, UN Forum on Forests, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) etc. This is the demonstration of Bangladesh's commitment to the socio-economic agenda of the United Nations.
- Health issues: Bangladesh had increased participation in UN activities related to various health issues such as autism, disabilities, HIV/AIDS, anti-microbial, climate induced health hazards and other



State Minister for Women and Children affairs of Bangladesh Meher Afroze MP in a meeting with her counterpart Karina Gould, International Development Affairs Minister of Canada during the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 21 March 2016, UNHQ, New York



Mahjabeen Khaled MP delivering her statement at the Security Council on "Water, Peace and Security" at UNHQ

non-communicable diseases.

HUMAN RIGHTS

- Human rights: Bangladesh delegation attended and made contributions to various meetings of Human Rights Treaty Bodies round the year which shows our commitment in the promotion and protection of human rights of all. Buoyed by the spirit of our glorious War of Liberation, we participated in the observance of the 'International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime' by the UN on 9 December 2016. To prevent in other countries the recurrence of genocide and crimes against humanity committed during our War of Liberation, we have been supporting UN activities related to the International Criminal Court. The Mission is also working for internationalization of our Genocide.
 - Advancement of women, children and youth: Due to the outstanding work done in Bangladesh for women's empowerment under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina which the Mission carried forward through our active engagement in various negotiations on women's issues at the UN, Bangladesh is regarded at the UN as an example for women's empowerment.
- Among other events, the Mission's participation at the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the Ministerial level, organization of two side events and active involvement in the negotiation of the outcome of CSW demonstrate our commitment to the cause of advancement of women. Due to our acceptability by the UN and its membership, we are often approached by various Permanent Missions and UN bodies to speak on this issues. This has given us added visibility and credentials. We also show-cased in related UN events our domestic achievements and our best practices in ameliorating the condition of children and youth.
- Autism: The excellent work being done in Bangladesh on Autism under the leadership of Ms. Saima Wazed Hossain--Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee on Autism, Member of WHO's Expert Advisory Panel on Mental Health, and elected Chairperson of the International Jury Board



Saima Wazed Hossain, Member WHO's Expert Advisory Panel on Mental Health, Chairperson of National Advisory Committee on Autism of Bangladesh and daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivering her speech at a High-Level side event of UN World Autism Awareness Day 2016 at the UNHQ.

of UNESCO-Emir Jaber al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, is deeply appreciated at the UN. As a recognition of that, Ms. Saima Wazed Hossain, on invitation from the UN, attended a High-Level event at the UNHQs on 'World Autism Awareness Day -2016' on 01 April 2016 as the Key-note Speaker. The event was co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Bangladesh and Qatar and renowned international NGO 'Autism Speaks' and co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of USA, India, Republic of Korea and Kazakhstan. Mrs. Ban Soon-taek, spouse of the then Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke

at the opening session of the event on behalf of the Secretary-General.

- Ms. Saima Wazed Hossain also spoke, as a panelist, at a panel discussion arranged by the UN Department of Public Information and Department of Economic and Social Affairs the same day where she shared with the world audience what the Government of Bangladesh was doing for inclusion and integration of persons with autism in national development efforts.

•Disabilities: The Mission

has consistently been a strong voice for the cause of disability and actively took part in the events on disabilities organized at the UNHQs from time to time. As a part of that, on 02 December 2016, Bangladesh Mission partnered with ten other Permanent Missions (Australia, Bulgaria, Colombia, Ecuador, Italy, Jamaica, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea and Singapore) as well as the New York City Mayor's Office in organizing a special event for people with disabilities at the ECOSOC Chamber. To show Bangladesh's solidarity with the issue we also had high-level political participation at the high-level panel meeting to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities held at the UN the same day.

- Human Trafficking and Refugees: Bangladesh being a source, transit and destination country for trafficking, we were actively involved in various forums at the UN on the issue of trafficking. We also contributed to the ongoing refugee related works of the UN.
- Economic Wing of the Permanent Mission remained actively engaged at the UN in maintaining and strengthening Bangladesh's economic and development co-operation with the UN Development System (UNDS)



State Minister for Health Zahid Maleque speaks at the 49th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) at UNHQ, New York, 11 April 2016



Delegation from US Army War College at the Mission on 8 April 2016

which helped foster our meaningful role across the UN system. Engagements with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) which consists of 32 UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies & other development entities as well as liaison with regional offices and bureaus, ensured securing Bangladesh's interests in the works of the UNDS at the country level. Special emphasis was given to enhance the support of the UNDS towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 'Vision 2021' for Bangladesh to become a middle-income country. In addition, fruitful dialogue was organized with potential high net worth investors from Bangladesh diaspora and prospective investors from US. Bangladesh's leading contribution to protecting interests of the Least Developed Countries

was directed towards strengthening the UNDS and increasing effectiveness of the UN Funds and Programmes to cater to the special needs of these particular group of countries.

OTHERS

- Elections: The Mission actively engaged in various elections at the UN and beyond throughout the year. All these contributed to Bangladesh's visibility as well as securing its candidatures for various posts. Through our elected representatives at UN and international bodies, Bangladesh could enhance its sphere of influence and prestige. By rendering our reciprocal support to various countries for their candidatures, we could expand and improve bilateral relations with these countries. Following are the positions to which Bangladesh was elected in 2016:

- Vice President of the 71 UNGA
- President, International Sea Bed Authorities
- Member of the International Civil Service Commission
- Member of the UN Joint Pension Committee
- Member of Postal Operation Council.

Currently Bangladesh is a member of the Human Rights Council and also the President of IPU (Inter-Parliamentary Union).

- Bangladesh in various UN bodies: Bangladesh has been serving with reputation as elected members of various UN bodies and international organizations such as:

- Commissions of ECOSOC namely, CSW (Commission on the Status of Women); CSocD (Commission for Social Development); and CPD (Commission on Population and Development)
- UN funds/programmes/specialized agencies/related organizations: UNICEF, UNESCO, UNHABITAT (UN Human Settlements Programme), OPCW (Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons), WFP (World Food Programme), ILO, CPC (Committee for Programme and Coordination); IMO (International Maritime Organization); ITU (International Telecommunication Union)
- Human rights treaty bodies: CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women), CMW (Committee on Migrant Workers).



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP at the special thematic event on "Building synergy and coherence in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" at the UNHQ in New York, 11 February 2016.

These are testimonies of our respectable position in the comity of nations.

- Selection of the new UN Secretary-General: The active participation of Bangladesh delegation, as LDC Chair, in the process of selection of the new Secretary General of UN and also as a member of the Group of Friends of Women Secretary-General, may be seen as our contribution to selecting the world's top diplomat.
- Revitalization of General Assembly

and reform of the Security Council: Bangladesh delegation actively took part in the ongoing exercise among the Member States on the revitalization of General Assembly and reform of the Security Council.

- Rohingya issue: The Mission remains engaged with the UN leadership and the OIC Group in New York on Rohingya issues.
- Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU) Resolution: Bangladesh delegation tabled the General Assembly resolution entitled 'Interaction between the United Nations, National Parliaments and the IPU (Inter-Parliamentary Union)' on 25 July 2016. The resolution was adopted by consensus with the co-sponsorship of around 100 countries. Taking the leading responsibility in adopting this resolution, Bangladesh delegation reaffirmed its commitment in promoting the value of democracy and the role of Parliament in realizing the decisions/actions adopted at the UN.
- Facilitation of resolutions by Bangladesh delegation: Bangladesh coordinated LDC resolution under Second Committee on behalf of Group of 77 and China. We acted as facilitators for a humanitarian resolution of



Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith speaks at the UNDP 50th Anniversary Ministerial Meeting at UNHQ, 24 February 2016



Bangladesh Parliamentary delegation led by the then Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Suranjit Sengupta MP at the Annual Parliamentary Hearing of UN, 8 February 2016, UNHQ, New York

the General Assembly entitled 'Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations'; as well as for two Fifth Committee resolutions--one on 'Strengthening the UN's mediation function' and the other one on 'Special subvention for the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone'. We also facilitated the negotiations of the 'Culture of Peace' resolution and the resolution entitled 'Interaction between the United Nations, National Parliaments and the IPU' under the General Assembly plenary. These are prestigious responsibilities for any Member State.

- Role in NAM and OIC: The Mission actively participates and follows the New York based activities of these two organizations. Bangladesh is the current coordinator of the NAM Caucus in the Peacebuilding Commission. Bangladesh delegation also represented NAM countries in the negotiation on the concept of 'sustaining peace'.
- Hosting side events at the UN: Bangladesh Mission hosted/partnered a

Mission receives ministerial and high-level official delegations from Bangladesh. And despite the Mission's logistic limitations, we have been able to cater to them quite successfully—substance-wise and logistically. In 2016, we facilitated a total of 332 visitors from Bangladesh (22 Ministers, 13 MPs, 31 Secretaries).

- Public diplomacy: Due to our heightened presence at the UN, we are often invited to speak at international conferences/workshops/seminars/panels outside UN and also at universities/think tanks/NGOs. These are great opportunities to showcase Bangladesh and the Mission takes the full benefit out of such engagements.
- Familiarization of Mission's activities and media outreach: The Mission often takes the opportunity of the presence of delegations from the capital to brief them on our activities at the UN. From time to time, we also interact with our expatriate community members and local media personnel to share with them what the Mission does at the UN.



