

Synthesis Report
Second National Conference on
SDGs IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW (SIR) 2022



General Economics Division (GED)
Bangladesh Planning Commission
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
June 2022

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ACRONYMS

| | |
|------|---|
| 6FYP | Sixth Five-Year Plan |
| 7FYP | Seventh Five-Year Plan |
| 8FYP | Eighth Five-Year Plan |
| BCC | Building Construction Committee |
| BNBC | Bangladesh National Building Code |
| BSEC | Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission |
| CMC | Central Management Committee |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| DIA | Disaster Impact Assessment |
| EFT | Electronic Funds Transfer |
| ERD | Economic Relations Divisions |
| EVAW | Eliminate Violence Against Women |
| FD | Finance Division |
| FID | Financial Institutions Division |
| FYP | Five Year Plan |
| GADD | Gender, Age, and Disability Disaggregated |
| GED | General Economics Divisions |
| GEMS | Government Employee Management System |
| GoB | Government of Bangladesh |
| HSD | Health Service Division |
| ICTD | Information and Communication Technology Division |
| IDRA | Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority |
| IMED | Monitoring & Evaluation Division |
| InM | Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development |
| IRD | Internal Resources Division |
| IWRM | integrated Water for Resource Management |
| LDC | Least Developed Country |

| | |
|--------|---|
| LGD | Local Government Division |
| LJD | Law and Justice Division |
| LNOB | Leave No One Behind |
| LPAD | Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division |
| MDG | Millennium Development Goal |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| ME&FWD | Medical Education and Family Welfare Division |
| MoA | Ministry of Agriculture |
| MoC | Ministry of Commerce |
| MoCAT | Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism |
| MoCA | Ministry of Cultural Affairs |
| MoDMR | Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief |
| MoEFCC | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change |
| MoEWOE | Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment |
| MoFood | Ministry of Food |
| MoFA | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| MoFL | Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock |
| MoHA | Ministry of Home Affairs |
| MoHFW | Ministry of Health and Family Welfare |
| MoHPW | Ministry of Housing and Public Works |
| Mol | Ministry of Information and Broadcasting |
| MoLE | Ministry of Labour and Employment |
| MoPA | Ministry of Public Administration |
| MoPME | Ministry of Primary and Mass Education |
| MoST | Ministry of Science and Technology |
| MoWCA | Ministry of Women and Children Affairs |
| MoWR | Ministry of Water Resources |
| MFSP | Modern Food Storage and Facilities Project |
| MTBF | Medium-Term Budget Framework |
| NBR | National Board of Revenue |

| | |
|------|---|
| NDCC | National Data Coordination Committee |
| NEOC | National Emergency Operation Centre |
| NGAF | National Governance Assessment Framework |
| NIF | National Indicator Framework |
| NPI | National Priority Indicators |
| NSD | National Savings Directorate |
| NSO | National Statistical Organization |
| PM | Prime Minister |
| PMO | Prime Minister Office |
| PSD | Public Security Division |
| PTD | Posts and Telecommunications Division |
| RTHD | Road Transport and Highways Division |
| SHED | Secondary & Higher Education Division |
| SID | Statistics and Informatics Division |
| SIR | SDGs Implementation Review |
| SPP | Sustainable Public Procurement |
| SSD | Security Services Division |
| TMED | Technical and Madrasah Education Division |
| TSC | Technical School & College |
| TVET | Technical and Vocational Education and Training |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNGA | UN General Assembly |
| VNR | Voluntary National Review |

PREFACE

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were launched at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 and adopted in 2015 as a universal call to action to achieve peace and prosperity for all by 2030. According to the Brundtland Commission Report 1987, sustainable development has been defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. The overall objective of sustainable development is the long-term stability of society, economy, and environment. It’s crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection to achieve the SDGs. The United Nations Member States are committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and this will only be possible through the integration and acknowledgment of social, economic, and environmental concerns throughout the decision-making process.

Bangladesh, as a member state of the United Nations, is fully committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the stipulated timeline. Therefore, multifaceted initiatives and approaches have already been taken from various fronts. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has integrated SDGs into the Five Year Plans (FYP), conducted a data gap analysis, mapped ministries and divisions by targets, completed the SDG financing strategy, developed an SDG action plan, and designed a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework for SDGs. Besides, in recognition of the fact that SDGs are overarching, the Government has adopted a “whole of society” approach and engaged wider stakeholders in achieving the SDGs. Bangladesh is currently working on the implementation of SDGs at the grassroots (through localization of SDGs) to ensure the involvement and ownership of people living at the farthest.

In the last six years, Bangladesh has made significant progress toward responding to the universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity for all. According to the Sustainable Development Report 2022 published by the University of Cambridge, Bangladesh ranks 104 out of 163 countries. In recognition of the strong stride made by the country in SDGs implementation, the Hon’ble Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina was conferred with the “SDG Progress Award” in 2021. This is a significant international acknowledgment of the country’s success in spearheading the SDGs.

A robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent, and integrated review framework is critical to track progress and ensure the implementation of the SDGs by the year 2030. An effectual review system eventually triggers dynamism in the action plans and expedites further improvement in the ongoing SDG activities. As one of the most active countries to achieve the SDGs with the highest level of political will, Bangladesh emphasizes the regular review of the progress made in achieving SDGs.

As part of a systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of Agenda 2030 at the national level, the General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission in collaboration with the Governance Innovations Unit (GIU) of Prime Minister's Office organized a National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (SIR) in 2018 for the first time. The objective of the conference was to appraise the implementation status of SDGs. The first SIR conference facilitated different sessions where Senior Officials from Ministries / Divisions, Development Partners, NGOs, and CSOs highlighted the actions already taken, identified challenges, and charted future courses of action. However, amidst the development of new challenges such as LDC graduation and the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission in collaboration with the Governance Innovations Unit (GIU) of Prime Minister's Office organized the "Second National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (SIR) 2022" on 16-18 May 2022 to critically assess the policy actions and activities taken in the last six years and further strengthen Bangladesh's effort to attain SDGs at the national as well as local levels.

During the conference, nine parallel sessions including a session on SDGs localization and a plenary session were organized successfully. More than 3,000 guests and participants from forty-three Lead Ministries/Divisions, Offices of the Divisional Commissioners, Private Sector, Development Partner Agencies, NGOs/INGOs, CSOs, Academia, and Research Organizations participated in the discourse actively. In the parallel sessions, Lead Ministries/Divisions and Divisional Commissioners presented the SDGs Implementation Review Reports. Each parallel session facilitated discussion on the implementation status of SDG-related plans, policies, projects, and programs; initiatives undertaken in implementing SDGs at the local level; implementation challenges, and the ways forward. Similarly, in the plenary session, the Private Sector, Development Partners, and NGOs/CSOs presented the initiatives taken so far to help Bangladesh in achieving SDGs at the national and local levels. Also, they discussed the challenges and outlined what plans/policies/strategies could be adopted in the coming days to enhance the implementation of the SDGs taking cognizance of the challenges.

This decade is called the "Decade of Action". Bangladesh will continue to work on meeting the twin objectives of achieving SDGs and national development aspirations. For instance, Bangladesh intends to attain and sustain a high GDP growth rate to succeed in reducing poverty and inequality rapidly through inclusive employment generation. It will also persistently work on maintaining the healthy functioning of the ecosystem since this is equally critical for sustainable development. Bangladesh is also committed to doing institutional reforms necessary for achieving SDGs by 2030. This is an important journey for Bangladesh. In this important voyage, strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership will be critical in the exchange of knowledge, capacity building, and financing of the SDGs. Nonetheless, Bangladesh is confident about unearthing new ways of thinking the development strategies in the coming days and overcoming all the world's biggest challenges – ranging from poverty to climate change and inequality to become one of the champions in SDGs implementation as it did in the achievement of MDGs.

I would like to express my gratitude to the relevant ministries/divisions, agencies, development partners, researchers, NGOs, and CSOs for their active and vibrant participation in the efforts. I am also thankful to all my colleagues in GED, the Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) at the Prime Minister’s Office, the UNDP, UNICEF Team, and “Preparation & Monitoring of Medium-Term Development Plans (Eighth Five Year Plan) for their dedication and active support to implement SDGs and Vision-2041” Project.

Finally, we are grateful to our Hon’ble Minister, Ministry of Planning, Mr. M.A Mannan, MP, and Hon’ble State Minister, Ministry of Planning, Dr. Shamsul Alam for their inspiration and wholehearted support in arranging this 2nd SIR National Conference and preparing the report. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Zuena Aziz, Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs), Prime Minister’s Office for her continuous guidance and support.



Dr. Md. Kawser Ahmed
Member (Secretary)
General Economics Division (GED)
Bangladesh Planning Commission

SIR DAY ONE



Photo: Inaugural Session

Inaugural Session

Opening Speech

Ms. Zuena Aziz, Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs), Prime Minister's Office gave the speech at the opening ceremony of the Second National Conference on the SDGs Implementation Review (SIR). She started her speech by welcoming the chief guest, chair, special guest, ministers and ministers of state, secretaries of various ministries/divisions, heads of governmental departments and agencies, representatives of development partners, NGOs and civil society, journalists, and colleagues. In her speech, she talked about the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, prepared in 1972, under the direct guidance and supervision of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. She said that in an address to the United Nations in 1974, the Father of the Nation had emphasized the importance



of poverty alleviation, eradication of hunger, reduction of inequality, health, education, solving the unemployment problem, building peace, justice, and a just economic system, dealing with natural disasters, recognition of interdependence in problem-solving and making concerted efforts which existed in the SDGs. According to her, the government under the visionary and dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is committed to implementing the SDGs on time. She mentioned that the main target of the Prime Minister's development agenda was the "people" and so were the SDGs. To ensure that "no one is left behind", the Government had adopted special programs for the homeless and landless, marginalized people, and those living in remote areas, she added. She further said that with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's timely and appropriate initiatives, the Government had been able to move the economy forward by tackling the COVID-19 pandemic by keeping lives and livelihoods afloat. She also talked about the involvement of all stakeholders since the inception of the SDGs and the finalization of the priority list for SDG localization. She also spoke about the various initiatives taken in the implementation of the SDGs which got appreciated in the international arena. She mentioned that Bangladesh ranked 109th out of 165 countries in the global rankings, and so the President of Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Dr. Jeffrey Sachs presented the "SDG Progress Award" to the Hon'ble Prime Minister. She mentioned that Bangladesh had become the first to make the best progress between 2015 and 2020. Lastly, she briefed the plan for the three-day national conference, where various Ministries/ Divisions would present their activities undertaken against the SDG Action Plan, the progress made against the relevant targets and discussed possible ways to address the implementation challenges. She added that the respective divisional commissioners would present the activities of their SDG localization and the representatives of the private sector, development partners, and NGOs would present their respective positions.

