



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Statement by

**Mr. Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury (Maya), BirBikram, MP
Honorable Minister, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
GLOBAL PLATFORM ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (GPDRR) 2017
22-26 May 2017, Cancun, Mexico**

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 Mexico and the facilitation of UNISDR for Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction 2017.

Mr. Chairman,

At this moment Bangladesh is facing impact of one of the worst flash flood in the history of the country. It was record highest rainfall in the month of April 2017 in last 36 years. Climate change is considered as the cause of this erratic rainfall and consequent flood. The Government of Bangladesh is addressing the disaster in a coordinated manner. Resources of relevant ministries are pulled to support the affected people under the coordination of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). The matter is well taken care of by our government. Our investment in disaster risk reduction and response preparedness is paying back. We have overcome the shock with our national capacity and after shock recovery activities are on track.

Mr. Chairman

Bangladesh is now taking disaster risk management to the next level. On our endeavour towards vision 2021, we have taken initiatives to mainstream Disaster Risk Management through the 7th Five Year Plan (7FYP), the medium term national development plan of the country. Now DRR is a shared responsibility of all ministries. Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) has also been prioritised Disaster Risk Management considering the country's vulnerability to multiple hazards. We have identified specific role of different

ministries to achieve the targets of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). In light of that Bangladesh has developed a comprehensive action plan. By now we have achieved some significant progresses. We have produced the second version of the National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) for the period of 2016-2020.

Mr. Chairman

As you know that sustainable development framework is related to resilience nexus. That is why, the intersections and meeting point of poverty, environment, disaster and climate change, is adequately addressed through the mainstreaming in the development planning and budgeting systems. Our government has taken initiative to raise plinth of 5,000 houses in the flood prone areas to bring them out of the risk of flood as well as vicious cycle of poverty.

We are happy to share that we are implementing a project to ensure access of the person with disability, elderly people and pregnant women to the shelters and market places. With the sense of ensuring build back better concept we are also implementing a rural infrastructure project for better local navigation and water drainage. We have engaged NGO's in the DRR activities to address the issues of people with special needs as a mandatory provision.

Mr. Chairman, Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

As a reflection of the spirit of inclusiveness, an initiative has been taken to bring the Gypsy people of the country under solar energy coverage. That will increase their access to energy and information, in particular disaster related information. As well as we are supporting the spiritual folk singer community popularly known as *Baul* with safe shelter.

Bangladesh is also emphasising to utilize demographic dividend increasing youth engagement in DRR as change agent and the community volunteer for emergency preparedness and response. We have taken initiative to promote social networking as a bridging point of youth engagement, volunteerism and green development. An act is under consideration of our government to give a legal backbone and specific direction to the volunteer organisations in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

During the HFA Bangladesh developed Vision 2021, enacted Disaster Management Act in 2012 and Disaster Management Policy 2015. We also completed implementation of the

first version of National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) 2010-2015. Bangladesh has achieved a significant reduction of mortality in disaster within this period.

We have developed and practicing Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) Model to ensure inclusive bottom up disaster management system in the country. About 1.6 million volunteers are working with CPP, FSCD, Scouts and BNCC. We are strengthening local government to address increasing threats of climate change and complex disasters. We have incorporated disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness in the mainstream education from elementary to tertiary level.

Let me assure you that Bangladesh has moved into the era of SFDRR with a strong preparedness background.

Mr. Chairman, Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Bangladesh has harmonized national targets on DRR with the targets of SFDRR synergizing with SDGs, Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit.

Our government is working on drafting a Response Act to provide legal guidance to the institutions and individuals at government and private sector to be well prepared for any disaster.

Localization of humanitarian response is a priority agenda of our government. Accordingly we have planned to build warehouses in each district of the country to ensure smooth supply chain in times of emergency. A central warehouse will also be built to coordinate this supply chain. We are also under process of establishing disaster funds from local level to national level. Under the localisation concept our government is promoting indigenous ways of disaster management; i.e. we have taken initiative to plant one million Palm saplings to create a shield against lightening, an emerging disaster caused by climate change.

Being envisioned to be a middle income country, Bangladesh has set a target to pull 70-80% resources from private sector in the 7th Five Year Plan. Accordingly we are strategizing private sector engagement in DRM. A detailed private sector engagement strategy will be developed to create an enabling environment for private sector.

Mr. Chairman, Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to remind you that as a first country Bangladesh organised the first World Conference on Disability Inclusive Disaster Management in 2015, known as Dhaka Conference after adoption of SFDRR. Outcome of that conference was Dhaka Declaration, which has been endorsed by AMCDRR 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to call upon all the member states to implement Dhaka Declaration aligned with inclusiveness concept of SFDRR.

2nd Dhaka Conference on Disability and Disaster is scheduled to be held in January 2018. We cordially invite all the member countries to participate in the conference to express our collective and firm commitment to the inclusion agenda. Meanwhile Government of Bangladesh has decided to enhance national level capacity on trauma management in disaster incidents.

Mr. Chairman, Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

In this precious forum of global platform on behalf of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and our leader Her Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, we would like to express our firm commitment to carry forward the SFDRR agenda, to build a safer country and a safer world with the cooperation of all member states and development partners.

Joy Bangla

Long Live Bangladesh