Permanent Representative of Bangladesh Masud Bin Momen briefs the local media personnel on Mission's activities at the UN.

number of events at the UN on various issues as well as on the sidelines of high-level meetings such as CSW (Commission on the Status of Women), CPD (Committee on Population and Development) etc. We have significant domestic achievements in many sectors such as women's empowerment, child marriage, disaster management, climate change, poverty eradication, migration, countering-terrorism and preventing violent extremism etc. As a result, when there is any event at UN on these issues, other Member States or relevant UN bodies usually become keen to take us as co-hosts/partners. We are often invited to speak as resource persons or panelists. These are testimonies of our country position in the global community.

- Bilateral relations with concurrently accredited countries: Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York is concurrently accredited to Peru, Guatemala and El Salvador. We established diplomatic relations with El Salvador in October 2016. We are trying to appoint an Honorary Consul in Guatemala. So, we are involved in promoting bilateral relations with these countries in addition to our conference diplomacy.
- Extending protocol courtesies: To demonstrate our commitment to various issues of our interest at the UN and also to enhance our visibility, we often require high level presence and political support. Round the year, the

- Image building: The Mission hosts events/programmes on our Independence & National Day, Victory Day, Birthday of Father of the Nation, Pohela Boishakh, Shaheed Dibash & International Mother Language Day, and on other national occasions. Apart from arranging cultural programmes for Pohela Boishakh and Rabindra-Nazrul Joyonti, we host stand-alone cultural events at prestigious venues in the city to showcase our rich tradition and cultural heritage. These events are meant mainly for foreign audience. The Mission hosted, on 21 February 2017, for the first time a programme at the United Nations Headquarters for observance of the International Mother Language Day which drew appreciation of Member States. Members of expatriate Bangladesh community are also invited to these programmes.

This is just a snapshot of Mission's activities where only major developments/events/activities have been captured. Apart from these, numerous negotiations/meetings/events take place each day round the year at the UN on various issues. Depending on relevance, Bangladesh delegation tried to cover/contribute to as many of those as possible. From the perspective of our overall engagement, it could be said that Bangladesh have had a successful year at the UN.

BANGLADESH: A SUCCESS STORY

Bangladesh has been termed as the 'Role Model' of development under the successful leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her two terms of holding office since 2009. A brief description of Bangladesh's development stories is as follows:

ECONOMIC INDEX: Bangladesh economy has a strong base today. In the Economic Development Index, it takes the 5th position in the world. The GDP of Bangladesh is eight lakh crores Taka which makes Bangladesh 44th in world ranking and in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) Bangladesh stands at 32nd in the world. With a record of a steady 6.5% increase in its growth rate, Bangladesh has amazed the world.

In the fiscal year 2015-2016, the growth rate of Bangladesh was 7.11% and on the net fiscal it is expected to be 7.4%. Bangladesh shows much progress in the economic and social development index compared to many other countries in South Asia and the Least Developed Countries. According to the Price Water House Coopers Report, Bangladesh will be the 29th country in the list of

DIGITAL BANGLADESH: The Government of Bangladesh has been able to provide fiber optics connectivity to every Upazila (sub-district) of the country, most of which have also been brought under 3G services. Throughout the country, 5,275 digital centers and 8,200 e-post offices have been established and people from remote areas are facilitated through delivery of 200 types of digital services.

The cost of bandwidth is now reduced to Tk. 625 from Tk. 76,000 in 2007. According to statistics, 130 million SIM cards are used all over the country and about 64 million people use the internet. Bangladesh now has world's one of the largest national web portals that consist of over 25,000 websites. All the Government tenders are now made accessible through the e-GP. The government plans to launch 4G services within a very short time.

The country now exports software and ICT services to 40 countries. The youth are heavily involved in outsourcing and are provided with various trainings to increase their efficiency. Freelancing training is being provided to 34,750 people of which



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaking at the inaugural session of Bangladesh Development Forum 2015 on 15 November 2015, Dhaka

economically developed country by the year 2030 and 23rd country in the same list by the year 2050.

The per capita income is US Dollars 1466 and the inflation rate at present is 5.03%. The foreign currency reserve in the fiscal year of 2015-16 has reached US\$ 32.24 billion.

Over the last eight years, Bangladesh created 1.5 million employment in and outside the country. In the FY 2015-16, 7,57,731 people were sent to foreign countries as skilled workers. At least 50 million people have moved up the social ladder from lower income to middle income. For the overall development, Bangladesh has already implemented its 6th five-year plan and has started to prepare the 7th five-year plan.

70% are women.

The Government has initiated the project of building the Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City at Kaliakoir. Such endeavours also include 20 hi-tech parks, software technology parks, IT village across the country. The software Technology Park in Jessore is expected to start within this year and the operational work of software technology park at Janata Tower in Kawran Bazar has already begun. Several IT Training and Incubation Centers have been built to provide vocational training to the interested locals.

Bangladesh has joined the second submarine cable network known as the SEA-ME-WE-5 International Consortium and is expected to receive almost 1300 GBPS bandwidth from the submarine cable. The work on launching the country's very own



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visiting a stall of BGMEA at the fair of Bangladesh Development Forum on 15 November 2015, BICC, Dhaka

satellite 'Bangabandhu Satellite-1' is progressing rapidly. We are already exporting bandwidth.

Mr. Sajeeb Ahmed Wazed, the ICT Adviser to the Prime Minister has been awarded the 'ICT for Development Award, 2016' for his contribution to the country's ICT sector. The other accomplishments of the Government of Bangladesh in ICT sector includes - 'South-South Award' in 2011, 'South-South Cooperation Visionary Award', 'WITSA 2014 Global ICT Excellence Award' in 2014 etc.

Bangladesh was also awarded the ITU award titled - 'World Summit on Information Society Award' for 3 consecutive years- from 2014 to 2016. ITU also awarded Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with the 'ICT's Sustainable Development Award' in



Sajeeb Ahmed Wazed, ICT Advisor to Prime Minister addressing a function held on the occasion of launching of Software Technology Park in the auditorium of Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), 18 October 2015, Dhaka

The primary school textbooks (class 1 through 5) have been transformed in to e-books and ICT education has been made mandatory from class 6 through class 12. Across the country, 31131 multi-media class rooms and 2000 'Sheikh Russel' digital labs have been established and construction of an additional 900 labs are underway. About 65 language clubs have been established in 64 districts. By the year 2018, ten thousand more 'Sheikh Russel' digital labs will be set up.

Primary education has been made compulsory and quality-oriented. Statistics show, in 1990, 61% children were admitted in schools whereas at present almost 100% enrollment at the primary level is ensured. Dropout rate in primary schools has reduced and it is now about 20.4%. Gender discrimination



Inaugural Ceremony of Digital World 2015, BICC, Dhaka, February 2015

2015. Bangladesh served as the elected council member for the ITU for two terms in 2010 and 2014.

EDUCATION: There has been a radical change in the education sector in Bangladesh with the formulation of a very timely education policy and distribution of free books. In the last eight years, a total of 225 crores 43 lakhs 1thousand and 128 (2.30 billion) books have been distributed. There is no such example of free book distribution in the world. Between 2015-16, a total of 1 crore 72 lakhs 93 thousand and 118 students from grade-1 to Bachelor Degree received merit based scholarships and stipends. To ensure education for the under-privileged and meritorious students, the government enacted the Education Assistance Trust Act, 2012.

has been decreased in primary and secondary levels. The present literacy rate in the country is 71%. Significant progress has been made in tertiary education in terms of reducing gender gap.

During the regime of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (1972-1975), about 36,165 primary schools were nationalized. After 40 years, in the year 2013, the Awami League government has nationalized 26,193 primary schools and at the same time, absorbed 1,20,000 existing teachers into the government services.

Since 2009, 365 colleges have been approved for operation and between 2009 to 2016, at least eight public universities have been established; simultaneously 42 private universities have



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the meeting of National Industries Development Committee, 26 August 2015, Dhaka

been given permission to operate. At present, there are 39 public universities and 96 private universities in the country. There has been a huge expansion in the vocational and technical sectors as well.

HEALTH: In order to modernize the health sector, 'National Health Policy-2011' has been enacted. The Government has established around 16,500 community clinics and Union health centers all over the country to bring health services at the doorsteps of people.

Mobile phone based health services are now available in 64 Districts and 421 Upazillas. Over the last eight years, the Government has appointed 12,728 assistant surgeons and 118



Inaugural ceremony of academic session of newly established 11 Medical Colleges under Ministry of Health and Bangladesh Army through video conferencing from Gonobhaban, Dhaka on 10 January 2015.

dental surgeons. In the same time period, 24 government hospitals have been built in different districts including Dhaka and the number of hospital beds have increased to 8,000.

The number of government medical colleges increased to 36. The number of private medical colleges stands at 69 and the number of dental colleges, public and private combined, is 28. Due to the persistent efforts of Saima Wazed, daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the autism issue has been brought to the attention of the global society.