Presentation on SDGs Achievements

Dr. Md. Kawser Ahmed, Member (Secretary), General Economics Division (GED) gave a presentation on Bangladesh's development journey with SDGs. In his presentation, he gave an overview of Bangladesh's endeavors toward achieving SDGs. He addressed Bangladesh as one of the most active and committed countries to achieve the SDGs with the highest level of political will, making strong strides toward SDGs implementation at national and local levels. He informed that the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) had



completed all the preparatory works to achieve the Global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a coordinated manner and received international recognition for the progress made till now. He added that the successful implementation of the SDGs would depend on the inclusive and enhanced participation of multiple state and non-state stakeholders and so Bangladesh had adopted a "whole of society" approach to ensure wider participation of the private sector, development partners, NGOs, CSOs, think tanks, academia, and media in the process of the implementation of SDGs. He then talked about the alignment of ministries and divisions with SDGs like mapping Ministries /Divisions by the SDG targets and the national action plan of ministries/divisions by targets for the implementation of SDGs. He also

talked about credible and high-quality data generation and Bangladesh's integration of SDGs in National plans and policies. He mentioned that Bangladesh had emphasized generating quality and timely data as progress in SDGs implementation would be a challenging job without credible and quality data generation. He further added that GoB was organizing training workshops regularly to enhance the knowledge and capacity of SDG Focal Points on the compilation and reporting of SDG-related data and the GoB had also formed a high-level SDGs Implementation and Review Committee headed by the Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs), Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for implementing and monitoring the SDGs. He pointed out that a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework of the SDGs had been designed to track the progress made by the country and Bangladesh had assessed the additional resource requirement and done a comprehensive analysis of the development financing landscape to bridge the SDGs financing gap. He narrated that localizing the SDGs meant making SDG aspirations real to communities, households, and individuals, particularly to those who were at risk of falling behind and 39+1 National Priority Indicators (NPI) had been identified to localize SDGs, where the +1 indicator had been selected by the local administrative unit and piloting on SDGs localization, would be started soon. He then pointed out that the challenges going forward in implementing the SDGs were data paucity, resource gap for financing SDGs, stagnation in private investment, and the impact of COVID-19. At the end of his presentation, he said that Bangladesh was fully committed to ensuring economic growth, generating employment, reducing poverty, reducing inequality, and maintaining the healthy functioning of the ecosystem and added that Bangladesh was also committed to doing institutional reforms necessary for achieving SDGs and needed to enhance global cooperation and solidarity to close the huge resource gap in implementing 2030 agenda.

Documentary on SDGs

After the presentation on SDGs achievement, a documentary video on SDGs was played in the inaugural session of the second SIR conference.

Speech by the Development Partner Representative

Mr. Tuomo Poutiainen, UN Resident Coordinator and Country Director, ILO Bangladesh welcomed everyone from the government and private sectors to the conference. He started his speech by thanking the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh. He talked about GoB working on SDG even during the pandemic. He said that 2030 was an agenda and plan to achieve 17 SDGs and 169 targets and the country had shown remarkable progress in terms of SDGs. He pointed out that there were many challenges, among which COVID-19 was one of them and the development partners were committed to helping the government to overcome the challenge and achieve the SDGs. On behalf of the UN, he then gave best wishes to everyone in organizing a successful national conference on SIR.



Speech by the Special Guest

Dr. Shamsul Alam, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Planning was the special guest of the session. He started his speech by talking about the achievements of Bangladesh to date mentioning that Bangladesh witnessed a rapid rise in the socio-economic front through pragmatic economic development plans over the last decade. He noted that in the last decade, perhaps no other developing or least developed country gained such limelight as Bangladesh had done in terms of the success story. He continued that citing the work of World Bank, since the year 2000, for one decade and a half, approximately 25 million people had come out of poverty. Many factors had contributed to the reduction, which was followed by human development, capital formation, a lower fertility rate, and an increase in life expectancy, he added.



Most importantly, rural poverty had been reduced significantly contributing 90 percent of total poverty reduction, he continued. He further added that the last decade had been unforgettable for Bangladesh as it was awarded several international accolades and praises but among all of those, successes in MDGs remained the most glowing. He then mentioned that as an individual, Hon'ble PM Sheikh Hasina enlightened the country by receiving numerous awards from countries and international organizations. This achievement continued in the era of SDGs too with awards like Global Women Leadership Award, Champion for Skill Development for Youth, Vaccine Hero, and SDGs Progress Awards, he noted. He pointed out that those awards would keep them motivated for implementing SDGs effectively. He said that as a policymaker, he was fortunate that he had led the formulation of Vision 2021, the 6FYP and 7FYP, and later Vision 2041 and the 8FYP. During the era of MDGs, under his leadership, several MDG progress reports had been published which helped inform international organizations and the UN organizations about the success of Bangladesh as reflected in the world media. Consequently, he ushered the process of completing the policy-level framework needed to implement SDGs in the country. However, despite having commendable progress, Bangladesh had daunting challenges ahead in identifying sources of funding and mobilizing it to spend it efficiently and effectively with enhanced capacity of implementation, strengthening the partnership with development partners including NGOs to accelerate the localization of SDGs and addressing the need of efforts in the areas of science and technology, innovation and capacity building and broadening the tax net by encouraging taxpayers with the minimal administrative process, he mentioned. The SDGs had given a pathway to move forward, therefore, it was incumbent to seize the opportunity by translating action, he said. The success of Bangladesh in SDGs would largely hinge upon the capacity and capability of local government institutions in implementing the five-year plans, he further mentioned. The MDGs had offered Bangladesh an opportunity to brand itself in the global arena which it had done admirably and Bangladesh needs to seize even bigger opportunities through SDGs, he concluded.

Speech by the Chair



Mr. M. A. Mannan, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Planning welcomed Hon'ble Prime Minister, panelists, guests, ministries, and others in the 2nd national conference on SIR 2022. In remembrance of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman he started his speech. He stated, in the process of achieving SDGs, Bangladesh has adopted the whole of society approach. The living no one behind is the core development spirit of the government in implementation of SDGs. The Government has integrated SDGs into the national plan documents to aligning the country's development aspirations with the SDGs. In order to delineate the responsibilities of different ministries/divisions to each of the targets, the SDG Mapping document has been prepared. The SDGs monitoring framework SDG tracker and action plan have been developed to ensure the implementation

and monitoring of the progress of SDGs in an effective and coordinated way. Bangladesh has already participated in Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2017 and 2020. The country has made notable progress in achieving some of the targets of SDGs such as poverty alleviation, eradication of hunger, reducing inequality, improving health and education situations, solving the unemployment problem, building peace, justice and just economic system and dealing with natural disasters. As a recognition of these remarkable success Bangladesh received 'SDGs Progress Award' and got appreciated worldwide. He expressed confident in achieving the milestones of the 2030 agenda and reaffirmed the commitment of the visions 2041 of the Government.

Speech by the Chief Guest

HE Sheikh Hasina, MP, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, was the chief guest of the inaugural session of the conference. She welcomed everyone in the opening ceremony and with deep respect, she remembered the great architect of our independence, the greatest Bengali of all times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with four national leaders, three million martyrs of the liberation war and two hundred thousand tortured mothers and sisters. In her speech, she talked about the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, prepared under the direct supervision and guidance of the Father of the Nation and promised to ensure the fundamental



rights of every citizen. To that end, she added, the government was working tirelessly to build a hunger and poverty-free Bangladesh. She further said that Bangladesh was trying to set national goals to achieve international commitments. Then she added, the success of Bangladesh in implementing the MDGs brightened the image of our country in the international arena. The government was committed to implement the 'Agenda 2030' or the SDGs to continue this pace of development, she added. She mentioned the significant progress of Bangladesh in formulating plans and strategies to implement the global development agenda for the period 2016-2030. She mentioned the initiatives taken for the country's overall development, including ensuring the fundamental rights of all the people. She also pointed out that, initiatives like Palli Sanchay Bank, Ashrayan Project, Digital Bangladesh, Education Assistance Programme, Women's empowerment, Electricity for all, Community clinics and Child development, Social security programs, Environmental protection, and Investment development were already playing significant roles in the overall development of the country. She stated, Bangladesh was crossing seven years on the path to achieving the SDGs. In the last two years, SDG implementation process slowed down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she said. However, intending to achieve the goal, Bangladesh was working to the best of its ability, she added. She further said that the economy was returning to an increasing growth pace as the Government provided well-timed stimulus packages and appropriate policy support. She said that, it was challenging to ensure the implementation of the SDGs in the stipulated time. Still she believed, it would be possible to reach the goal through accurate and innovative action plans and effective monitoring systems. She hoped that through the conference, the organizations involved in the implementation of SDGs would be able to review their implementation progress and identify potential challenges and find solutions. In the planned development journey, development partners, NGOs, and Civil Society were equally involved with the Government, she added. She further pointed out that the participation of all stakeholders in that conference would further accelerate the future progress of Bangladesh. Finally, she wished all success to all the programs adopted on the occasion of the conference and announced the grand opening of the SIR Conference 2022. At the end of her speech, the Hon'ble PM unveiled the SDG publication titled "Revised Mapping of Ministries/ Divisions and Custodian/Partner Agencies for SDG Implementation in Bangladesh.

