

Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development

Hon. President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Hon. Members of Delegation

Friends from Media

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Excellency,

Bangladesh has a success story in achieving many of the goals like reducing headcount poverty and poverty gap ratio, reducing the prevalence of underweight children, attaining gender parity at primary and secondary education, under-five mortality rate reduction. In addition, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in, increasing enrolment at primary schools, lowering the infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio, improving immunization coverage and reducing the incidence of communicable diseases. On the other hand, areas in need of greater attention are hunger-poverty reduction and employment generation, increases in primary school completion and adult literacy rates, ensuring quality education at all levels, creation of decent wage employment for women, increase in the skilled coverage of Information and Communication Technology and now Bangladesh is a role model of development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bangladesh has made commendable progress in respect of eradication of poverty and hunger. It has sustained a GDP growth rate of 6 percent or above in recent years that has played a positive role in eradicating poverty. The robust growth has been accompanied in corresponding improvements in several social indicators such as increased life expectancy and lower fertility rate despite having one of the world's highest population densities. I believe, good governance is essential for implementing Sustainable Development Goals in all countries. Sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication, and employment creation. Each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development, and the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. All countries should promote sustainable development at the national level by enacting and enforcing clear and effective laws that strengthen institutions supporting sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bangladesh Government has been trying to ensure the inclusive development goals encapsulating people of all walks. The "Perspective Plan of Bangladesh (2010-2021): Making Vision 2021 a Reality" is a strategic articulation of the development vision, mission, and goals of the Government in achieving a prosperous Bangladesh grounded in political and economic freedoms a reality in 2021. The seventh five year plan has set the strategies for sustainable inclusive development goals and strategies. The 7th FYP, spanning fiscal years 2016-2020, begins with the country having entered the ranks of a middle income country. The first year of the 7th Plan also coincides with the launch of the UN post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A sustainable development pathway that is resilient to disaster and climate change entails sustainable use of natural resources and successfully manages the inevitable urbanization transition. Accelerated poverty reduction is a key objective of the 7th FYP.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The APA Parliamentarians should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support for structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing market access for developing countries. International financial architecture needs to be slightly reformed and sustained with greater transparency and the effective participation of developing countries in decision-making processes. A universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe that democracy, peace and prosperity are interlinked. We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. Through unrest, disillusionment, apathy or political disengagement, young people are demonstrating their aspiration to democratic, peaceful and prosperous societies. I firmly believe that it is important to involve youth as key stakeholders and decision-makers. There can be no strong democracy, no lasting peace and no sustainable prosperity without the contribution of women, young people, policy makers, and the civil society who represent a major segment of the population all over the world. APA is aimed at promoting

peace, democracy, and gender equality in Asian countries. So, I earnestly urge all Member Parliaments to enhance their helpful hands to promote tolerance and empathy among Asian nations with a view to diminish distrust, misunderstanding, and conflict among religious communities.

Thank You All.