Bangladesh has enacted National Nutrition Policy, 2015. Maternal and infant mortality rates declined to 1.08 per thousands and 29 per thousand, respectively. Average life expectancy has increased to 71 years from 66.5 years in 2005. Bangladesh is a 'role model' in the world in the field of child



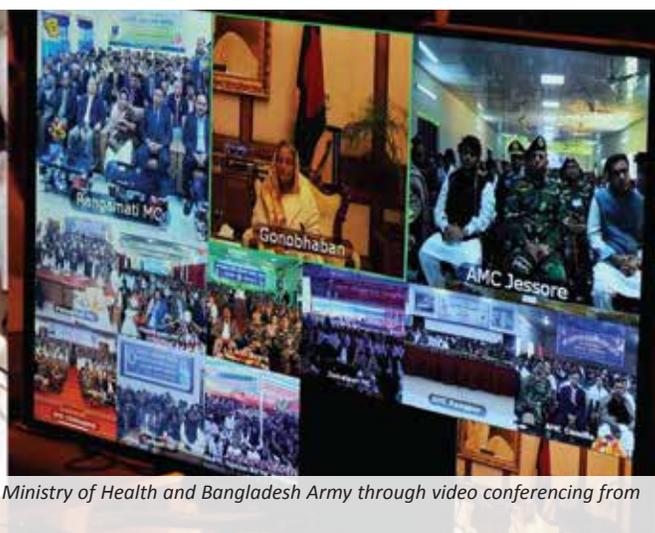
Foundation stone laying ceremony of 'Sheikh Hasina Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery' at Secretariat Road, Dhaka near Dhaka Medical College Hospital on 16 April 2016

immunization program due to its proven success.

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE: Bangladesh is now self-sufficient in food and agriculture. In FY 2015-16, agricultural produce yielded 4 crore metric tons of food. Bangladesh takes up the 4th position in the production of vegetables and 4th place in the production of sweet-water fish.

Government has subsidized 40,300 crore Taka in the agricultural sector in the last eight years. The sharecroppers are provided with loans at a lower interest rates.

Rice production has increased by about 5 million metric tons over the previous years. Bangladeshi scientist Dr. Maksudul Alam has discovered the Jute genome sequencing with direct



sponsorship from the Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister.

Till now, genome sequences of only 17 plants have been discovered in the world, out of them Dr. Maksud alone has discovered 3. His unique achievement has made the people of Bangladesh proud.

ACHIEVEMENT IN LAND MANAGEMENT: To modernize the land management system, computerization of existing mouza map and khatian of 55 districts have been completed. In addition, Digital Land Zoning Map has been prepared in 152 upazillas of 21 districts to ensure planned and proper use of land. The draft of 'Agricultural Land Protection and Land Use Act-2012' has been prepared already.

COMMUNICATIONS: Huge progress has been made in the



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the 'Vitamin A plus' campaign at Gonobhaban



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with an autistic child at an event of 24th International Autism Day and 17th National Autism Day at BICC, Dhaka on 3 December 2015

communication sector. Construction of the Padma Bridge, a landmark construction project of Bangladesh under its own finance, is underway. Moreover, forty-eight large bridges have been built. Several other infrastructure projects namely, the Hatirjheel Project, Kuril-Bishwa road multi-purpose flyover, Mirpur-Airport Zillur Rahman flyover, Banani Overpass, and Mayor Hanif flyover have been completed in Dhaka. The construction work of 26-kilometer expressway from Airport to Motijheel is in progress.

The first eight-lanes highway, from Jatrabari to Kanchpur has been opened. The construction work of a Metrorail is underway. Four-lanes highway between Dhaka and Chittagong is

Six wide-bodied airplanes have been purchased for the Bangladesh Biman Airlines, the national carrier. A survey for the construction of Bangabandhu International Airport in Madaripur near the Padma Bridge will be carried out soon.

ELECTRICITY: Power generation capacity is now 15,300 Mega Watts and 80 percent people have access to electricity. Work of a Nuclear Power Plant with a capacity of 2000 Mega Watts is going on at Ruppur in Pabna District. One of the mission of the Awami League government is to provide electricity to every house across the country by 2021.

INDUSTRIES: Many industries namely, housing, ship-building, pharmaceutical and food processing, have been expanded



Upabritti (stipend) distribution ceremony for the students of Bachelor Degree (pass course) and equivalent level under Prime Minister's Education assistance Trust fund at Prime Minister's Office, Dhaka on April 26, 2015 (Left). Scholarship awarding Ceremony for the meritorious students from Minor Ethnic Communities of the Plain Land at Prime Minister's office, Dhaka on January 03, 2016 (Right).

completed. Nabinagar-DEPZ-Chandra Roads and Dhaka-Mymensingh roads have been turned into four lanes. Construction of the Chandra-Tangail and widening of Dhaka-Sylhet highway into four lanes are underway. Construction of the 2nd Kanchpur, the 2nd Meghna and the 2nd Gomti bridges will start soon.

A high speed express train is going to be launched between Dhaka and Chittagong. Water navigability has been increased and huge progress has been made in this regard including the purchase of 14 dredgers. The government has revived the Mongla port which was once almost inoperative. The construction of Paira sea port in the southern district of Patuakhali has generated economic activities there. A rail road is also being constructed to connect the Paira sea port.

alongside the garments industries. Establishment of hundreds of economic zones are in progress to expand and diversify industrialization and attract foreign investment.

This will generate employment for more than 10 million people. In 2016, to increase the use of jute and to widen jute related business, new laws have been enacted. Jute Policy 2016 and Textile Law and Textile Policy 2016 are being prepared.

Ship, medicine and processed food items have emerged as export products of Bangladesh. The IT sector earned tremendous reputation abroad. The export earnings from IT sector have exceeded USD 100 million in the Financial Year 2013-2014.

SOCIAL SAFETY NET: Government has implemented several



Inaugural ceremony of loan disbursement in milk production sector at Khamarbari, Dhaka on 13 January 2016



Opening Ceremony of distribution of food grains to the poorest people at Union Level at a fixed price September 2016, Chilmari, Kurigram (a northern district of Bangladesh)

programs to ensure social safety by providing allowances for the aged people, widowed and distressed women, freedom fighters and disabled people. Under the social safety net programs, 142 projects are being implemented in the current fiscal year.

The transgender and the gypsies get Taka 600 as their monthly allowances. Grants for the tea workers have increased from Taka 100 million to 150 million. Poverty reduction programs are being implemented under the project titled "One House One Farm" through micro savings. One hundred branches of Rural Savings Banks have been inaugurated.

One million families have been rehabilitated through the shelter projects. By 2019 through shelter and housing projects 2,80,000 more families are expected to be rehabilitated. Since last September, 5 million families are being supplied with rice at Taka

Bangladesh is exemplary. Since the Government of Bangladesh considers women empowerment as an integral part of a long-term development strategy, it has taken up relevant policy and budget allocation in this regard. According to Global Gender Gap report, Bangladesh stands 64th among 145 countries in 2015.

Bangladesh has showed consistent progress in economic activities, education, health and political empowerment of women. In 1991, 12.7% of the members of the Parliament were women which at present has increased by 20%. Almost 12,500 women representatives are now involved in local government. Bangladesh stands in the 8th position among 145 countries in political empowerment of women.

Bangladesh is the second largest industry in the RMG sector in



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with the winners of Bangabandhu National Agriculture Award 1420 at Osmani Memorial Hall, Dhaka on 7 January 2016

10 per Kg.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: The Government has strengthened the local governance system. Elections are held in the Upazila Parishad, City Corporations, Municipalities and Union Parishad in several stages. Women have secured positions in every tier of the local government. For the first time, Zila Parishad elections took place under this government.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: Leaving behind the bitter past of women deprivation, now Bangladesh is one of the top countries in accomplishing women empowerment. In terms of women holding offices at the higher positions at national level,

the world of which most the workers are women numbering about 3.5 million. The Government has taken necessary initiatives to make their working environment secured and better. Micro-credit has unprecedentedly contributed to women empowerment and rural development. About 80% of the micro-credit receivers are women. Bangladesh Government has extended its utmost support and encouragement for women entrepreneurship. There has increased participation of women in the economic sector.

WOMAN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT: 'National Women Development Policy-2011' has been implemented for overall



Foundation stone laying ceremony of Dhaka WASA Padma (Jashaldia) Water Treatment Project (Phase-1) on 28 October 2015



Inaugural Ceremony of Tejgaon Satrasta-Mogbazar-Holy Family hospital segment of Mogbazar-Mouchak flyover in Dhaka on 30 March 2017

development of women in the country. In order to promote female education, stipend programs have been launched in Primary and Secondary schools. Several initiatives have been taken to ensure female participation in every sphere of the society.

Under the 'National Children Policy-2011' all the rights pertaining to children are ensured. 'Shishu Bikash Kendro (Child Development Centers)' have been established for overall development of the destitute, orphan and helpless street-children. Hon'ble Prime Minister has been awarded the United Nations 'South-south Award' for her significant role in the development of women and children of the country through the use of information technology. Some other notable steps taken by the Government for development of women and children are as follows:

facilitate services to the victims who are mostly women and children.