Parallel Session 01



Photo: Day 01 | Parallel Session 01

The parallel session 01 of the first day of the conference was moderated by Mr. Md Shamsul Arefin, Secretary, Coordination & Reforms, Cabinet Division. In this parallel session, Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Finance Division (FD), Economic Relations Division (ERD), Internal Resources Division (IRD), and Financial Institutions Division (FID) presented their SDGs Implementation Review Reports.

Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

The first presentation of parallel session 1 was given by Prime Minister's Office (PMO). They began the presentation by specifying the three lead targets (i.e., 17.5; 17.14; 17.17) and indicators (17.5.1; 17.14.1; 17.17.1) set for PMO about SDGs Implementation. In the presentation, they talked about the flagship initiatives taken by PMO. The first initiative, the Ashrayan (Rehabilitation) Project, rehabilitated the landless, homeless, rootless, and troubled families, provided credit and training on various livelihood activities to the beneficiaries, and alleviated poverty by creating income-generating activities for the beneficiaries. The project was initiated in six Upazillas covering 6 SDGs (Goal 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13). The second initiative was to provide support like education, water & sanitation, shelter, employment, health, and capacity to indigenous people living on plain land ensuing Living No One Behind (LNOB). The third initiative was the National Governance Assessment Framework (NGAF) when five factors (participation and responsiveness, effectiveness and capacity, equity and inclusion, rule of law, accountability and transparency) were commenced to follow good governance. These initiatives would help Bangladesh develop by 2041 covering people, prosperity, and the planet. In addition, Bangladesh was able to

identify a 39+1 model of localization- among 169 global targets, 39 national priorities, and 1 local priority. Indicators 17.14 and 17.17 foster public, public-private, and civil society partnerships (PPP) building on the experience and resource allocation techniques of partnerships, respectively. Indicator 17.5 adopts and implements investment promotion regimes for least developed countries. The PMO addressed some of the challenges in implementing SDGs such as generating quality data, developing human capacity, and localization of SDGs.

Finance Division (FD)

Finance Division (FD) was the second presenter of the session. In terms of SDGs Implementation, FD recognized the philosophy, objectives, goals, and targets of SDG and has taken steps to incorporate SDGs in the National Budget preparation process. They arranged sensitization workshops to make FD officials aware of the importance of aligning SDG goals with the Budget Framework. They considered the alignment of objectives of different ministries/divisions with SDGs in the agenda of Tripartite Budget Meetings before finalization of the budget and considered SDGs and targets while, formulating other policies, preparing the budget, and developing action plans.

Finance Division emphasized allocating the budget to different sectors for spending on essential services, creating sound policy frameworks based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, social protection policies, strengthening domestic resource mobilization, and implementing activities under Public Financial Management (PFM) Action Plan. FD is assigned 13 indicators as 'Lead', of which 3 indicators (10.4.1, 10.4.2, and 17.13.1) have newly been assigned. FD mentioned four strategies of the economic recovery programs to address the COVID-19 fallout-(i) increase government spending, (ii) provide low-interest credit facilities, (iii) increase the scope of the government's social security programs and (iv) increase the money supply in the market. He concluded by adding some major reform initiatives such as the public money and budget management act 2009, payment of pensions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), payroll automation, roll out of the Medium-Term Budget Framework (MTBF), simplified project fund release process, fund transfer of Social Safety net programs through G2P Payment System, Automated Challan (P2G), Saving Certificate Automation and Universal Pension System, etc.

Economic Relations Divisions (ERD)

Economic Relations Division (ERD) started the presentation with a quotation from the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and talked about a speech of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, where she said about her confidence in achieving SDGs like MDG. The roles of ERD in Development cooperation and SDG implementation are: ERD mobilizes external resources for implementing development projects, ERD works toward attaining LDC graduation and achieving SDGs, ERD interfaces between the Development partners and executing agencies, ERD facilitates increased participation in south-south cooperation initiatives over the years, ERD has been engaged in the inception of the new multilateral banks AIIB and NDB and ERD bridges out the NRBs for filling gaps in knowledge, technology and financing.

As per SDG mapping, ERD has the role of coordination for Goal 17 with 12 lead targets and 12 indicators. ERD is responsible for providing data for 23 different indicators. ERD mentioned important progress in achieving assigned targets and in detail, talked about deepening the engagement with development partners with ERD. In conclusion, ERD explained that the major challenge of ERD was to mobilize and ensure the effective use of the resources needed for implementing the SDGs. For smooth implementation of SDGs, ERD would continue its focus on mobilizing resources for socio-economic green and inclusive development following the prudent external borrowing strategy, bringing efficiency in project management, and improving coordination among financiers and implementing agencies.

Internal Resources Division (IRD)

The Internal Resources Division (IRD) began with an overview commencing the functions of the attached departments of IRD. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is one of the attached departments of IRD which provides around 87 percent of the country's total revenue through various direct and indirect taxes, including income tax, value-added tax, and customs duties. Concerning SDGs, it has one of the most important tasks of strengthening domestic resources and improving domestic capacity for tax and revenue collection. To achieve a tax-GDP ratio of 20 percent by the year 2030, NBR has formulated thirty-five actions. Moreover, National Savings Directorate (NSD) is also an attached department of the IRD. To meet the budget deficit, the government collects money from different types of debt instruments. It is expected that Gross National Savings will reach up to 31.56 percent of GDP as per SDG 2030. IRD explained using tabulation, the assessment of the implementation of targets of NBR and the progress of NSD as per the SDGs M&E framework. IRD organized workshops on the SDGs that were held in the Customs, VAT, and income tax departments. They also organized tax fairs, income tax days, VAT days, and customs days, as well as meetings with various stakeholders and tax camps and spot assessments. To increase public awareness, forums for tax and VAT education have been developed. The Directorate of National Savings' divisional offices and headquarters host SDG training sessions to inform the officials about the scope of the SDGs. To achieve the objectives allocated to it, IRD had some difficulties maintaining the necessary infrastructure, supplies, and staff. The hurdles to be overcome also include a limited framework, manual processes, a shortage of skilled manpower, obsolete rules and regulations, and a lack of public knowledge about savings tools. To overcome the challenges, some ways forward were addressed in the presentation such as broadening the tax base to achieve a tax GDP ratio of 20 percent as per SDGs by 2030, introducing new VAT law, preparing the Income Tax Act in Bangla and fully automation of internal revenue management system.

Financial Institutions Division (FID)

The Financial Institutions Division (FID) described the overview, vision, and mission of the division at the beginning of the presentation. FID is the lead division for the implementation of four SDG targets (8.10, 10.c, 17.3, 16.4), five indicators (8.10.1, 8.10.2, 10.c.1, 16.4.1, 17.3.2) and associated with four regulatory bodies i.e., Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) and Microcredit Regulatory Authority. The representative of FID explained the major activities and legal and policy reforms of each target. He concluded with the challenges faced by the FID- (i) difficult-to-access remote and grass-root localities; (ii) no metadata for tracking illicit financial flow; (iii) demand-induced impediments, lack of financial

literacy, social exclusion, etc. Promote financial literacy and consumer empowerment; international collaboration to measure illicit financial flow; upgrade digital financial services and fintech; strengthen payment system and service delivery channel; broaden and deepen financial inclusion of women, those affected by climate change, and the underserved/unserved were some of the actions outlined by FID as planned to improve the implementation of SDGs while taking cognizance of challenges.

Speech by the Discussants

Mr. Mohammed Muslim Chowdhury, Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh was the first discussant of this session. He said there was a big challenge in terms of bringing a change as a whole. He specifically said that the presenters talked about a particular division's SDG implementation, but as a whole (all ministries/divisions) other points needed to be acknowledged to bring a concrete change in society. He suggested filling the financial gap that had been recognized to prevent drying up the other segments. In terms of implementation, while talking about the whole-of-society approach, he recommended linking the development of the local connecting/linking with the SDG. Moreover, a huge gap has been detected in terms of financing.

Dr. Mohammad Farashuddin, Former Governor of Bangladesh Bank was the second discussant of the session. He said that SDGs were the goals that needed to be achieved, but the government was enjoying the initiatives taken to achieve them. He further said that LNOB meant not to create disperse in terms of every aspect, therefore, initiatives needed to be taken in that regard. He said the challenge of tax collectors was that they were unable to explain to the citizens the need of paying taxes and the reason for taxpayers' money going into corruption. He added that Bangladesh was among a few countries that had nineteen divisions, but the question arose of what extra benefits we were giving looking at the banking institute. He said the tax rate went up and the collection had gone down, therefore, we should have examined why people collected but did not deposit them.

Speech by the Special Guest

Dr. Shamsul Alam, Honorable Minister of State, Ministry of Planning gave a speech as a special guest at the session. He welcomed all the ministries, moderators, discussants, chief guests, and distinguished participants in the session. He thanked all five presenters for delivering such a brilliant presentation in the session. He specifically thanked the presenters from ERD and FID for providing edifying information through their presentations. In his speech he said, Bangladesh was rewarded for MDG achievement, and our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had recently received SDG Progress Award, resulting in to head of achieved SDG 2030 Agenda. He added that the COVID-19 pandemic had been a challenge for the entire world and Bangladesh was no less than it, however, Bangladesh had done beyond our expectations and recovered during the post-COVID-19 period. He said like the COVID-19 pandemic Bangladesh would successfully overcome all the challenges. Therefore, he requested fellow participants and citizens of the country not to worry about the Sri Lankan issue. To regain confidence, he pointed out the achievement of Bangladesh in terms of network rating, corruption transparency index, and covid recovery index.

