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Excellences, Hon'ble Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Representatives of Civil Society Organizations and Private Sectors, Media Personnel, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is my great honor and privilege to be here in Brisbane, Australia leading the Bangladesh delegation to the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction. On behalf of the Government of Bangladesh, I would like to express sincere thanks to the Australian Government and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for organizing such an important regional event.

Bangladesh is the world's 7th most affected country by extreme weather events last decade according to the Climate Risk Index 2021 published by German watch. In addition, 76.9% of people are exposed to multi-hazard risk mostly climate related disasters as stated by UN ESCAP, 2019. Despite the risk and vulnerability, Bangladesh has put extra importance on disaster risk reduction since independence. Bangladesh is recognized as a role model in disaster management.

The Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman pioneered the concept of disaster risk reduction (DRR) for the nation, and established Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) after experiencing the devastating cyclone in 1970.

Following the footprint of Bangabandhu, Hon'ble Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina, the worthy daughter of Bangabandhu, has taken great initiatives to reduce disaster risks towards building a resilient nation. For the efforts of promoting gender-responsive public services to achieve SDGs, CPP under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief received 2021 UN Public Service Award in December 2021.

Bangladesh has made the disaster risk management including outcomes, goals and principles of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction since the adoption of the framework in March 2015. The country has made substantive progress and, is now in the leading position of disaster risk management activities in line with the Sendai Framework.



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Disaster Risk Governance and DRR Strategy

Bangladesh has taken a number of initiatives for developing DRR strategies from 2015 to 2020. These include substantial revision and updating of Standing Orders of Disaster (SOD) 2019, National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) 2016-2020 and 2021-2025. These are aligned with Sendai Framework, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2030 and Paris Agreement of Climate Change 2015-2030 for resilience. Considering the extreme weather events including seismic risk, the National Strategies on Internal Displacement 2021 is in place and now, its action plan is being developed is aligned along with the SFDRR priorities.

Disaster Management Act, 2012 is the legal basis of effective strategies and plans. This act is a critical enabler to develop policies and plan in strengthening DRR for economic, health and environmental resilience. Other national planning instruments like Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 highlighting the Country into six hotspots with the view to initiating appropriate DRR measures. SOD is one of the key enablers along with other tools such as NPDM (national and local DRR strategy), 8th Five Year Plan, Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and Perspective Plan 2041. In Bangladesh, policy regulation and planning are significantly coherent with DRR, climate change adaptation and sustainable development.

Investment in DRR

Bangladesh prioritizes mainstreaming DRM in the periodic, sectoral plans, annual program, budget allocation, implementation and monitoring to sustain the development gains for resilience.

We have given emphasis on increasing investment for both structural and non-structural areas for sustainable development. In line with the Priority 3 of SFDRR, Bangladesh is ensuring the steady increase of investment for DRR sector. Total 8.8 % of National Budget was allocated to DRR Sector for last 5 years. In the 8th Five Year Plan from 2021 to 2025, around 9 to 11% of National Budget has been allocated to DRR sectors even in the pandemic situation. Looking back of our history there are drastic reductions the loss of lives from disasters through DRR investment. We believe that the investment in disaster risk reduction is not a cost rather provide dividend for development by reducing loss and damage. International cooperation regarding DRR, and Climate change adaptation has substantially increased through multi-country and multi-donor contribution. The cooperation includes capacity building, technology transfer, application of high-tech for weather forecasting, resilient infrastructure construction.

Bangladesh has been consolidating its efforts on risk informed, gender responsive and disability inclusive DRM. Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA) is now a key planning assessment tool for



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preparing development program and project for public and private investment that require to answer the future projection of exposure and vulnerability which either increases or decreases and thus reducing the disaster impact as well. We are also working for Business Continuity Plan for promoting resilience in private and public sector resilience. Asset Management System has been developed for failure analysis and promoted resilience infrastructure through DRR and adaptation.

