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**Third International Conference on Financing for Development  
Addis Ababa, 13-16 July 2015**

**BANGLADESH COUNTRY STATEMENT**

**Plenary Meeting, 15 July 2015, 03:00-6:00 pm**

**Presented by—**

**H.E. M A Mannan, MP, Hon'ble State Minister for Finance and Planning,  
Government of Bangladesh**

**Mr. President, Excellencies, Hon'ble Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Afternoon.**

At the outset, I take the opportunity to offer Bangladesh's sincere words of appreciation to the Secretary General of the United Nations for his able leadership and labour in organizing this important global event on the eve of the adoption of the SDG regime. I would also like to place on record our sincere appreciation to the government of Ethiopia for hosting this important event in this beautiful and historic city of Addis Ababa and for extending warm welcome and hospitality to all of us. We align our statement with those of the Chair of G77 and China and Chair of LDCs.

**Mr. President,**

**2.** We recognise that the *Third International Conference on Financing for Development* (FFD) represents a unique opportunity for the international

community to revisit and evaluate our past experience in this context and reaffirm new commitments to development financing to realize the unmet goals of the MDG regime. It is heartening to note that during the last fifteen years the whole international community has been fully engaged in development dialogues and partnerships, and looking for development financing to achieve the MDG targets. We believe this has been a remarkable event in the history of human development. Therefore, the SDGs partnership and financing framework should be built on the experience and lessons learned from the MDGs. The limitations and challenges that we encountered in our efforts during MDG should guide us to avert the challenges in the SDG regime.

**Mr. President,**

3. Please allow me in this regard to reflect on the achievements of Bangladesh in the MDGs. Bangladesh's progress has been excellent in reducing absolute poverty and hunger. Bangladesh in fact aims to eliminate hunger and poverty by 2021 through implementing its long term perspective plan under politically launched Vision 2021. Bangladesh has been an early achiever in attaining the goals and targets related to primary school enrolment and gender parity in primary and secondary schools and reducing child mortality. The country has been able to achieve sustained economic growth of over 6%+ every year since 2009. Thanks to different reform measures, marked progress in domestic resource mobilization (DRM) has been evident resulting in low dependence on external resources for implementation of the country's annual development plan (ADP). Around 70% of country's annual development budget is being financed from domestic sources now. Due to government's prudent approach and pro-active policy, private sector is emerging very strongly accounting for 93% of GDP, 81% of investments and 80% of domestic credit.

**Mr. President,**

4. I draw your kind attention once again to global commitment to development financing and would like to say that Monterrey Consensus failed to fulfil its commitments and targets. Most of the donor countries failed to implement UN target to provide 0.7% GNI as ODA. In order to achieve GNI 0.7% as ODA we again call upon the international community to consider setting binding timetables in the SDG commitments and goals. We are aware of the importance of strengthening domestic resource mobilization (DRM) at the country level, but we underscore that domestic resources alone will not be enough to realize the SDG targets. ODA will continue to play an important role as a source of development finances particularly for LDCs.

**Mr. President,**

5. Though the landscape and architecture of aid is profoundly changing, the impact of aid is still in question due to certain supply side constraints. Despite our efforts to enhance the level of global partnership for development effectiveness, there are still many bottlenecks in achieving country ownership, harmonization and alignment. Aid remains highly fragmented and transaction costs continue to rise. Therefore, we strongly advocate adopting concrete policy guidelines at the global level to ensure that ODA represents genuine wealth transfer; ensure untied aid; more importantly ensure donor costs to reduce significantly and also predictability. The horizon of development financing needs to be beyond aid as international trade and global free flow of labour can deliver better results. We need to make the global trading system more supportive and non-discriminatory to the poor economies. Developed countries could be destination places for workers of many poor and emerging economies where significant economic growth is happening due largely to demographic dividend. In many countries including Bangladesh remittance is surpassing the volume of

aid in real term. Remittances have direct impact on poverty reduction at the household level. Thus, migration process can be made humane and economically acceptable. We therefore need to put significant efforts to manage overseas employment in a more systematic way as it holds high economic opportunities for both the sending and the recipient country. It may be mentioned that historically migration has been an engine of growth and prosperity for all nations. However, for regular migration it needs enhanced support for technical and vocational education and skill development in developing countries to enable overseas employment of semi-skilled and skilled people.

**Mr. President,**

6. Climate change and disaster reduction is inherently interlinked with the goal of sustainable development. No wonder, in the recent decades climate change has been a major concern for the international community. Bangladesh is seriously exposed to the challenges of climate change. Despite strong efforts from the UN and some leading development partners, impact of climate financing including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is yet to reach its full potential. Stringent conditions within the global climate financing mechanism seem to be major barriers in utilising climate fund according to the needs and priorities of the user country. Though, climate funds seem to be promising, in reality the delivery is very slow. We recommend a revisit of the stringent conditions of the funds to allow the climate change vulnerable countries to take advantage of the fund. Moreover, there needs to be more efforts to be put in place to ensure that climate change concerns are considered strongly in economic development strategies and policies both at global and country level.

**Mr. President,**

7. To conclude, I reiterate that we need to make our commitment firm if we want to achieve the goals under the SDGs. There is always a stark gap between the global commitments and the country level experiences that needs to be diminished. I would like to repeat once again if the global leadership is looking for a pro-people, pro-planet, more inclusive, more equitable, peaceful and sustainable world for all where none is left behind then mere speeches would not bring any result unless it is implemented fully at all levels.

**Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen—**

**Thank you for your attention.**