Speech by the Chief Guest

The chief guest of the session, **Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP**, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs started his speech by thanking the moderator for mediating the session smoothly, the discussants for giving the knowledge-enriching speech, and the presenters for providing the informative presentation. He said it was necessary to have a sustainable world so that it could recover from difunctional, hence the SDG 2030 agenda had been prepared based on achievements. He talked about the formation of 5Ps- (i) People: reduction of poverty and increase in life expectancy (ii) Planet: climate-related issues (iii) Peace: Cultural peace had been spread by BD (iv) Prosperity and (v) Partnership: In MDG, number 8 partnership was a disgrace, but SDG17 (Partnerships for the goals) was compromised from SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institution) and SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production). Initially, it was decided to have fifteen goals but later it was decided to have two more for partnership.

Parallel Session 02



Photo: Day 01 | Parallel Session 02

The parallel session 02 of the first day of the conference was moderated by Mr. Pradip Ranjan Chakraborty, Secretary of the Planning Division. In this parallel session, the General Economics Division (GED), Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), and Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) presented their SDGs Implementation Review Reports.

General Economics Divisions (GED)

Unlike other ministries, General Economics Division (GED) is not an implementation agency, therefore, the activities undertaken by GED are different from other ministries/divisions/agencies. GED explained an overview of the role of the GoB in implementing the SDGs. They briefly explained their activities in implementing SDG. GED works as a Secretariat of SIR committee and mainstream SDGs in national development plans and policies. GED promotes LNOB; prepares and publishes different documents on contemporary issues. They also arrange training and workshops for capacity building for SDG Focal Points and organize consultations/dialogues with non-stakeholders to raise more awareness. They also prepare SDG progress reports, VNR, and UN General Assembly (UNGA) booklets at regular intervals. They also integrate SDGs in local development plans so that a comprehensive action plan can be prepared.

GED leads nine SDG targets and its associated nine indicators (1.b.1, 8.3.1, 10.1.1, 10.2.1, 10.4.1, 17.15.1, 12.1.1, 13.2.1, and 16.7.2). The mapping of ministries/divisions by SDG targets has recently been reviewed and revised by GED. The revised mapping identifies custodian/partner agencies as important actors in

the implementation of SDGs. The SDGs have been integrated into FYPs, Perspective Plan, and Delta Plan. To generate quality data a high-level committee, National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC), has been instituted to ensure fast-track data generation for SDGs. The GED, in collaboration with BBS, organizes training workshops regularly on SDG metadata to enhance the knowledge and capacity of SDG Focal Points on the compilation and reporting of SDG-related data.

An M&E framework of the SDGs has been designed by GED in 2017 to track the progress made by the country, which has been reviewed and revised in 2020. Moreover, SDGs Progress Report and VNR report have been prepared to evaluate progress and adopt necessary actions to be on the right course. The GED assessed the additional resource requirement and explored the financing strategy to bridge the SDGs financing gap and has recently conducted a study exploring the potential of blue bonds for financing sustainable marine and ocean-based projects that will contribute to environmental sustainability and poverty eradication. The GED conducted a study in the year 2020 to address the need to make faster progress in achieving the SDGs among disadvantaged social groups and in the lagging regions. GED is involved in several activities in localizing SDGs such as developing an SDG localization framework, conducting a baseline study, and piloting SDGs that are expected to start next year. The GED has recently launched a knowledge portal (www.gedkp.gov.bd) where SDG-related plans, policies, strategies, studies, and research can be accessed and addressed some challenges like paucity of relevant and updated data, difficulty in tracking the SDGs implementation progress regularly, lack of coordination among ministries/divisions, frequent change of SDG focal points, and inadequate awareness among non-state stakeholders. As a way forward, GED pointed out some opinions: take initiatives to monitor and evaluate the progress of the 2030 global development goals, guide the ministries/divisions to implement SDG-related projects/programs in a coordinated way, and assist the ministries/divisions in a smooth transfer of knowledge through an online SDG knowledge hub, create an institutional arrangement to interact with the non-state stakeholders and make them onboard and lastly support the National Statistical Organization (NSO) to generate timely and quality data through capacity building programs.

Implementation Monitoring & Evaluation Division (IMED)

The IMED began the presentation by explaining its vision, mission, and major functions of IMED and talked about Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP), its functions, and its relevance to public procurement. SPP is linked with SDG 12 (target 12.7 and indicator 12.7.1). IMED mentioned the implementation requirement i.e., SPP policy, SPP Action Plan, and SPP Implementation Roadmap. The IMED also talked in detail about the SPP progress, environmental benefits, social benefits, economic benefits, and good governance. Lastly, IMED talked about the challenges of SPP- lack of expertise on SPP implementation, lack of policy commitments/goals/action plans, lack of strong political and organizational leadership on SPP, lack of mandatory SPP rules/legislation, lack of sustainable products and/or services to purchase and insufficient monitoring, evaluation, and/or enforcement of SPP policies.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is responsible as the lead implementing agency for twenty-four indicators of nineteen targets against seven different goals. They are also responsible as co-lead implementing agency for nine indicators of four targets against four

different goals and data providers for forty-two indicators of thirty-seven targets against eleven different goals. MoEFCC described the activities undertaken to achieve the targets. MoEFCC creates awareness and sensitization regarding environmental SDGs at district and divisional offices through workshops and outreach activities, also underway are awareness and motivation campaigns at the community level by involving them directly in the community-based natural heritage conservation and livelihood provisions. To undertake the activities MoEFCC confronted challenges such as industrialization, urbanization, and economic growth that are putting tremendous pressure on the nature and natural environment. There is also a lot of pressure on the forests of Teknaf and Cox's Bazar because of the recent influx of Rohingya refugees, which have destroyed 6,000 acres of forest due to the over-exploitation of land and water resources. Additionally, environmental indicators must be calculated using highly technical methodologies that take a lot of time and money to perceive and produce the data. The way forward for the MoEFCC is the development of capacity at the Ministry/Division/Agency level based on need assessments in specific technical areas, consistency in the application of best practices to meet the sustainable criteria and targets, organization of continuous consultation and collaboration with the relevant ministries and agencies to identify the data deficiency, measuring progress and overcoming the challenges, and allocating adequate funds to manage/conservate the data.

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)

The MoDMR gave a background context of the ministry explaining the vision and mission. They lead 4 SDG targets of Goals 1, 11, and 13. MoDMR addressed some key strategies to attain the SDGs- addressing recurring disasters, mega-disaster including urban disasters, preparedness, response, and recovery with BBB (build back better) and mainstreaming DRR (inclusion, risk-informed planning). MoDMR talked about key achievements/progress of policy, plan and institution building, risk identification and assessment, climate-resilient infrastructure (2016-2021), investing in preparedness and response (2016-2021), and project/program for DRR & Resilience. To implement the Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) and ensure that it is enforced, MoDMR developed 65 local disaster management plans and contingency plans, trained planners, designers, engineers, architects, local government officials, volunteers, contractors, and players in the private sector, and improved the capacity of the Building Construction Committee (BCC), which works to ensure compliance with safer construction. Local Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) are also responsible for implementing the BNBC. Inadequate disaggregated data on gender, age, and disability disaggregated (GADD) for DRR, response, and recovery planning, addressed rapid and unplanned urbanization, internal displacement, and climate-induced disasters, slow-onset disaster, inadequacy and unavailability of real-time data from upstream sources, and shortage of manpower at the field level are some of the challenges MoDMR encountered. The MoDMR outlined the best course of action as follows: (i) implement Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA) when developing DPP/TAPP for risk-informed and inclusive development projects and programs; (ii) internal displacement management plan and actions; (iii) institutionalize volunteerism; (iv) establish disaster risk financing mechanism (insurance); and (v) capacity building of institutions and professionals and establish National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC).

Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR)

The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) is the lead Ministry for SDG 6 and lead-five targets (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6). It is not possible to achieve SDGs 13, 14, and 15 without water management. MoWR is responsible for target 6.5 Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Sub-Indicators. Four aspects have been considered for SDG 6.5.1- (i) enabling environment (ii) Institutions & Participations, (it has been aligned with BDP and 8FY) (iii) Management Instruments (iv) Financing. MoWR mentioned indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 are on track and by 2030 it is possible to reach the target. MoWR ensured people's participation through Ashrayan projects. Some challenges encountered by MoWR are- coordination and alignment of policies and institutional collaboration, institutional capacities, inclusive decision-making for integrated Water for Resource Management (IWRM), research-policy-sector linkage, data adequacy, and information sharing process, inadequate financing and technological advancement, IWRM Action Plan. The way forward is the inclusion of IWRM and Groundwater Governance into the Mandates of MoWR, participation of Vulnerable Groups; Gender Mainstreaming for local-level IWRM planning; utilizing the potentials of 4IR; development of IWRM Action Plans; prioritization of basin-wide water resource management and aquifer sustainability; extension of the framework agreement for the majority of the trans-boundary river; and other.

Speech by the Discussant

Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri, Executive Director of the Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM) said in his speech that the presentation made by different ministries had highlighted the progress of SDGs and inter-agency coordination was a key integral part that had been reflected in all presentations. He pointed out that COVID-19 had impacted overall indicators, particularly social indicators such as poverty and employment, etc and its impact had not been reflected as such. He added that consistent with that, it needed to explicitly look at the progress so that setbacks of COVID-19 could be addressed. The presentation also reflected the data paucity. He said that all the indicators' data were not available to track the current and future conditions properly and it was required for effective policymaking and M&E needed to focus on that. He mentioned that for making better progress on SDGs, there was no alternative to make available quality data. He said that we had very limited time to achieve SDGs and by 2024 Bangladesh would graduate from LDCs to a developed country. He then said that we would have some opportunities and challenges as a developing country and in this context, ministries and agencies needed to identify the opportunities and challenges due to LDC graduation. In conclusion, he said that by identifying those we would be able to be a developing country by 2041 and that was not only to achieve SDGs by 2030 but also to achieve the dream of Bangabandhu.