- Apart from setting up Sarkari Shishu Paribar (Government Orphanage), Chotomoni Nibash (Baby Home), Children's Day Care Center, Capitalization Grant for private orphanage are being provided and Pre-Technical Training activities are being conducted for the welfare of the children.
- Pre-primary education system for children has been introduced.
- In order to prevent school drop-outs, children-friendly environment has been created and mid-day meal has been introduced in the schools.
- Financial assistance is being provided for the welfare of the street children, children employed in hazardous work and for



Inaugural Ceremony of the works of the Main Padma Bridge at Maowa Ghat, Munshiganj on 12 December 2015

- Comprehensive policy for children's initial care and development-2013 has been formulated.
- Maternity leave has been increased from 4 months to 6 months. Children's Day Care Centers have been opened for the lower and middle income working mothers.
- Government has adopted 'zero tolerance' policy to prevent child abuse and to take action against child abuse. National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory has been established at Dhaka Medical College.
- 60 'One Stop Crisis Centers' have been established at 40 District general hospitals and 20 Upazilla health complexes to

the drop -outs from schools.

- Talent Hunt Programmes have been conducted since 2012 in four categories – language and literature, daily science, mathematics and computer; and Bangladesh studies to develop creativity and talent of the children.
- At initial stage, Bangabandhu Gold Cup and Bangamata Begum Fazilatun Nesa Muzib Gold Cup Football Tournament have been introduced.
- Inter-school sports and cultural competitions are also being organized with the participation of students from all the primary schools of the country.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Inaugural Session of Solar System arranged by ERD at Hotel Sonargaon 5 November 2014



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurating 100-percent electricity coverage in the country's six upazilas under Rural Electricity Board at Gonobhaban, Dhaka on 13 August 2016

- Initiatives are taken to form Student Councils at every school for developing leadership.
- Special initiatives are taken for the welfare of the autistic children and children with disabilities. The Government is working to facilitate comprehensive education program for children with visual impairment through braille press, building institutions for the mentally disabled children and for those who are suffering from speech and hearing impairment.
- Kid's corner for children and open stage for cultural presentation have been built in the Shishu Bikash Kendro (Children Development Center) all over the country.
- In order to prevent social degradation of juvenile, many Development Centers have been established. Alongside, Safe

(MDGs). Relying on the strong base of implementing the MDGs, Bangladesh has mainstreamed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the national development plans and strategies for implementing them. Government is working towards the successful implementation of the SDGs before 2030. A high-level monitoring team is coordinating and supervising the SDGs implementation activities.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been awarded the 'MDG Award', 'South-South Award' and earned many more accolades as recognition of her success. Under her leadership, 'Vision 2021' and 'Vision 2041' are being implemented in a very progressive manner to ensure the creation of 'Golden Bangla' - the dream of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the Nation.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina watching children's performance at the event of World Child Day and Child Right's Week 2015 in the capital on 11 October 2015

Home, Training and Rehabilitation Centers for girls with social disabilities have also been established to offer Probation and Aftercare services.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: The principle upon which the Foreign Policy of Bangladesh rests is "Friendship to all and malice to none". This principle has led Bangladesh to better its relations regionally and globally. Bangladesh has been successful in resolving the maritime boundary issues with Myanmar and India. Bangladesh plays a commendable role in different international forums and in the maintenance of global peace.

Bangladesh is regarded as one of the successful countries to implement and attain the Millennium Development Goals

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS CHALLENGES: Bangladesh has embraced construction of climate resilient infrastructure and other development activities. To minimize the loss incurred by climate change, Climate Change Trust Fund has been created from the Government's own resources. Bangladesh believes that implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement will establish fair justice related to nature.

COUNTER-TERRORISM AND MILITANCY: The Government has taken a 'zero tolerance' approach to combat terrorism and prevent violent-extremism. It has been successful in tackling militancy in the country following the terrorist attack at the Holey Artisan Restaurant of Gulshan in the capital on July 1,



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivering cheque among disabled journalists at Prime Minister's Office, 24 August 2016.

2016. All segments of the society along with religious leaders have also come forward to support the Government's counter-terrorism initiatives. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon all women and mothers to work as sentinels within their families and to actively contribute to the 'whole-of society' response against violent extremism and radicalization.

TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS: Bangladesh started the trial of local perpetrators of the crimes against humanity and genocide committed during our War of Liberation in 1971 after nearly four decades. In response to popular demand to break the culture of impunity, the Government constituted the ICT-BD (International Crimes Tribunal, Bangladesh) on March 25, 2010. The ICT-BD has so far dispensed justice by concluding the trials of a number of individuals for charges proven against them beyond reasonable



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina watching Bangabandhu Gold Cup and Begum Fazilatun Nesa Mujib Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournaments-2016 at Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka

Commission. Forty-four private channels, twenty two FM Radios and thirty two Community Radio Channels have been approved by the Government. A Journalist-Welfare Trust has been established.

SPORTS: Bangladesh has earned remarkable fame at games and sports at international level. For the first time, Bangladesh reached the quarter finals of the World Cup Cricket. Bangladesh defeated England and Sri Lanka in test cricket. In the One Day format, we have defeated great teams like South Africa, Pakistan, India and Zimbabwe.

Our female players of AFP-14 plus have made us proud having clinched the championship. Recently, our girls' football team has become the Runners-up in a tournament in India. The girls'



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina congratulating the National Cricket Team for clinching the three-match one-day international (ODI) series against Pakistan on 19 April 2015, Dhaka

doubts. Among the war criminals, the death sentences of Abdul Kader Molla, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid, Motiur Rahman Nizami and Mir Kashem Ali were executed. As per law, the ICT-BD verdicts can be appealed against in the apex court of the land by both the defence and the prosecution. This independent national judicial process adheres to the relevant international standards and sets a new paradigm in the context of international criminal justice for mass atrocity crimes. The work of the Tribunal is going on.

MASS MEDIA: The Government has for the first time formulated a 'National Broadcast Policy' and established the Information

cricket team has acquired a place in the T-20 Women's World Cup Cricket.

Mentally and physically challenged athletes have prospered in the arena of games and sports and are participating in many tournaments in and outside the country with reputation.

Bangladesh is marching ahead at a fast and steady pace with an inclusive, people-centric development model under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Bangladesh Government is confident of reaching the target of becoming a middle-income country by 2021, the 50th year of its independence. Let us come forward to participate in the realization of Vision 2021 and Vision 2041.

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: BANGLADESH MARCHING AHEAD WITH GLORY AND REPUTATION

Peacekeeping operation is recognized as an effective mean that UN utilizes to bring about peace and security in the troubled spots across the globe. Peacekeeping operations are highly regarded squarely by all stakeholders as it follows three principles: consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except for self-defence, and defence of the mandate. Over the period of time, peacekeeping operations have become more complex, demanding and challenging.

Over the last two years, peacekeeping operations have transformed and reached a new height, owing to growing interest of the western world, accountability of the performance and enhanced role of the peacekeepers. Bangladeshi peacekeepers have continued to earn laurel and excellent reputation by their sincere and utmost works in some of the most dangerous and volatile field missions namely, in Mali, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

UN is now attaching priority on quality vis-a-vis quantity of peacekeeping. Efforts are being made to have more

Blue Helmet. They are far more accountable than before.

During the last leaders' summit led by US President in 2015, more than 40,000 peacekeepers were pledged by more than 50 countries across the world. It may be recalled that Bangladesh was one of the co-hosts of the summit and Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pledged a number of peacekeeping contingents including helicopters and other enablers.

Maintenance of high readiness state is of prime requirement to meet the immediate United Nation need at the critical time.

In line with our national commitment, our Armed Forces and Police have come forward to keep our peacekeepers standby with full equipment ready to deploy within short notice. Recently, one request was made to Bangladesh to make one infantry battalion of 850

personnel and an engineering company of 260 available for deployment in South Sudan under deteriorating security situation. Bangladesh promptly and positively responded to the request and readied these outfits within the shortest possible time so much so that deployment process of these peacekeepers started within 60 days of



Blue Helmet, Green and Red Flag (APC patrolling in DR Congo)



President of Bangladesh Md. Abdul Hamid at the event 'International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2016' in Bangladesh

quality-peacekeepers capable of delivering on the ground and fulfilling the mandates given by the United Nations Security Council. Peacekeepers are on the radar of various institutions and sources including Human Rights Organizations while on deployment under

receipt of request from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations. This was one of the quickest deployments and UN has duly acknowledged our steadfastness and sincere commitment to the maintenance of global peace and security.



A UN Peacekeeper from Bangladesh Transport Platoon provides free medical consultations to residents of a poor community in Bamako, Mali



CIMIC in Ivory Coast

For avoiding human casualties and particularly for safeguarding women and children, most of the UN field missions are mandated with Protection of Civilian (POC).

Though peacekeepers alone are not primarily meant for POC tasks, greater responsibilities have been vested on them. The expectations are also very high. This has already been incorporated in the training curriculum of the peacekeepers and is being given the highest priority. Performance of our peacekeepers has been well regarded in Mali, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo. Our peacekeepers have obtained high credibility with their pro-active operational measures, deep sense of commitment and excellent professionalism. Our peacekeepers are also best suited for the purpose due to having no caveats and their adherence to the laid down UN chain of command.



Medal for Peacekeeping (Bangladesh Police in DR Congo)

Participation of female peacekeepers is being emphasized and encouraged from the troop and police contributing countries. UN aims to increase female participation by 10% among all unarmed observers and staff officers by 2017. Bangladesh has good representation of



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 'Bangladesh Institute for Peace Support Operation and Training (BIPSOT)'

female peacekeepers in the all-female Formed Police Units (FPU) both in Democratic Republic of Congo and Haiti. However, we have low representation of female individual peacekeepers (as observers/staff officers). Our Armed Forces Division and Police Headquarters are taking measures to increase female participation

in peacekeeping operations.