Progress and Key Achievement in DRRR

Regarding the Cyclone, Bangladesh has been working on achieving the four priorities of SFDRR and has become the model country for realizing disaster risk reduction. Learning from long history, people understand the cyclone risks and are accustomed to the early warning and early action systems. Now Bangladesh has advanced forecasting system for Cyclone and more than 5,500 inclusive multi-purpose cyclone shelters. These are providing reliable early warning information and safe evacuation places for the people. Active central and local disaster management committee with 5 million volunteers guided by SOD 2019, Bangladesh has established robust disaster risk governance system. We have made remarkable progresses in reducing their vulnerability of most vulnerable such as women, children, and persons with disabilities. In 1970 cyclone, 90% of the deceased were women and children, the ratio between women-children and man was 14:1. However, it has reduced to 1:1 in recent years. This reveals how gender gaps have been minimized in disaster risk management.

With the timely initiatives for DRR strategies and improvements of multi hazard early warning system, Bangladesh substantially reduced number of deaths to disaster since 1970, 1991 and 2007 cyclone SIDR as well. Death rate per hundreds of thousands due to natural hazards was 3.10 during 2007 which was substantially reduced to 0.20 by 2019. Due to extreme/exceptional event of COVID-19 pandemic death has slightly increased to 4.62 during 2020. However, with the pragmatic preparedness initiatives including higher coverage of vaccination by the government, number of deaths due to COVID19 has substantially reduced in 2022.

Number of affected people and damage to dwellings is reduced during 2016 to 2020 compared to 2005 to 2015. Strategies for resilient house construction, improvement of construction techniques and awareness of building code helped to reduce damage to houses across the country.

COVID-19 posed protracted disaster which was virtually halted the countries all over the world. The pandemic brought huge economic impact to Bangladesh. Bangladesh faced floods five times in 2020; over 5.4 million people affected which was the 4th worst disaster in the world. During



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Cyclone Amphan in 2020, around 2.4 million people were evacuated to more than 14000 shelters maintaining social distance and hygiene to reduce the infection.

In addition, the recent devastating flood in May and June 2022 at the north -eastern part of the country known as haor areas demonstrated the extremity of climate change and it is one of the record-breaking floods in 122 years of this region. It incurred large scale damages and losses resulted in huge economic loss and disruption of the livelihoods of people from all walks of life. The key lesson of that flood is to ensure sustainable and resilient recovery with strong preparedness and response will be one of our key priorities of Sendai Framework 2030.

Multi hazard early warning system is functioning well in Bangladesh during last several decades. Improvement in weather forecasting system and cyclone tracking by using scientific tools has enhanced to capacity of providing accurate warning for actions.

Lead time for flood forecasting has increased to 9 days which was 3 days during last decade. About 76,000 Cyclone Preparedness Program volunteers are working in disseminating warnings ahead of hazard events. Community based FM radios provided updated weather and warning information for coastal people. Moreover, construction of shelters across the coastal belt and flood prone areas has provided the opportunity to take shelter for millions of people during emergency.

To ensure effective and actionable flood warning, Dynamic Flood Risk Model (DFRM) covers depth, velocity, level of inundation with integration of local knowledge and disseminate flood early warning message to the flood-prone community. We have promoted flood-resilient accessible model houses under the Disability Inclusive DRR activity.

Bangladesh's rapid urbanization and steady progress towards middle-income-country means that today, more than ever, the resilience of the country's urban centers is vital for well-being of its people and sustains the development. For proper understanding of the earthquake and other urban risks, regulations and management options, and coordination structures throughout the country is therefore necessary. Earthquake Risk Assessment for major cities and towns and ward level contingency plan with enhanced response capacity including equipment, community volunteering and mobilizing the institutions and people for investment towards earthquake resilience are the vital steps that country aspires to achieve by 2070. Hence, the country focuses on preparing short -term, long- term plan.

Bangladesh has taken initiatives following Bangabandhu's thoughts and has been emphasizing on both structural and non-structural DRR, recovery activities such as reviving and reconstructing 'Mujib Killa' in different disaster-prone locations. We are increasing number of



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cyclone and flood shelters, improving roads and communication networks, and constructing disaster resilient houses for the vulnerable people. The shelters are accessible and inclusive for persons with disability, women, children, and senior citizens. Multi-purpose accessible boats are disability inclusive, gender inclusive and have facilities of quick evacuation for saving lives and protection of assets. Additionally, a wide range of extensive social safety net program has been supporting risk informed and inclusive community and social infrastructure development which promotes resilience in terms of employment, food security and reducing vulnerability.