Speech by the Special Guest

Mr. Zaheed Farooque, MP, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Water Resources said Bangladesh had made tremendous progress since 1971 and Bangladesh was well-posed to achieve SDGs by 2030. He then said that SDGs were the UN's forward-looking development agenda and Bangladesh actively participated in setting the 2030 agenda by setting its goals, targets, and indicators. He also noted that Bangladesh was an early starter in the implementation of SDG by adopting a whole-of-society approach and It involved government machinery and NGOs, CSOs, PS, and other stakeholders. He pointed out

that Bangladesh was in a better position than some Asian countries. He further added, that MoEFCC was the lead ministry for twenty-four indicators, the Ministry of Disaster had eight indicators, and MoWR had four indicators. He said that had been recognized by the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision to achieve SDGs before 2030 and we had well-defined development planning up to 2041 which had also been reflected in the Asia Pacific SDG progress report in 2022. He mentioned that the report said the significant development of SDGs, particularly for SDG 13.

He further mentioned that National Disasters had an increasing impact on people and the economy across Asia and the Pacific region. Bangladesh MoDMR was awarded the UN Public service award 2021 for women's empowerment in the cyclone awareness program. He added that Bangladesh was highly vulnerable to climate change and challenges and it was even more challenging to achieve the goal in disaster and climate-related indicators. He said that climate resilience was another overarching theme that was found across all the presentations given there in the session and Bangladesh had an excellent track record in climate resilience. He pointed out that climate vulnerabilities had made Bangladeshi voice-makers align climate action with national development policies. He mentioned that the Hon'ble Prime Minister led for climate at the international level and she was also the chair of the climate-vulnerable forum for the second term. She had also declared that Bangladesh would prepare the first climate prosperity plan to set an example for other vulnerable countries, he added.

He pointed out that Bangladesh was also finalizing the national adaptation plan to comply with CoP, a cross-cutting issue in SDG engagement and MoWR progressed towards integrated water resource management. He added then that SDG indicator 6.5.1 tracked the degree of water resources management and implementation by assessing another component related to IWRM and the progress of SDG 6.5.2 depended upon the agreement of our transboundary basins with neighboring countries. He concluded by saying that Bangladesh had also made two VNRs on progress on SDGs and it had achieved MDG before the timeline and was also on track towards achieving SDGs.

Speech by the Chief Guest

Mr. Md. Shahab Uddin, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change was the chief guest of the session. He said that was a very timely initiative as we just had recovered from COVID-19 and MoEFCC was on track to achieving such good progress in implementing the concern SDG indicators. He added GoB had integrated SDGs in FYPs and conducted SDG data gaps and developed M&E Framework.

He pointed out that Bangladesh as a signatory of the 2030 agenda for SDGs, had committed to achieving this in a stipulated timeline and the government had adopted the whole-of-the-society approach by engaging all stakeholders for achieving the SDGs. He then added that Bangladesh was the first developing country that had adopted a comprehensive climate change strategy and action plan in 2009 and it had established a national climate change financing mechanism titled 'Bangladesh Climate Change trust fund' using all resources to address the climate change impact. He further added that Bangladesh was then preparing the National Adaptation Plan which would enhance its adaptation capabilities and in August 2021, an ambition of an updated nationally determined contribution to the UNFCCC was submitted. He then said that the Hon'ble PM had been awarded the UN's highest environmental

recognition for the achievement of a remarkable role and Bangladesh had been taking the initiative to address vulnerability as a chair of CBF. He mentioned that Bangladesh had also drafted the Mujib Prosperity Plan with a vision of setting Bangladesh's trajectory from one of the vulnerable and resilient to prosperity and Bangladesh had also established an air quality monitoring system throughout the country to monitor it continuously. He remarked that they had succeeded; however, some challenges in industrialization, unplanned urbanization, and economic growth, putting tremendous pressure on nature and the environment need to be overcome.

He added that population pressure was also making our land and water polluted and making people aware and mainstreaming conservation was a great challenge that needed to focus on. He then said that environmental data was also globally changing frequently. He pointed out that however, Bangladesh's success in implementing the MDGs had brightened its image in the international arena. He then added that ministries, to continue this triumph of development, under the strong leadership of the hon'ble PM were committed to contributing to achieving SDGs and all ministries had developed their action plan to achieve SDGs. In conclusion, he said that Ministries then must play their role in successfully implementing this action plan in close collaboration with concerned national and international partners.

Parallel Session 03



Photo: Day 01 | Parallel Session 03

The parallel session 03 of the first day of the conference was moderated by Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Former Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs), Prime Minister's Office. In this parallel session, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Ministry of Commerce (MoC), Ministry of Industries (MoI), Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), and Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) presented their SDGs Implementation Review Reports.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) is designated lead for four SDG targets (10.6, 14.c, 16.8, 17.16) and 3 indicators (10.6.1, 14.c.1 and 16.8.1). MoFA delivered the progress as per the target. Under SDG 10.6 UN ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) member elected for 2020-22, active participation in High-level Political Forum (HLPF), served as President of UNICEF 2020 Executive Board, President of WFP 2022, Executive Board and Deputy Member of the Governing Body of the ILO 2021-2024, and attained membership of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and New Development Bank (NDB). Under SDG target 14.c state party to the UN Convention on the law of the sea has been made, the State Party to Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI, Seabed Mining has been accomplished, the Party Agreement for implementation relating to conversion and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stock achieved and growing involvement with International Maritime Organization (IMO) has been obtained. Under SDG target 16.8, Bangladesh vying for the UNGA Presidency, UN Human Rights Council 2023-25, and UN Security Council 2030-31, as a pioneer of the Global Compact

for Migration, Bangladesh has co-facilitated both modalities resolution and pledging initiative of international migration, serving as Chair of UN peacebuilding commission, active participation through G77+ China Group, NAM. Under SDG target 17.16, Bangladesh co-facilitated the negotiation of the Doha Programme of Action (DPOA) 2022-31 for LDCs, the 36th session of the FAO Asia and the Pacific regional conference was hosted in Dhaka, Dhaka-Glasgow Declaration adopted by CVF countries under Bangladesh Presidency during COP26, World Peace conference hosted in Dhaka, Regional Office of the Global Center on Adaptation was established in Dhaka and Annual Thematic Meeting of Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) organized in Dhaka.

MoFA explained the progress as per the indicators in detail. The major disruption of international partnerships and issues with the global supply chain caused by Covid-19, the expansion of geopolitics and the near-collapse of the multilateral system brought on by the Russia-Ukraine War, the rise of protectionist tendencies, aided by populism and ultranationalism in several countries, major powers' frequent flagrant disregard for international law, including UNCLOS provisions, and the diminishing resources for international cooperation were the challenges faced by MoFA. The way forward for MoFA is- Bangladesh's national development strategy to mainstream SDGs to help build back better from COVID-19, mitigating measures to address the negative effects of the Russia-Ukraine War need to be taken in collaboration with other friendly nations and regional blocs, Bangladesh to continue calling for continuing international support measures for LDCs to graduate to make the transition easy, Bangladesh to work through various coalitions to press for climate financing, technologies and loss and damage support Bangladesh to continue working on sustained improvement of governance, human rights, labour rights, investment climate and internal resource mobilization and Bangladesh to remain a champion of multilateralism, meaningful international partnerships for development and effective representation of developing countries in global governance.

Ministry of Commerce (MoC)

The Ministry of Commerce (MoC) established a noteworthy competitive position in international trade. MoC leads four Goals (2, 6, 10, and 17), and seven targets (2.c, 8.2, 8.a, 10.a, 17.10, 17.11, 17.12). The major activities of MoC are to minimize the negative impact of LDC graduation on international trade, reduce price volatility, policy reform, e-commerce, digital trade, international cooperation for competitive international trade, and increase export earnings through product diversification and project/program. MoC localized development through projects and various activities including essential commodities' sale through TCB to meet the demands at the root level and provide policy support for the climate-friendly business environment. The challenges of MoC are export competitiveness due to the loss of DFQF facilities after graduation, implementation of a time-bound action plan for smooth and sustainable graduation, coordination among relevant ministries/departments/agencies, impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on achieving the targets of SDGs, international market volatility and commodity price stability, implementation of SDGs related projects, war and unstable world market, export and import restriction by different countries. As a way forward MoC provides domestic capacity-building, retains markets with PTAs and FTAs, diversifies the product basket, a bargain at the multilateral forum not to impose export or import restrictions, continues with policy reforms, develops entrepreneurship, and facilitates trade.

Ministry of Industries (Mol)

The Ministry of Industries is playing a coordinating role on Goal 9 (Industry, innovation, and infrastructure)-specifically target 9.2, 9.3, and 9.4. It leads in five targets with 6 indicators and co-leads in 2 targets with 3 indicators. Ministry has an Action Plan framed in consultation with stakeholders to achieve SDG targets. For attaining SDG 9 targets, projects and programs are taken following directions of the 7FYP and 8FYP. Ghorasal Polash Urea Fertilizer Project (GPUFP), an extension of BITAC for self-employment and poverty alleviation through hands-on technical training highlighting women, diversification and market promotion of MSME products, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) industrial park in BSCIC are some of the flagship projects aligned with SDG 9.2 and women entrepreneurship development programs, MSME's access to institutional finance enhancement programs and expansion of credit wholesaling program is the flagship projects/action aligned with SDG 9.3 and the flagship project aligned with SDG 9.4 are expansion and strengthening of BSTI, approval of testing lab 65, calibration lab 10 by BAB, approval of patents 6,258, design 20,553 GI 10 and trademarks 67,239. Ministry of Industries worked on the SEPA project, BITAC four local training centers at four-division and specialized training center. The challenges the Ministry of Industries faces are higher productivity, generating more jobs, allocating more resources, technology transfer, development of infrastructure, environment-friendly industrialization, and inadequate innovative ideas and knowledge. The path forward outlined in Agenda 2030 is a stepping stone toward the nation's future success. Industry's contribution to GDP is to be 40%, and employment is to contribute 30%. Productivity growth is to be increased from the current rate of 3.8 points to 5.6 points. Effectively, efficiently, economically, societally, and environmentally friendly are the four pillars of the Ministry of Industries' mission statement.

Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE)

The Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) mainly focuses on the protection of workers' rights and the activities which improve workers' productivity and eventually living standards of workers. The ministry is mostly involved with employed workers, not directly involved in employment generation. MoLE is the lead ministry for SDG target 8.5, 8.7, and 8.8. The five indicators for these targets are 8.5.1, 8.5.2, 8.7.1, 8.8.1, and 8.8.2. MoLE talked about the assessment of the implementation of each target, progress according to the revised SDGs M&E Framework (2020), and MoLE's roles in localization. The key challenges of MoLE are lack of awareness of the SDGs Action Plan, lack of integration of project targets with SDGs targets, lack of follow-up with Associate Ministries, lack of reporting capacity on SDGs, lack of comprehensive database, and lack of project monitoring and coordination. The way forward is to review and update the existing SDGs Action Plan for MoLE, implement SDGs Action Plan successfully, harmonize SDGs targets with project targets and activities, SDGs Focal Point/separate section, increase the responsiveness of relevant officials and agencies, ensure regular monitoring and evaluation of SDGs Action Plan implementation, and involve relevant Development Partners (DPs) and private sectors.

Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE)

The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) ensures the welfare and rights of Bangladeshi expatriate workers, expanding opportunities for foreign employment and improving the socio-economic conditions of the country through safe migration. MoEWOE is the lead ministry for the

implementation of Goal 10 (Reduced inequalities), Target 10.7, and indicators 10.7.1, 10.7.2, and 10.c.1. Expatriates' Welfare Activities are to provide legal assistance and support to the distressed migrant workers abroad and conduct safe homes for distressed female migrants in Jeddah and Riyadh of KSA and Oman in twenty-nine Labour Welfare Wings at twenty-six important destination countries. Wage Earners Welfare Board (WEWB) provides stipends to migrant's children at home, death compensation to deceased workers' families, compensation to returnee female workers, health support financial contribution to returnee workers, financial support to nine schools for Bangladeshi expatriate families' children in KSA, UAE and Oman, provide 200 crore BDT for a soft investment loan for COVID-19 affected returnees through PKB. Ministry has established a migration and skill development fund for 140 crores BDT as seed money. Probashi Kalyan Bank provides BDT 700 crore for a special reintegration loan for the returnee workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To achieve the SDG target 10.7 as a lead Ministry, MoEWOE has taken special projects targeting local people, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups by enhancing the skills and knowledge of existing technical teachers of BMET, providing training in different trades focused on the overseas job market, promoting diaspora investment and optimal usage of remittances, reintegration of returning migrants and improving the migration system, allocating funds in different projects to include geographical locations to get the connection with local people in the mainstream. To meet the target of this ministry, the main challenges are the high cost of migration because of lack of awareness and information, skills of workers and involvement of middlemen, exposure to Vulnerabilities in destination countries, emergence of the 4th Industrial Revolution, labor market competition, the social cost of migration, sending remittances through the illegal channel and their proper use and the limited scope of reintegration. The way forward is to increase the ministry's capacity and that of its departments, provide services based on migrants' needs and those of their families, upskill and reskill workers through specialized training programs, conduct labor market research with a focus on skilled migration, implement gender-responsive legal and policy frameworks, address the challenge of 4IR and the need for workers to develop their skills, keep the cost of migration within a reasonable range by using digital tools, and more. To ensure safe, orderly, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people (SDG Target 10.7) it needs to synchronize national development plans, SDGs and GCM, improve migration governance, follow the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) of IOM, enhance monitoring of recruiting agents' activities, integrate the online system of recruitment, enforcement of bi-lateral agreements, activate research towards market analysis for overseas employment and strengthened partnership with stakeholders home and abroad.

Speech by the Discussants

Mr. Md. Shafiu Islam (Mohiuddin), MP, Former President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI) Bangladesh was the first discussant of the session. He began his speech by saying that Bangladesh was successfully progressing in achieving SDGs with the leadership of the incumbent PM. He added that having several challenges ahead, Bangladesh needed to criticize constructively and GoB had worked very hard to manage the COVID-19 issues. He added Bangladesh was one of the fastest-growing countries and would export 40 million dollars through the RMG sector. He pointed out that Bangladesh had a resilient private sector and was on the verge of recession, but was

doing good. He mentioned that Bangladesh didn't take all types of loans, therefore, needed to curtail unnecessary foreign tours and luxurious products and it needed to stop all kinds of bad examples and so more FDI investments were required to create more business opportunities, achieve SDGs and make Bangladesh a developed country.

Dr. Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) was the second discussant of the session. He addressed all the ministries and pointed out the challenges and ways forward to achieve the SDGs. He said the first VNR was voluntarily presented by the country and Bangladesh came to know the progress by targets and indicators. He added those achievements would inspire the nation to achieve more in the future and Vision 2041 could be achieved if the targets of SDGs were achieved by 2030. He then said LDC graduation was a cross-cutting challenge for every ministry, with the existence of a COVID-19 footprint, which needed to be addressed. He recommended government and private sectors needed to work closely together. He mentioned the whole-of-society approach needed to be implemented in a true sense and that the proven market needed to be explored for expanding the export sector. He pointed out that many policies needed to be revised due to the LDC graduation and human resources like the cost of sending people, enforcement of the law was paramount of importance, and institutional capacity building also needed to be emphasized. Lastly, he suggested that the presenter should have made separate slides on the SDG localization indicators that were associated with each ministry.

Speech by the Special Guest

Mr. Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, MP, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Shipping said the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina enabled Bangladesh to make tremendous accomplishments in attaining the MDGs, significant progress in implementing the SDGs so far and achieve SDGs within the stipulated time of Agenda 2030. He added that notable progress had already been made in poverty alleviation, school enrollment, women empowerment, reduction of maternal and child mortality, and infection rate of communicable diseases that were recognized globally and therefore, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had been awarded numerous global awards and recognitions. He further added that Bangladesh had already initialized localization of the SDGs at Zilla and Upzilla levels with the introduction of 39+1 indicators based on local needs. He apprised all the ministries/divisions in this session of their descriptive and effective presentation on SDGs implementation and emphasized the same commitment and efforts by the other ministries/divisions in this regard. Finally, he hoped that under the prudent and visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Bangladesh would be able to fulfill its 2030 agenda, become a middle-income country by 2031 and a developed nation by 2041 to fulfill the dream of the Father of the Nation, a poverty-free and prosperous Sonar Bangla.

Speech by the Chief Guest

Mr. Goalm Dastagir Gazi (Birpratik), MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Textile and Jute was the Chief Guest of the session. In his speech, he said many tasks needed to be publicized and food security was currently a very critical issue for the country, and private sectors needed to emphasize more. He suggested that the Ministry of Industry might take this matter seriously. He mentioned that there was a lack of skilled workers, and three ministries were then working to raise the number of skilled workers as unfortunately, Bangladesh was not able to produce enough skilled labor force.

SIR DAY TWO



Photo: Day 02 | Parallel Session 01

Parallel Session 01

The first parallel session of the morning session of the second day of the SIR conference was on “Division Wise Reflection on SDGs Localization”. This session was moderated by Ms. Zuena Aziz, Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs), Prime Minister’s Office. The Divisional Commissioners of 08 Divisions presented the SDGs localization-related activities and their impact at the local level, challenges, and way forward to localize SDGs in Bangladesh.

Dhaka Division

The major activities taken in the Dhaka division were technical training and skill development activities like freelancing at a digital lab, awareness-raising; motivational programs along with income-generating training on women’s education and empowerment; seminar on prevention of child marriage; sustainable health service delivery such as sanitary napkin distribution, a daycare center for working mother, COVID-19 management and social safety net like old age allowance, disability allowance, etc. The milestone achievements of the Dhaka Division are the Ashrayan Project, one of the prioritized and noble initiatives under the leadership of the PM. The activity of this project is to provide shelter and other services to the landless, widows, and other vulnerable people. The project empowered them with decision-making ability. Upazilla Nirbahi Officer’s office and Deputy Commissioner’s Office are directly involved in achieving this project. This project covers fourteen SDGs (1-13 and 16). Another milestone achievement of the Dhaka Division is COVID-19 vaccination where proper initiatives are taken by the

District Administrator on the Civil Surgeon Office of Dhaka Division to ensure mass vaccination. The challenges of Dhaka Divisions are technical and vocational studies and considered a second choice to the community. Female students have limited access to technical and vocational enrolment and employment. Parental misconceptions about child marriage, lack of technical human resources, rapid climate change hamper development, coordination among different departments, unequal access to wealth and resources, and lack of people's participation. The way forward is a mass campaign and agreement of counseling, special counseling/motivations to female students, mass awareness seminars/workshops and ICT-related training and motivations, planned industrialization and proper utilization of resources, and development of SDG coordination cell at the district level, participation of women in income-generating activities and motivational seminar/workshops.

Chattogram Division

Chattogram Division has covered eleven SDGs (1-7, 11, 13-15) in the activities. The major activities are providing allowances through social safety net programs to old age, widows, disabled people, etc. The Ashrayan project provided land and house to approximately 235,104 people. Chattogram successfully disbursed VGD, VGF, etc, established malaria labs for free treatment and distribution of mosquito nets, disseminated COVID-19 vaccination to all 12+ citizens, did the stipend scheme for primary education, worked on preventing Child Marriage through the motivational program and conducted Mobile Court, installed drinking waterpoint, developed sewerage system and did expansion of channels to address waterlogging and took effective measures to prevent river erosion in Meghna river. The local challenges of Chattogram division are geographical location such as remoteness, and hilly terrain; calamities like flash floods, and river erosion; human resources gap for illiteracy, lack of vocational, and low diversification of livelihood in Chattogram Hill Track, coastal and char area. Chattogram division worked on SDG coordination meetings at the division level, coordination and supervision of district and Upazila level activities, SDG implementation workshop at district and Upazila level, District level target set (39+1), preparation for VNR and setting SDG Target at 103 Upazila level.