Presently, majority of the field missions are in the francophone countries. This leads to a greater need for having francophone peacekeepers. Efforts are being made at our end for our key personnel in the missions to have working knowledge in French language. This is more important for the police peacekeepers as they have to work in close coordination with the local community. Though our progress is slow till now, we are hopeful of expediting it in the near future.

Our peacekeepers have been able to earn confidence of mission leadership with their operational performance and good work.

Professional approach and sense of commitment in the field have helped our peacekeepers make lasting impression on all quarters. They have also received high appreciation for excellent performance

in the senior leadership position in the field. Selection of the Force Commander in United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the Deputy Force Commander in African Union / United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), Sudan in the span of last one year is a testimony of this. It may be noted

that perception and circulation value is very important in the UN environment. Forthcoming and positive outlook particularly from the senior mission leadership is helping boost positive image of our Armed Forces/Police in particular and the country in general. They are surely keeping our head ever high.

HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON WATER

WATER AT THE HEART OF A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Water is the life-blood of our planet: it is vital for human life and public health; it grows the food; it nurtures the environment that sustains our planet; and flows through and connects the economies that we depend on. But today, in many parts of the world, communities are struggling to clean the water that has been degraded; share water that is scarce; and are having to live with floods, droughts, and the increasing variability of our climate. Over two billion people, in particular women and girls, face a daily struggle to find safe water to drink, and do not have access to sanitation services that would give them dignity and allow them keep their communities and cities healthy and clean.

Pressure on water is mounting everywhere. If the world continues on its current path, projections suggest that it may face a 40% shortfall in water availability by 2030. Water scarcity induced by climate change could result in GDP declining by as much as 14% in some regions of the world if it is not properly managed. Economic losses due to inadequate water and sanitation services in developing countries total US\$260 billion a year and expected annual flood damage amounts to US\$120 billion per year from property damage alone. The consequences of such stress would be catastrophic at local, national, regional, transboundary and global levels in today's interconnected world. Action is therefore, absolutely crucial.

THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON WATER

Increasingly, world leaders recognize that whether the focus is on economic or social development, peace and security, or protecting our planet and adapting to climate change, water needs to be at the heart of the conversation.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will require governments, societies, and the private sector to change the way they use and manage water. To accelerate this transformation, former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the World Bank Group President Jim Kim co-convoked a High Level Panel on Water (HLPW) consisting of 11 Heads of State and Government and one Special Advisor. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh H.E. Sheikh Hasina is a member of this High Level Panel. The other members are: H.E. Mrs. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of Mauritius (Co-Chair); H.E. Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of

Mexico (Co-Chair); H.E. Mr. Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister of Australia; H.E. Mr. János Áder, President of Hungary; H.E. Mr. Hani Al-Mulki, Prime Minister of Jordan; H.E. Mr. Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Netherlands; H.E. Mr. Pedro Pablo Kuczynski Godard, President of Peru; H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa; H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, President of Senegal; H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan; and Special Advisor H.E. Dr. Han Seung-soo, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea. The Panel was formally announced in Davos in January 2016 and launched in April the same year.

The Panel was created with a two-year mandate to champion a comprehensive, inclusive and collaborative way of developing and managing water resources, and improving water- and sanitation-related services.

The purpose of the Panel is to amplify the message of SDG6 and its targets, with a view to:

- Motivate Action – Focus public policy dialogue, public-private partnership models and practices, and civil society initiatives towards the achievement of SDG6 and through improved water management strengthen the resilience of communities and countries.
- Advocate on financing and implementation – Promote efforts to mobilize financial resources and scale-up investment for the Water related SDG, including through innovative financing and implementation strategies.

In September 2016, the High Level Panel on Water issued a 'Call to Action', committing itself to take action on water and calling upon other Heads of State and Government, and indeed the world, to do the same.

THE PANEL'S APPROACH

In this Call to Action, the Panel presented a transformative agenda aimed to deliver change on a global scale. By changing the way that the world thinks about water, and by shining a light on examples of policies, institutions, and program that could help the world onto a more sustainable pathway, the Panel can help motivate effective action across governments, civil society, and the private sector. Also, by promoting efforts to mobilize and



target financial resources, scale-up investment, and encourage innovation and partnerships, the Panel can help the world improve water and sanitation related services, as well as build more sustainable and resilient societies and economies.

The transformation will require increased political will and commitment to tackle water challenges at local, national, regional and international levels; to allocate water equitably across competing demands; to scale up financing and improve policies and institutions; to promote innovation and new technologies; and to increase the cooperation among all stakeholders – government, private sector, civil society, and local communities.

The proposed approach is multifaceted. It calls on building more resilient societies and economies – including reducing disaster risks – in the face of growing climate variability; on achieving universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation services; enabling cities to have and manage the water they need in an era of rapid urbanization; nurturing water and the environment; and investing in sustainable water infrastructure.

Underpinning this approach, the Panel is promoting a strengthened collective governance of water and a water data

engagement and commitment from all sectors of society. Strong political leadership is therefore required to raise “water” awareness and galvanize action among other political leaders (i.e., Heads of State or Government), Ministries of Finance, Planning, Agriculture, Energy, Health and other parts of government that rely on water but do not see themselves as managing water, as well as other key public, private and civil society stakeholders.

As Leaders, the panel members will operate collectively, with regional and global partners, and individually, to advance this new approach to water and implement the Action Plan. As the Panel reaches out to Heads of State and Government, they also hope to motivate effective action by all, while leveraging ongoing work.

THE ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan is a living document which is expected to be

updated over the life of the Panel. Together, the action areas represent a comprehensive and integrated approach to help ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6), as well as contribute to the achievement of the other SDGs that rely on the development and management of water resources.

The areas of action are summarized in the accompanying graphic,



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visiting 'Water Expo' at Millenaris Park, Budapest, Hungary on 28 November 2016



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivering her statement at the inaugural session of Water Summit 2016 in Budapest, Hungary on 28 November 2016

revolution; and recognizing the unique social, economic and environmental value of the water that we have.

The Panel's Call to Action, through its accompanying Action Plan, provides a platform for engagement by water experts, civil society and the private sector. It intends to build on existing initiatives and make adjustments as needed.

CALL TO COLLECTIVE ACTION

Water requires holistic and inclusive approaches in addition to

which together represent a comprehensive agenda for action. Each action area is interdependent with others, and a number of specific actions are therefore overlapping yet mutually reinforcing.

The work to date has been guided by a number of key considerations and principles, including:

- Political leadership for a comprehensive approach – technical solutions to many of the world’s water problems already exist

but strong and coordinated political leadership is required to make progress;

- A commitment to the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation;
- Transparency and inclusion – all interested organizations shall be given equal chances to engage and contribute;
- Autonomy – organizations need to define, chart and drive their own engagements in support of the agenda – the Panel will set directions and provide momentum;
- Collaboration – having an effective working interface between existing organizations and the Panel is critical. It will include both online and direct interactions with the Panel or their Sherpas;
- Continuous engagement through regular consultations.



The areas of action include a total of 48 possible priority actions, for which the Panel is calling upon all actors to contribute and build on what they are already doing.

Forum in Davos, and other international gatherings to launch challenge events to stimulate thinking that will shift the needle in implementing the new water agenda.

4. The Panel called for the launch of a multi-stakeholder dialogue about the principles and approaches to valuing water. A new global conversation on valuing water needs to recognize the social, spiritual, economic and environmental values as a way to protect, manage and allocate the resource in an equitable, sustainable and resilient manner.
5. The Panel is initiating the analysis of: hydrological risks from climate change; good practices on managing floods and droughts; and disaster risk reduction (DRR) investment. The Panel is proposing to create a UN platform built on the existing Global Platform on DRR. In addition, the Panel is planning UN Special Sessions on Water and Disasters to promote discussion at top political levels.
6. In line with the HLPW Action Plan, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 71/222 declaring the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 on 21 December 2016. The resolution invites UN Secretary-General to take appropriate steps to plan and organize the activities taking into account of, inter alia, the outcomes of the High-level Panel on Water.

METHOD OF WORK

To facilitate the work leading up to and between the meetings of the Panel, Panel Members appointed their respective



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina among world leaders at the Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 20 May 2013

The Panel has already announced/launched the following actions:

1. The Panel called on Leaders at the 22nd Conference on Parties in Marrakesh to increase the attention to water in the climate action plan as a key measure to achieve national climate commitments by improving water governance, management and infrastructure for enhanced water security and increased resilience against floods and droughts.
2. Recognizing the enormous financing challenges and opportunities presented by the agenda, the Panel initiated stocktaking and called for recommendations on financing opportunities, including innovative financing mechanisms, for water and sanitation services and infrastructure. This stocktaking also addressed constraints to countries accessing finance.
3. The Panel made an appeal to existing global networks, including to cities at the UN Habitat III conference, to the private sector and other innovators at the World Economic

Sherpas/Advisors Mr Jagdish Koonjul, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations, and Mr. Juan José Gómez-Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, to serve as Co-Chairs of the Sherpas/Advisors group, which is supported by the United Nations and World Bank Group as the Joint Secretariat.

