



GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Statement by
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4TH GLOBAL PLATFORM ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (GPDRR)
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Mr. Chairman, Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh, we appreciate the excellent arrangements made by the Government of Switzerland and the facilitation of UNISDR for this Fourth Session of Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Mr. Chairman,

As you are aware that the tropical cyclone Mohasen hit Bangladesh on 16th May and the country has again proved its efficiency in cyclone management through massive preparedness mechanism. Within 24 hours drive we were able to evacuate around 1 million people from the coastal area and mobilized all out support from government agencies, development partners, civil society and NGOs through our in-built coordination mechanism which has resulted minimal casualty and damages.

As I speak today, we have also concluded rescue operation at recent SAVAR BUILDING collapse- perhaps the worse such disaster in our history. While we grieve for more than 1100 dead, we also celebrate 2438 plus lives saved from the rubble. This tragedy demonstrates the patriotism, fellow feeling and above all the sense of unity of humankind can do if blended together in overcoming such a catastrophe. This tragedy has energized us to redouble our efforts to further reduce urban disaster risks. We are indeed grateful to His Excellency Secretary General Ban Ki Moon for his sympathetic gesture and kind offer of assistance, as well as the kind words and sympathy of Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, the UN Special Representative for Disaster risk Reduction.

Distinguished Delegates,

As we are steadily working towards achieving the goals led down by Her Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her vision 2021 program to celebrate the golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's independence. We are steadily achieving the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals despite the exposure to natural hazards and effects of climate change.

Bangladesh is now consolidating disaster risk reduction in public policies, development plans and programmes. The government enacted the Disaster Management Act 2012, and revised Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) in 2010. Disaster risk reduction is now part of the

compliance in 6th Five Year Plan Development Project Proforma as well as in the portfolios of 13 key sectoral ministries and departments.

Bangladesh is moving to institutionalize disaster risk reduction knowledge and practices in 42 universities, institutions and various public training institutions. We are planning to establish a National Disaster Management Training and Research Institute. More than eighteen thousand urban volunteers and fifty thousand Cyclone Preparedness Programme volunteers have been trained and are making their contribution during various disaster situations. Another 44 thousand more urban volunteers are being trained in phases.

Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

In rural areas we continue to promote risk reduction hand-in-hand with poverty reduction and social security through the various safety net programmes and food security programmes with the intend to protect the most vulnerable – specially the poor and the disadvantaged, women, children, person with disability and the elderly on basis of poverty mapping. In the urban areas we continue expanding the seismic micro zonation from the three principal cities to six urbanized districts.

As far as the question of the Post-2015 Framework, our participatory and multi-sectoral national consultation resoundingly proposes “Resilience” as a development paradigm that is fully cognizant of disaster risk management and climate change. We are of the view that the Post-2015 development global framework must contain legally binding international equitable governance mechanism with accountability. It needs to address causal-consequences of disaster and climate change and the fair and evidence-based claims and compensations and the provision for finance and the transfer of technology and capacity building for developing countries.

The root causes of vulnerabilities in Bangladesh remain formidable as they are inseparable from the very issues such as the population question, poverty, rapid urbanization, gaps in access to basic services and many others. In this context, Bangladesh enthusiastically contributed to the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR that highlights the local level implementation of risk reduction process. Furthermore, we are keen to share our experience and successes with other nations in a mutually beneficial manner.

I call upon all our Development Partners and the international organizations to intensify their commitment and support to scaling up of our disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures.

The time is now to address disaster risks and climate change adaptation through a holistic approach towards adopting ‘Resilience’ as a common and shared vision. Bangladesh stands ready to share its experience and cooperate with all nations, actors, and institutions to craft a peace and development framework that ensures resilience for all.

Thank you