Khulna Division

Khulna division has covered twelve SDGs (1-9, 11, 13-16) in the activities. Khulna Division focuses on poverty alleviation, social safety net, enhancing agricultural production, addressing salinity, increasing skilled manpower through training and education, infrastructural development, taking steps to reduce waterlogging, and women empowerment. The SDGs-related meetings and workshops are held at the divisional level, district level as well as Upazila level. It has worked on the SDG implementation workshop and prioritizing targets (39+1). One priority indicator for every district, for example, is supplying safe and drinkable water to all and reducing the number of people suffering from the water crises significantly by 2030 (Khulna District). The major challenges in achieving SDGs in Khulna Division are salinity, waterlogging, disaster-prone coastal areas, lack of investment in the public and private sectors, and a mismatch between the demand and supply of technical education.

Rajshahi Division

The major initiatives taken in the Rajshahi division are in the agriculture sector (aggregate agricultural growth, localization, reduce harvesting loss, etc.), health sector (reduce neonatal mortality rate, hepatitis vaccine, malaria, etc.), education sector (primary education enrollment, secondary education enrollment,

etc.), power and energy sector (electricity for all, renewable energy share of total consumption), fisheries sector (fingerling released in water bodies, bill fisheries, etc.), livestock sector (milk production, meat production, poultry vaccination, etc.), housing, infrastructure, and climate action sector (Asrayon project, forestation, etc.), water and sanitation sector (safe drinking water coverage, sanitary latrine, etc.), food security sector (storage capacity, OMS, etc.), social welfare and gender equity sector (expansion of social safety net programs, maternity allowance, lactating mother allowance, etc). The milestone projects are Asrayon, the SASEC-2 project, and Roopur Nuclear Power Plant. Rajshahi division created an impact on all sectors like GDP growth, health life ensures, increase in literacy rate, enhancement in productivity, and increase in protein consumption, etc. The local challenges are controlling non-communicable diseases, expanding vocation/trade-based education, industrialization, desertification, water management, investment, ensure safe food and waste management. As a comprehensive approach, the Rajshahi division set up local priorities, prepared local-level mapping and work plans, organized SDG coordination meetings at the divisional and district level, and organized SDG workshops and GO-NGO partnerships.

Sylhet Division

Sylhet division worked on seven SDGs (2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13). The major activities of the Sylhet division are concisely explained- increasing crop intensity, prevention and control of animal diseases, an extension of livestock technology, reducing neonatal and under-five mortality rates, reducing the total fertility rate, increasing financial assistance program for the patient, increasing girls' primary and secondary enrollment rates, enhancing social protection for female tea garden workers and their families, promoting tourism by encouraging to use local resources and rural tourism entrepreneurship, ensuring access for all to adequate, safe, affordable housing and enhancing basic services, and managing wastewater by establishing ETP in hospitals, bakery/major sweet factories, fish processing factories and industries. All citizens especially marginalized people are becoming stakeholders and getting benefitted through these actions. The vulnerable groups are getting highly benefitted from the actions taken. Participation of both men and women in the workflow is increasing and poverty is reducing along with inequality in society and service delivery systems are gradually increasing in the division. The major local challenges are low cropping intensity, low literacy rate, high fertility rate, malnutrition and stunting, a flash flood in the Haor area, poor sanitation in tea gardens and Haor areas, and low private investment from NRB.

Barishal Division

Barishal Division has taken some initiatives to achieve SDG 2030 agenda. First, the Ashrayan-2 project has been established to provide shelter to 21, 118 families and 500+manta, Rakhine, 3rd gender people. In this project (Sheikh Hasina Model) 94% of landless and homeless families were rehabilitated. The impact of the model is; poverty reduction, hunger alleviation, healthy lifestyle, quality education, gender equality, clean water & sanitation, employment, reduction of inequality, and a sustainable community. Second, the Hilsha Fish GI product where 3 Hilsha sanctuaries and 2 Hilsha breeding points have been established in Barishal, Bhola, and Patuakhali. Around a 112 percent increase has happened in production in the last ten years. Third, in Coastal Forestation and Disaster Preparedness sector witnessed a 10 percent increase in the last ten years. Fourth, in the clean water and sanitation sector, 54,100 tube wells, 23,000 ponds, and canal excavation have been covered which gave the solution to the challenges of clean drinking water, saline water, diarrhea, and low water level. Fifth, from prominent agricultural aspects Bangladesh is at the top where watermelon is at 30.2 percent and mug

dal at 64.6 percent. Sixth, in social and economic inclusion the solution to the challenges of extreme poverty, hunger, social and economic inclusion, unemployment, and gender and social inequalities are overcome. Lastly, in sustainable development, Payra power plant rehabilitation is established. The major challenges in Barishal Division are the selection of the appropriate beneficiaries, decision-making, and project implementation capacity, lack of manpower in different departments, proper implementation of projects at the field level, post-implementation monitoring and follow-up, motivating people to change lifestyle, proper training of the beneficiaries in rehabilitation programs, natural disasters, land nature, river erosion, etc. and mobilization of the local fund.

Rangpur Division

Rangpur Division has some successful projects to achieve SDG 2030 agenda. Ashrayan-2 project is a successful project in the Rangpur Division. It has already rehabilitated 72.56 percent and is expected to cover the rest of the homeless and landless people under this project by 2023. The impact of the project is to reduce the number of homeless and landless people, improve the quality of the life, alleviate poverty and hunger, provide sanitation and hygiene, and provide shelter. The challenges of this project are land constraints, limitation of resources, and employment. This project covers SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, and 11. The second project is developing assistance for special areas in improving the living standards of an ethnic group. It is a special project for the Rangpur division focusing on the development of ethnic people. It provides home and shelter, tube well, built sanitary latrines, provide student scholarships, etc. The impact of this project is that their housing problems are solved, children of the community are now going to school, and students are being motivated and inspired because of the scholarship. The challenges are- many ethnic people are superstitious and so have a lack of interest in doing jobs outside their locality and lack of interest affects their education. The next project is the construction of "Mujib Kella" for climate-vulnerable people in the Rangpur Division. This project builds three or two-storied shelters in disaster-prone districts, builds cattle sheds/buildings, and renovates dams around the shelter. The impact of this project is; providing life safety, resilience against climate change, and urgent rehabilitation of marginalized and climate-vulnerable people. The challenges for this project that need to be faced are climate change, flash floods, drought, and land scarcity. SDGs 3, 13, and 11 are covered under this project. The last project was India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline from Numaligarh, Siliguri Terminal to Parbatipur. In this project, six oil tanks with a total capacity of 4,800 tons of oil and another two fire water tanks will be constructed. Oil will be supplied directly from India and will reduce transportation costs. SDGs covered 7, 8, 9, and 17, and the project will create job opportunities and contribute to promoting international trade and enhance our friendship with India.

Mymensingh Division

The major activities done in Mymensingh Division are; crop intensity in agriculture and increment of production, declaring 'nakshi products' as district branding, training of 5,000 women workers and creating 200 online entrepreneurs, and intensifying prenatal and postpartum services. For covid management, they coordinated efforts with all stakeholders and successfully implemented COVID guidelines of the government. In primary education, free books were distributed and stipend programs were provided, 48,520 tube wells have been distributed to ensure safe drinking water, re-excavation of canals and renovation of tourist spots at Gazni, Sherpur, and Birisiri Netrokona were done and 9,186

landless and homeless families were rehabilitated. The activities' main effects are on socioeconomic development, agriculture development, higher agricultural production, women's empowerment, entrepreneurship creation, income generation, poverty reduction, employment opportunities, and a decrease in inequality. Flash floods, river erosion, harvesting of boro rice, the low-lying Haor area, poverty (32.77 percent), a poor level of education, and a lack of investment in the industrial sector are the main local problems.

Speech by the Discussants

Mr. KAM Morshed, Senior Director, BRAC was the first discussant of the session. He talked about the importance of the implementation of SDG at the local level. He talked about the involvement of GED in working at the Upazila level during the MDG era in 2009. Back then, GED took the initiative to work at the Upazila level besides looking at the division/district level only. He mentioned the involvement of BRAC in all Upazilas of the country and suggested working with the government to solve the issues in both government and non-government sectors. He also talked about the lack of local data which would be a barrier to success in localization. He said that initially many countries had taken the initiative to pull funds for SDGs localization as, without fund, the committees would not be active at the local level. He added that the Government could ask NGOs to work in this regard and also ask Upazilas to submit the proposal for localization activities.

Mr. Mohd. Monirul Islam, Joint Secretary (SDG Affairs), Prime Minister's Office was the second discussant of the session. He talked about the first SIR conference where the update of the office localization was missing. He said the lesson learned from the first conference had been implemented in the second conference to successfully organize it. He added that due to COVID, the issue of SDGs somehow lagged but the speech of the head of the government had motivated the key public personnel and the government system wanted to have some value addition in the SDG initiative. He pointed out that the government system would increase the volume of crop production without jeopardizing the environment and that would be the value addition of the responsible public personnel in achieving SDGs. He then said divisions were different, therefore, to address those different issues based on locally grown solutions needed to be emphasized for the achievement of the 39+1 indicators. He further added that the divisional officials would take proper initiatives to make the local SDG committees functional and report back to the principal coordinator regarding their activities at the divisional, district, and Upazila levels. He mentioned that their experience would create new data at the local level and help to meet the data gap and the high-level officials were working on allocating funds for localization. He stated that Bangladesh was on the right track and that was the right time to start localization. He then noted that the whole society (public, private, NGOs, CSOs) would contribute to that endeavor and their commitment was to achieve not only SDGs but also the vision of 2041.

Parallel Session 02



Photo: Day 02 | Parallel Session 02

The parallel session 02 of the morning session of the second day of the SIR conference was moderated by Ms. Mosammat Nasima Begum, Member (Secretary), Socio-Economic Infrastructure Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission. In this parallel session, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW), Ministry of Cultural Affairs (MoCA), Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME), Secondary & Higher Education Division (SHED), and Technical and Madrasa Education Division (TMED) presented their SDGs Implementation Review Reports.