The HLPW provides a platform to reiterate the commitment of world leaders in general and our Prime Minister in particular to place water at the center stage of all of the development discussions in the global arena, since water not only affects economic growth, but is also a major humanitarian issue.

Bangladesh underscores the imperative urgency to take immediate actions to reverse the current trends of water scarcity, floods and water related disasters and reiterates its commitment to implement the HLPW's Call to Action on Water.

BANGLADESH'S ENGAGEMENT IN THE ONGOING MIGRATION DEBATE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Migrants have been acknowledged as one of the major enablers of development in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Prior to this global acknowledgement, there was an overt tendency of polluting the debates on migration with unnecessary politicization and securitization. Migration related targets enshrined in the SDGs are more people-centric and pragmatic. Migration has been seen as an option of choice, not necessity for better livelihood and thereafter, a positive narrative of migration has emerged. Beyond the pre-existing toxic rhetoric, SDGs vowed for ensuring migration which is safe, orderly, regular and responsible (Target 10.7).

Ongoing humanitarian crisis across the Mediterranean provokes mixed movement of millions of people towards Europe which draws special attention of the international community and compel them to be vocal on human mobility issues in different global forums including the United Nations, from which they once shied away. The former UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon called for a High-level Meeting to address large

mobility issue in a comprehensive manner.

From the very early stage of negotiation on the modalities for the 19th September Summit, Bangladesh delegation played a proactive role to ensure a fair share of migration in the ongoing process vis-à-vis refugee crisis. The economic, social and legal aspects of migrations were highlighted in our submissions. For promoting regular and safe channels of migration, our delegation emphasized on strengthening governance in this field. In this backdrop, Bangladesh delegation coined the term “Global Compact for Migration” for the first time in the United Nations and elaborated preliminary ideas on it. The global compact was conceptualized as an overarching framework of principles and best practices in order to address all aspects of migration across the globe, which will strengthen the rights-based advocacy and governance to promote positive narratives of the process. Our ideas on compact received significant support from other Member States and stakeholders. Due to our relentless persuasion, supported by like-minded



9th GFMD Summit, Opening ceremony in Dhaka, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivering her Speech, 10 December 2016

movements of refugees and migrants on the 19th September 2016 (later well known as the 19th September Summit on Refugees and Migrants).

The announcement of organizing such a high-level event at the United Nations Headquarters and preceding World Humanitarian Summit (held in Istanbul on May 2016) created a huge traction of interest around human mobility issues both within and outside the United Nations. The unprecedented crisis the world has been facing to manage the exodus across the Mediterranean, has reminded the international community of their shared responsibility in tackling large scale movements. Graveness of the real situation brings member states, NGOs, Civil Society representatives, academician and other stake-holders on a common platform to discuss the human

Member States, a round-table was included in the 19th September Summit focusing on a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Later, during the Summit Sheikh Hasina, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh co-facilitated that round-table and it was participated by many of the world leaders and high delegates who came to attend the UN High-level week. In the negotiated text of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, Member States agreed to launch a 2-year long UN process to shape the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration to be adopted through an Intergovernmental Conference in 2018. This received political endorsement during the Summit. Bangladesh envisioned this as a historic opportunity to address the human mobility issue comprehensively.



Meeting at Bangabandhu Auditorium of Bangladesh Mission with the Permanent Representatives of some other Member States, November 2016, New York in the run up to the 9th GFMD Summit

Parallel to its leading role in UN discourses on migration, Bangladesh was instrumental in the creation of the cross-regional informal group “Friends of Migration” with Benin, Mexico and Sweden as co-chairs both in New York and Geneva with an objective to use this group as a ‘sounding box’ to uphold the positive narratives of migration and bridge the conflicting ideas of the Member States. The group meets regularly at Ambassadorial and expert levels and provides opportunities to share views with other stakeholders as well as relevant UN agencies and organizations for promoting constructive discussions in shaping the future compact.

Our endeavor to establish a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration was complemented by our dynamic leadership in the 9th Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).



GFMD 2016- first Preparatory meeting of the Friends of the Forum – SRSG Peter Sutherland speaking during the adoption of the GFMD 2016 Agenda, Geneva

GFMD promoted constructive and open discussions which concentrated on designing pragmatic migration policy; drawing coherence between national priorities and global commitments; identifying potential migration indicators on migration specific and migration relevant Sustainable Development Goals and its targets; aligning national institutions and systems; and further identifying components and processes for making migration a part of transformative development agenda.

During 10-12 December 2016, the 9th GFMD Summit was organized in Dhaka successfully. The timing of the Dhaka Summit, taking place just after the 19 September Summit and immediately prior to the commencement of discussion on the modality resolution for the Global Migration Compact, was quite important. As presumed by many, the Summit came up with



Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit: Prime Minister with other dignitaries, 10 December 2016, Dhaka

Bangladesh assumed the chairmanship of the Ninth GFMD beginning January 2016 for a period of twelve months. Bangladesh chose the overarching theme, “Migration that works for Sustainable Development of All: A Transformative Migration Agenda” for steering the deliberations during the 9th GFMD. Under its leadership, three thematic workshops were arranged in Bangkok, Geneva and New York along with a GFMD Dialogue on Global Compact. Through these events the development aspect of migration was highlighted and advocacy was carried out to create greater awareness for strengthening governance and international cooperation in promoting human rights and other rights of migrants irrespective of their migratory status.

In the context of contemporary and evolving global discourses on migration and human mobility, Bangladesh as the chair of 9th

innovative ideas and hypotheses to shape the future discussion on the Compact, contributed by all quarters-Member States, civil society and business groups.

The Summit was preceded by two independent segments-one for the civil society and private sector representatives and the other for the GFMD business mechanism. A total of 745 delegates registered themselves for the event which included representations from 124 Member States including more than 20 Ministers from different countries. The 9th GFMD Summit comes up with two separate reports, one from the business mechanism and the other from the Civil Society Organizations along with a Chair's Summary. All these documents pointed towards framing of an action oriented, target based, reviewable global compact for migration, which is deeply rooted in the



The day-long dialogue on 'Global Migration Compact' under the leadership of Bangladesh on November 14, 2016, UNHQ

SDGs, through a transparent and inclusive state-led process. Currently, Bangladesh has engaged itself constructively in the shaping of the future global compact. We are committed to portray migrants as the major enablers which has already been recognized in the SDGs and in the New York Declaration (NYD). Bangladesh wants to see the Global Compact as an action-oriented, target-based and reviewable document which would establish a strong linkage with the SDGs. We strongly

those who are displaced from their natural habitat due to man-made conflicts and natural disasters. At the same time, we hope that global compact will be gender responsive.

Bangladesh expects that global compact will encompass a holistic approach to put together all the best practices towards admission, reception, integration, return and re-admission of the migrants through developing a global governance and bolstering international cooperation. Thus, better data collection



First thematic Workshop on Migration, Connectivity and Business, Bangkok, 29 March 2016

support an inclusive and transparent member state driven process that gives proper value to the inputs and recommendations of other stake-holders in formulating the compact.

Promoting regular and safe channels of migration by duly addressing its drivers and existing pull and push factors is one of our priorities. In this vein, we also like to see a sustainable solution for curbing human trafficking and forced displacement. We are looking forward to engaging ourselves in constructive discussions and negotiations on economic aspect of migration. Transparent recruitment process, lowering the costs of remittances, recognition of skills and educational qualifications and ensuring decent work places are some of our priorities. We also like to see more compliance of the Member States with the labor related conventions of ILO. We will appreciate constructive proposals for better management of mixed flows where refugees and migrants are moving together without a proper legal identity and fall prey to various protection gaps. Therefore, we aspire that future global compact will acknowledge the special needs of the migrants placed in vulnerable situations and

and extensive research in these fields are crucial for building on relevant SDG targets. This is also critical for national and regional policy formulation on migration as well as capacity building in the host and receiving communities. We also see a complementarity between both the compacts (for refugees and migrants) and would like to see both the processes inform each other in a positive way.

Bangladesh would strongly support a global compact which is legally binding, though there is a strong possibility that consensus may not be reached on this in the negotiations. But there is hardly any alternative to formulating a Global Compact which is action-oriented, target-based and reviewable, if we want to make a stride from the commitments of the NYD. Therefore, we may foresee the Global Compact as a hybrid document like the Paris Agreement, some of its parts may be legally binding and some not. But we should keep our ambition high and take this future compact as a very important step towards addressing the human mobility issue as a whole.

BANGLADESH'S LEADING ROLE IN THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH AUTISM

Bangladesh, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is working relentlessly to ensure the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities, including those affected by autism and other neuro-developmental disorders. Bangladesh is among the few countries in our region that have not only ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but also its Optional Protocol. Bangladesh has included autism, neurodevelopment disorders and disabilities related issues in the National 7th Five Year Plan for 2016-2021.

Ms. Saima Wazed Hossain, Chairperson of National Advisory Committee on Autism and Member of WHO's Expert Advisory Panel on Mental Health attended an event, held on 1 April 2016 at the United Nations in New York to observe the 'World Autism Awareness Day 2016'. The event was co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Bangladesh and Qatar and 'Autism Speaks' and co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of USA, India, Republic of Korea and Kazakhstan. Mrs. Ban Soon-taek, spouse of the Secretary General representing him, made valuable remarks at the opening session of this High-Level Event.