Leaving No One Behind

Bangladesh is the pioneer to promote disability inclusive disaster risk management with a special focus on recovery and response preparedness. The country is implementing many DRR activities focusing on person with disability, senior citizens, women and children.

Government of Bangladesh organized the first World Conference on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management in 2015, known as Dhaka Conference after the adoption of SFDRR. Bangladesh also organized 2nd International Conference on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management in May 2018 in Dhaka as well. The outcomes of "Dhaka Declaration+" were recognized at AMCDRR 2018 at Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia in AMCDRR 2016 at New Delhi and urged all countries to follow the declaration in the Chair's Summary of GP2017, Cancun. In the last GP2019 and GP 2022, we have organized the Side Event to promote more inclusive approach on disaster risk reduction towards no one leaving behind. The National Task Force on Disability inclusive DRR formed back in 2016 is fully functional and thus guiding to promote the inclusive disaster and resilient society as well.

Hon'ble Prime Minister HE Sheikh Hasina of the Government of Bangladesh inspired and guided us to follow the key message of SDG, Leaving No One Behind. Our damage and loss assessment Form called D-Form is such an instrument which facilitates to collect Gender, age, disability disaggregated data to use in recovery and development planning process.

Coherence among SFDRR, SDGs, Climate Change Agreement

Reducing disaster risk and building resilience are interrelated thrusts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 as well as Paris Agreement on Climate Change.



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We find DRR directly contributes to the SDGs and its pertinent targets while vulnerability reduction is one of the key determinants for LDC graduation. The link between Sendai Framework and relevant goals & targets of SDG is complementary to each other for reducing disaster and climate change for sustainable development. The development indicators in 8th FYP (2021-2025) targeted for reducing mortality, number of affected people, increased inclusive shelters, policies and plan are interlinked with SFDRR & SDG targets.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations:

Bangladesh has emphasized on proactive disaster risk management instead of post disaster response. It remarkably contributes to reduce the loss and damage for building resilience.

The key lessons include the protection of livelihoods, transferring assets, weather forecast, and early warning for threshold harvesting crop before the flood which are critical in reducing loss and damage.

The convergence of DRR, SDGs and Climate Actions offers unprecedented opportunities towards building resilience in Asia and the Pacific, the world's most disaster-prone region. Dealing with shared risks and vulnerabilities among countries in the region requires synchronization of policy actions, technology sharing and strengthened regional cooperation.

DRR actions are fruitful investment that can yield a remarkable impact over many years. We believe that the countries observing those outcomes have a continued strong individual and institutional leadership combined with the plans and strategies backed by scientific evidence and investment to implement the most impactful risk reduction measures.

Quality DRR strategies and plans can effectively translate into the allocation of financial resources and implementation of the highest priority mitigation measures against the imminent hazard specific to localities to address systemic risk. We should further expedite implementation of DRR strategies, and review or even overhaul them so that they would surely accelerate implementation.

Regional and international cooperation and funding mechanism with flexibility for dedicated DRR funding are required for reducing the exposure and vulnerability of hazards and impact of disaster and climate change.



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We suggest priority areas of investment for DRR to the physical/structural, community and social infrastructures that provide broader protection of people and national development against low intensity and high-frequency hazards including recurrent and mega disasters.

There need to enhance our efforts towards stronger of DRR governance, including the institutional capacity for hazard monitoring and risk assessment. There needs a prior actionable and coordinated plan with adequate resource mobilization for post-disaster resilient recovery following 'Build Back Better' principle for resilience.

Hon'ble Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

In the occasion of APMCDRR 2022 and Mid-Term Review of SFDRR, Government of Bangladesh would like to urge all the countries and platform to look back the goals and outcomes of Sendai Framework and work together for reducing disaster risk through increased investment to protect people & properties for resilience.

We are also looking forward to the various sessions of APMCDRR for sharing knowledge and information that would be documented and shared among policy and decision-makers, practitioners around the world.

Finally, we would like to express our firm commitment to carry out the SFDRR agenda, to build a safer country and a safer world with the cooperation of all member states and development partners.

We wish all the success to the Event.

Thank You all!