Ms. Hossain graced the event as the Key-Note Speaker. In her key-note speech, she said, Bangladesh's model was unique in addressing autism. Bangladesh could take pride in the kind of national awareness and planning as well as international advocacy that it invested in tackling this problem during the last



Saima Wazed Hossain speaks at a side event held on 1 April 2016 at the United Nations in New York to observe World Autism Awareness Day 2016



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina encouraging autistic children at the event of 24th International Autism Day and 17th National Autism Day at BICC, Dhaka on December 3, 2015



Saima Wazed Hossain speaks at World Autism Awareness Day, UN Panel 2016

seven years. It became evident that mass awareness, backed by political will, could make a difference in the lives of those with autism and other challenges, she added.

Ms. Hossain also participated as a panelist at a UN panel discussion, arranged by UN Department of Public Information on 01 April 2017, where she said, Bangladesh Government had taken policies for inclusion and integration of those with autism in national development efforts.

It has been made mandatory for all early childhood centers in Bangladesh to take at least two children with disabilities each. Ministry of Education has also set up a 'National Autism and NDD Academy'.

BANGLADESH: THE FLAGBEARER OF “CULTURE OF PEACE”

Bangladesh tabled its flagship resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace" on 23 December 2016 at the General Assembly. Bangladesh takes pride in presenting this resolution before the Assembly since 1997 which has been receiving overwhelming support of Member States. It is being adopted every year by consensus. This year 102 countries cosponsored this important resolution.



non-violence. Over four decades ago, the Father of our Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in his maiden speech at the UN General Assembly envisioned, "...to establish a global order based on peaceful co-existence, social justice and freedom from poverty, hunger, exploitation and aggression." The present Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is also committed to promoting peace not only at the national level but also at the regional and international levels and

Peace is integral to human existence. Inculcating a mindset of 'culture of peace' is an aspiration of all humanity. It is also the essence of the United Nations Charter. The world today faces too many problems of narrow mindedness that disrupt our shared objective of attaining a peaceful sustainable development. Terrorism and violent extremism remain major impediments to global peace and development. In this context, it is an imperative in today's

maintaining a 'zero tolerance' policy to all forms of terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization.

The 'High-Level Forum on Culture of Peace' being convened by the President of General Assembly since 2012, provides a unique opportunity to bring together Member States and stakeholders and to reinvigorate our common endeavor for promoting a 'culture of peace'. This year's High Level Forum, held on 1



United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted Bangladesh's flagship resolution on "Culture of Peace" on 23 December 2016, UNHQ

world to advocate for a 'culture of peace' to address these menaces.

Bangladesh is committed to promoting the 'culture of peace' and

September 2016, was aimed at furthering a 'culture of peace' for a pro-people, pro-planet, inclusive, peaceful and sustainable world for all.

BANGLADESH: THE ROLE MODEL FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Bangladesh attaches the highest importance to achieving gender equality and women empowerment. The Government, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, is taking concrete steps to improve the status of women in our country which has been duly incorporated in 'Vision 2021' and 'Vision 2041' for taking forward Bangladesh to a middle income level and to a high income level, respectively.

Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in advancing the cause of women under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and has been regarded as the role model for the empowerment of women in the world. As a recognition, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was conferred upon the 'Planet 50-50 Champion' award by UN-Women and "Agent of Change" award by Global Partnership Forum on 21 September 2016.

Ms. Meher Afroze Chumki, MP, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs led the Bangladesh delegation to the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held in the United Nations in New York. The CSW is the principal

The State Minister in her statement made at the 60th CSW, reiterated Bangladesh's belief that our development objectives could not be achieved if we left behind our womenfolk. Political empowerment is another area where we have made remarkable



Meher Afroze Chumki MP, Minister of State, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Bangladesh led the Bangladesh delegation at the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in the United Nations in New York

progress in our country. We have 70 women Members of Parliament (MPs) constituting 20% of the House.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Inaugural Ceremony of International Women Day 2015 on March 8, 2015, Dhaka

global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a stall of International Women Day Fair at BICC, Dhaka on 8 March 2015

The Permanent Missions of Bangladesh and Canada jointly hosted a side event on 21 March 2016 on "Child, Early, and Forced Marriage". Ms. Meher Afroze Chumki, made the key note remarks at the event where she highlighted the success of the Government of Bangladesh in lessening the prevalence of child marriage. The Permanent Missions of Bangladesh and Italy and the Global Migration Group (GMG) jointly hosted another side event on 24 March 2016 entitled "Policies empowering migrant women and girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Bangladesh engagement in all these events reflects our steadfast commitment towards empowerment of women.

BANGLADESH RATIFIES PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change under the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted in December 2015, was signed by 175 countries on 21 April 2016. Bangladesh, one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world, signed the agreement at the UNHQ on that day. Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests of Bangladesh signed the agreement on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh.

The Paris Agreement came into effect on 4 November 2016. Bangladesh, a global champion in highlighting the impacts of climate change, ratified the Agreement the same year. Hon'able Foreign Minister

negligible. Bangladesh also underlined how its development efforts are being hindered by the negative impacts of climate change. It played an important role in keeping the provision on limiting global temperature below 2 degrees celsius.

As a result of consistent and continuous engagement of Bangladesh at all climate change related negotiations, the issue of adaptation has found a prominent place in the Paris Agreement. The

Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the LDC Climate Fund also now focus on the adaptation efforts by the vulnerable countries in special situations.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivering national statement at High Level Segment: Joint Conference of Parties (COP)/Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP10) at Plenary Hall, COP-22, Conference Venue, Bab Lghli, Marrakech on November 15, 2016



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with Heads of State/Government in the Opening Session of the High-level Segment at Plenary Hall, COP-22 Conference Venue Bab Lghli, Marrakech on November 15, 2016

submitted the instrument of ratification to the Secretary-General of the UN on 21 September 2016 at UNHQs.

Bangladesh was actively engaged in the negotiation of the Paris Agreement. It highlighted the vulnerabilities of the least developed countries (LDCs) whose role in climate change is

Bangladesh's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) is quite forward looking and reflects our resolve that Bangladesh will not cross the average emission of the developing countries. Government of Bangladesh is committed to play its role in implementing the Paris Agreement.

TECHNOLOGY BANK FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES-NEWEST ORGAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS

For the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), achieving sustainable development will remain a distant dream without rapidly building up capacities in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and accessing appropriate technologies. Dedicated and coordinated actions on these two fronts will help set the LDCs on a virtuous cycle of high growth, sustained social progress, robust resilience against natural and human-induced disasters and beneficial integration into the world economy.

To address this challenge, the United Nations established at the end of 2016 a new institution aimed at improving the LDCs' scientific research and innovation base, promoting networking among researchers and research institutions and helping the LDCs access and utilize critical and appropriate technologies. This is a long-standing priority of the LDCs as set out in Sustainable Development Goal 17 and the Istanbul Programme of Action. According to the 2030 Agenda, the Technology Bank should be fully operationalized in 2017 with its headquarters in Gebze, Turkey.

This is a milestone achievement for the LDCs under the chairmanship of Bangladesh. Bangladesh delegation played a major role in forging consensus among the 193 members of the General Assembly on the resolution. While introducing the resolution for adopting the Charter, the President of General Assembly acknowledged with appreciation the role played by Bangladesh in drafting the resolution and also in the entire process.

THE ACTIVITIES:

The Technology Bank activities will focus on:

- Strengthening the science, technology and innovation capacity of LDCs including the capacity to identify, absorb, develop, integrate and scale-up the deployment of technologies and innovations, including indigenous ones, as well as the capacity to address and manage Intellectual Property Rights issues.
- Promoting the development and implementation of national and regional STI strategies, strengthening partnerships among STI-related public entities and with the private sector, and promoting cooperation among all stakeholders involved in STI, including, researchers, research institutions, public entities within and between LDCs, as well as with their counterparts in

other countries.

- Promoting and facilitating the identification, utilization and access of appropriate technologies by LDCs, as well as their transfer to the LDCs, while respecting intellectual property rights and fostering the national and regional capacity of LDCs for the effective utilization of technology in order to bring about transformative change.

The Technology Bank will directly implement projects and activities in the LDCs, and serve as a knowledge hub connecting LDC's STI needs, available STI resources and key STI actors who can respond to these needs. It will be in a position to facilitate LDCs' access to existing projects and foster joint initiatives and synergies with relevant institutions and organizations and the private sector.

All Technology Bank activities will be designed to complement, rather than compete with or duplicate projects already

undertaken by other UN agencies or donors. The Technology Bank will leverage existing initiatives within the UN system and beyond to implement its programme of work.

GOVERNANCE:

The Technology Bank will be guided by a Council composed of 13 experts in STI and development cooperation, appointed by the Secretary-General for a period of three years. The

Technology Bank will

report annually to the General Assembly.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES:

The Technology Bank will be financed by voluntary contributions from Member States and other stakeholders, including the private sector and foundations. The resources of the Technology Bank will be kept in a trust fund which will be governed by the UN rules. All funds will also be subject to audit by the United Nations Board of Auditors.

It is essential to secure adequate resources to allow the successful initial operationalization of the institution, including the recruitment of core staff; and also to ensure the financial sustainability of the Bank over time. Given the vast needs of the LDCs in STI, it is estimated that the Technology Bank would require an annual budget of USD 30-40 million to make a difference on the ground.



Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN delivering his statement as a Chair of LDCs at the event of establishing Technology Bank, UNGA, UNHQ, 23 December 2016

ONGOING DISCUSSION AT UNITED NATIONS FOR DEVELOPING A LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT UNDER UNCLOS ON THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION (BBNJ)

Humankind has exploited the sea for centuries, and this has frequently led to conflict. In 1982, after decade-long discussion and exhausting efforts the international community created an overarching framework for legal governance of the seas which defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, environment, and management of marine natural resources which is known as UN Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Over time, this convention has evolved into a powerful body of law and treated as the constitution for ocean affairs. UNCLOS enjoys near universality as 181 countries signed the convention and 167 have ratified of so far. Bangladesh signed the convention in 1982 and ratified in 2001.

Though UNCLOS established a broad framework for the regulation of our oceans, there are some critical gaps. Two of such gaps were addressed by signing agreement in 1994 on seabed mining provisions, and in 1995 by signing the agreement on conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, commonly known as UN Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA).

In the aftermath of technological advancements since the adoption of the convention in 1982, another critical gap of the convention came forth which was on the issue of marine genetic resources in the area beyond national jurisdiction. An ad-hoc working group had been consulting the issue for a decade and came up with the decision of forming a preparatory committee (PrepCom) to make substantive recommendations to General Assembly on the elements of a draft legal text for conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, commonly known as BBNJ process. The process is underway and the PrepCom will hold its fourth and last session in July 2017 to finalize the draft recommendations for General Assembly's consideration. Discussion in PrepCom is mainly divided into four clusters, namely Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs) including questions of sharing of benefits, Area Based Management Tools (ABMT) including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessment, and capacity building and transfer of marine technology.

Now the issue is, why this process is so important for a developing country like Bangladesh and what could be our stake. The first and foremost concern is, this will be a legally binding instrument. We must secure our interests here even if those show up in near or remote future. It is true that we do not have sophisticated technical capacity or knowledge base right now for researching or

exploiting marine genetic resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction. But, definitely we have high stakes in this important process. MGRs have been gaining importance from 1960s due to their commercial value in developing lifesaving drugs for many complex diseases, cosmetics, enzymes and other products, though it is a very lengthy and exorbitantly expensive process to achieve commercially viable products from MGRs. The deep sea has great potential for new discoveries of MGRs and at the same time it is the most poorly explored area in the ocean. The principle of Common Heritage of Mankind (CHM) has been captured by UNCLOS when it comes to exploiting resources at or under sea floor beyond national jurisdiction. No single country/entity has absolute rights on these resources. The benefits derived from exploitation of such resources by any State/entity should be shared among all the states. International Seabed Authority (ISA) has been exercising this mechanism under UNCLOS. We, the developing countries, are strongly advocating for application of this principle so we could be benefited from exploitation of MGRs beyond national jurisdiction. Not necessarily, this benefit sharing should be monetary in terms. Our other direct benefit is capacity

building, knowledge sharing and technology transfer. This would help us explore the MGRs available in our exclusive economic zone, initially.

Then there is a major concern about conservation of biological diversity in the seas and avoid any environmental impact from such research works or exploitations. Thus, we are supporting the precautionary and ecosystem based approaches while exploiting MGRs. There are lot more of issues which are being discussed in detail. Member States are in agreement on many of these, while there are certain important issues of

differences as well. Importantly, the interests of developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states are more or less same and we are actively participating in the process to have reflections of these in the final draft of elements of this legally binding instrument.

Though the debate is very technical and intensive in nature, Member States are careful of maintaining the delicate balance between the bureaucratic obligations and marine scientific research. Otherwise, too much monitoring and legal consequences may discourage scientists, institutions, governments, private sectors to invest time and money in such research which might ultimately deprive mankind of having lifesaving drugs for complex diseases and other multifaceted benefits from MGRs.



Rear Admiral (Retd.) Md. Khurshed Alam, Secretary (Maritime Affairs Unit) intervening at the second PrepCom session in July 2016

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

António Guterres was confirmed on 13 October 2016 by the United Nations General Assembly to replace Ban Ki-Moon as Secretary-General of the UN. Guterres, a former prime minister of Portugal and former UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has taken over the UN top job in January 2017 when Mr. Ban's second five-year term expired. He had earlier been selected by the UN Security Council from a list of 14 candidates. The 193-member General Assembly had subsequently passed a resolution by consensus to officially approve the recommendation from the 15-member Security Council.

Born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1949, Guterres studied engineering and physics at the Instituto Superior Tecnico, graduated in 1971, became an academic and then joined the Socialist Party in 1974. In 1995, three years after being elected the Socialist Party's secretary-general, he became prime minister, a position he held until 2002. Guterres, who is fluent in Portuguese, English, Spanish and French became the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees in 2005. As the refugee chief, Guterres persistently appealed to the conscience of the international community over the worst refugee crisis since the Second World War. He vowed to carry on being a spokesman for the downtrodden if he became UN Secretary-General.

The Charter describes the Secretary-General as "chief administrative officer" of the Organization, who shall act in that capacity and perform "such other functions as are entrusted" to him or her by the Security Council, General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and other United Nations organs. The Charter also empowers the Secretary-General to "bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security". These guidelines both define the powers of the office and grant it considerable scope for action. Each Secretary-General also defines some his role within the context of his particular time in office.

Following 11 candidates (5 female) had floated their candidature for the position of next Secretary-General;

- Igor Luksic: Current Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro.
- Irina Bokova: Current Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), nominated by Bulgaria.
- António Guterres: Former Prime Minister of Portugal and former

Chief of the UN High, Commissioner for Refugees, nominated by Portugal.

- Danilo Türk: Former President of Slovenia.
- Vesna Pusić: Minister of Foreign and European Affairs and First Deputy Prime Minister of Croatia.
- Natalia Gherman: Former First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova.
- Vuk Jeremic: President of the 67th session of the UN General Assembly and a former Foreign Minister of Serbia.
- Helen Clark: Former Prime Minister of New Zealand and the former Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP).



- Srgjan Kerim: Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and President of the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly.
- Susana Malcora: Foreign Minister of Argentina (former Chef de Cabinet to the Secretary-General)
- Miroslav Lajcak: Foreign Minister of Slovak Republic.

Selection of a United Nations Secretary-General was traditionally decided behind closed-doors by a few powerful countries in the Security Council. For the first time in history, UN introduced public interaction of Member States with each candidate campaigning for the world's top diplomatic post. These so-called 'informal briefings'

between the candidates, UN Member States and civil society representatives kicked off in April, where the candidates presented their 'vision statements' and answered questions on how they would promote sustainable development, improve efforts to maintain peace, protect human rights, and deal with huge humanitarian catastrophes should they be selected to lead the Organization. This practice has brought transparency and accountability in the process.

To date, no Secretary-General has hailed from Eastern Europe. While former officeholders represent a wide range of countries, there has never been a female Secretary-General. Traditionally, candidates from the Permanent Five members of the Security Council (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) are not considered for the position of Secretary-General to avoid further concentration of power within the UN. We hope the new Secretary-General would be able to fulfill the aspirations of the Member States as well as build a hunger-free, peaceful world.

DIPLOMATIC DIASPORA



Officers and Staffs of the Mission at a discussion meeting on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Homecoming Day (10 January 1972)



Observing International Mother Language Day 2016 at Bangabandhu Auditorium of the Mission



A group of students from Canada getting briefing at the Mission, March 03, 2016



Discussion meeting at the Mission on the historic 7th March



Mission celebrating the 96th Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the National Children's Day 2016



Mission observing Independence and National Day 2016

DIPLOMATIC DIASPORA



Foreign Diplomats at the Independence and National Day 2016 reception



Mission celebrating the Bangla Noboborsho 1423



Celebration of Bangla Noboborsho 1423



Secretary General Ban Ki Moon visiting Bangladesh Stall at UN International Bazar, May 2016



Bangladesh Mission's Stall at UN International Bazar, May 2016



Observing the National Mourning Day 2016 at the Mission

DIPLOMATIC DIASPORA



Permanent Mission and Bangladesh Consulate General, New York jointly observing 'Rabindra-Nazrul Joyanti (Birth Anniversary)' at Consulate's Auditorium, 3 December 2016



Renowned Bangladeshi Singer Qaderi Kibria performing at 'Rabindra-Nazrul Joyanti (Birth Anniversary)', jointly organized by Permanent Mission and Consulate General, New York at Consulate's Auditorium, 3 December 2016



Flag hoisting at the Mission on the occasion of the 45th Victory Day



Observing the 45th Victory Day at Bangabandhu Auditorium of the Mission



A delegation from US Army War College in the Mission, December 18, 2016



Dance drama 'Chandalika' of Rabindranath Tagore by BAFA at Baruch College, New York organized by Permanent Mission



Feel the sun and winter at Bandarban - a Hilly District of Bangladesh



Cox's Bazar sea beach, Bangladesh - the longest sea beach in the world



Scenic beauty of Bichanakandi, Sylhet, Bangladesh