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA)

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) has the vision to have a society with gender equality and child protection. They have a mission to establish the rights of women and children and women's empowerment through mainstreaming in development. Despite all socio-economic barriers, MoWCA is contributing to economic growth, and human development and opening a new horizon across all sectors. Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in achieving human development under the leadership of the Honorable PM. The country has established an empowerment of women in the world which is also recognized by the international arena. Bangladesh has already ratified most of the treaties, conventions, protocols including CEDAW, CSW, PRS and Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, etc. Around 70 percent of the population of Bangladesh is women and children. Their development is therefore the antecedent of national development. The empowerment of women is one of the hallmarks of sustainable development. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is playing

a leading role. MoWCA leads SDG5 (Gender equality) (8 targets and 12 indicators). MoWCA took legal initiatives and intervention and took government initiatives to have effective participation in political, economic, and public life. Moreover, MoWCA promoted property ownership of women through Asrayon Project 2 in two phases rehabilitating 1,83,003 families and strengthening the capacity of sectoral ministries on GRB to promote gender equality through a project. Some significant initiatives of MoWCA are to expand two social protection programs to promote women empowerment, gender equality, and skill development, Street Children Rehabilitation Program (SCRIP) to rehabilitate street children with the aim of street children free Bangladesh, and 8000 integrated community-based childcare centers. The global achievement of MoWCA is international awards received by Honorable PM Sheikh Hasina, the Global Women's Leadership Award, Planet 50-50 Champion, and many more. The challenges to achieving the agenda of SDG 2030 are the COVID-19 pandemic, deeply rooted social norms, social, religious, and cultural prejudices, climate change, and frequent disasters, the vulnerability of women in the climate change situation, lack of gender statistics and periodic data against SDGs indicators and the gender digital divide. The ways forward are to do advocacy and awareness to promote gender equality and social norms, eliminate violence against Women and Children (EVAW&C), and strengthen the institutional mechanism to address EVAW and Child Marriage.

Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW)

As the lead ministry, the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW) oversees implementing the SDG target 5.4, recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policy, and promotion of shared responsibility within the household and family. MoWCA is assigned as co-lead of this target and some of the issues have already been addressed by MoWCA. MoSW is co-lead of two targets and associates with 28 targets of SDGs. The major actions for achieving the SDG target 5.4 are an inclusive and coordinated approach to implementing the assigned SDG target 5.4 of recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work, several safety nets programs and poverty alleviation programs, rural social services and rural mother center programs including social interventions to raise awareness among beneficiaries. The action taken for achieving the SDG target 5.4 during 2016-2023 is a life-improving project for the marginal people of Bangladesh, establishment/reestablishment of Sarkari Shishu Paribar and Baby Home, re-construction of the Training and Rehabilitation Centre of the Destitute Children, etc. The impact of the actions and inclusion is the empowerment of the bypassed and disadvantaged segments of the people including a large number of female population, covering the disadvantaged segment of unemployed, landless, orphans, distressed, vagrants, homeless, socially, intellectually and physically challenged, neuro-developmental challenged, poor, helpless patients and children at risk of both rural and urban areas of the country. Programs are related to achieving the targets of SDG goals as well as targets of the national plan of action of the country, social and financial inclusion of a large segment of the population, and a huge source of localization of SDGs to achieve global, national, and subnational targets. The challenges to achieving the target are social barriers in women's employment, inadequate technological knowledge of the target group, drop-out of girls from education, ensuring a proper working environment for the women with children, overlapping of programs by the different ministries, institutional partnerships for Global as well as national, etc. The way forward is educating the target group with IT devices, ensuring a proper working environment, particularly for women with children, strong awareness programs against social barriers, collaborating with GO, NGOs, and international organizations, innovating and digitalizing service delivery and utilization of existing resources and infrastructures and continued efforts.

Ministry of Cultural Affairs (MoCA)

Cultural diversity is central to development policies and the only way to ensure human-centered, inclusive, and equitable development. There are three components of SDGs- social, economic, and environmental. UNESCO has set four components i.e. cultural rights, heritage, diversity, and creativity as core components for SDGs. Culture is a strategic element of national and international development. Bangladesh has set relevant targets to achieve the goal. The vision of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs (MoCA) is to have a nation with culture-oriented talent. The mission of MoCA is to enhance and enrich the nation's intellect through the preservation, research, development, and promotion of native culture, history, heritage, the spirit of the liberation war, and contemporary arts and literature. SDGs-related responsibility for MoCA is the preservation, presentation, and exhibition of natural history, cultural heritage, and archeological site development and enabling lingual support. MoCA is the lead for Goal 11. The world's tangible cultural heritage recognized by UNESCO are the historic mosque city, and the ruins of Paharpur Buddhist Monastery, Sundarban. The present activities to achieve SDG are '7FYP and 8FYP', ADP, 'Annual Performance Agreement' and various other related policies; three ongoing projects and eleven upcoming projects within 2030; extending support to NGOs like, 'Augrosor Bikrompur Foundation', 'Oitijhyo Anwession' and 'Asiatic Society', support to private libraries, conservation and exhibition of archaeological sites, legal reforms, like, amendment of acts, rules, and regulations. The SDG localization was achieved in MoCA in grants for cultural organizations and allowances for financially insolvent cultural activists, grants and financial assistance to the artists or cultural personalities under 'Bangladesh Shilpi Kalyan Rules 2020'. During 2016-21, a total of Taka 56 crore 89 Lac was distributed as grants among 16,945 financially vulnerable artists and 6,413 cultural organizations and in 2021-22 fiscal year, a total of Taka 17 crore 30 Lac was planned to be distributed among 4,116 financially vulnerable artists and 1,450 cultural organizations. The challenges faced by MoCA are environment and climate change, lack of knowledge and skills, prioritization and resources allocation, and SDGs understanding and target setting. The way forward is policy/ legal reforms, integration of cultural heritages- both tangible and intangible with innovative ideas to localize sustainable development targets, inter-ministerial consultation for crosscutting issues, set-up a 'Statistical Cell' in the ministry, strengthening and capacity building of ministry, attached department and subordinate office and prioritization from policy level for policy support and resources allocation.

Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME)

The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) is the lead for SDG 4-to ensure equitable, inclusive, and quality education for all. Out of the 10 targets of SDG 4, MoPME has the responsibility for 4 targets (4.1, 4.2, 4.6, 4.8). All projects/programs of MoPME are designed with actions at the local level cascading from the division to the village level where the schools are located. PEDP4 uses 16 PSQL indicators to measure school quality which is related to SDG Indicators 4.5.1, 4.a.1 and 4.c.1 for government schools only, and the quality of primary education at the Upazila level is measured by 8 performance Indicators. Indicators covered- the rate of completion, survival, dropout, repetition, PECE pass, gender equality, years of input, and coefficient of efficiency, primary education efficiency indicators are also reported at the Zila level which includes all key indicators including student intake, enrolment, attendance rate, etc. School Level Improvement Plan (SLIP) is a key policy element of the decentralization of PE. A formula-based grant per school is given annually for the planning and implementation of activities to improve teaching-learning at schools. Upazila Primary Education Plan (UPEP) is piloted in 50 Upazilas aiming to address regional disparities. The major challenges of primary education are poor Learning outcomes,

low contact hours, inadequate infrastructure for providing an effective learning environment, less use of ICT and the internet for pedagogical purposes, considerable dropout rates, low utilization of budget, delayed procurement, lack of use of ICT tools and systems for decision making and decentralization. The way forward is to increase single-shift schools for increasing contact hours, curriculum, and textbooks revision focusing on quality improvement, reform teachers' training to enhance skills for teaching and classroom delivery, continue with a remedial learning plan for recovery of learning, develop quality infrastructure and teaching learning materials, develop appropriate digital content to use in classrooms and continue with social security programs of MoPME for addressing dropout, improve management of resources and timely utilization of budget, make the best use of existing ICT tools for policy making and more decentralization of primary sector management.

Secondary & Higher Education Division (SHED)

The Secondary & Higher Education Division (SHED) has been spreading vertical knowledge and quality education at the secondary and tertiary levels. SDG 4 (quality education) has 10 targets and 12 indicators to be achieved by 2030, covering a vast area of primary to tertiary education. SDG 4 focuses on inclusiveness, equity, quality of education, and lifelong learning opportunity. SHED has framed an action plan in consultation with the stakeholders and a National Indicator Framework (NIF). SHED leads five targets (4.5, 4.7, 4. c, 12.8, 13.3). The activities for 'Hard to Reach' areas are establishing New Residential Schools and establishing hostels in existing schools in three Hill track areas, development of selected educational institutions at Haor Area Kishoregonj Districts, stipend for selected students in all districts and stipend for 100 percent students of ten Upazila based on poverty (Upazila selected by Cabinet Division). The contribution to SDGs localization by SHED is infrastructural development of Government Secondary Schools, providing a stipend, and tuition fees to secondary, higher secondary, degree & equivalent level students across the country, stopping child marriage, and preventing early dropout of girl children at the secondary level, counseling of parents of autistic children from the autism academy, facilitating inclusive education for children with disabilities, performance-based grants for secondary institutions (SEDP), selection of qualified teachers at entry level, establishment of 160 Upazila ICT Training and Resource Centre for Education and conceptualize and mainstreaming/ teaching of Global Citizenship Education (GCED) in NAEM's training program. The challenges of SHED are the localization of target-based indicators and linkage with the national program, minimizing institutional capacity gap, minimizing data gap, effective Progress Monitoring, and resource management and financing arrangement. The actions or ways forward are localized indicator-based program, District Development Plan, priority indicator:39+1, NIF, capacity development through training, workshop, seminar, SIR, Monitoring and Emulation Framework (M&E), and VNR.

Technical and Madrasa Education Division (TMED)

The Technical and Madrasah Education Division (TMED) is playing a key role in achieving SDG's targets for ensuring quality education and skills development in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). TMED is working to achieve 30% TVET enrolment by 2030. For the overall development of the TVET sector, TMED has made a Master Action Plan known as the 'Integrated TVET Development Action Plan. Several projects and programs have been taken by TMED to develop and standardize TVET.

In alignment with the SDGs and 8th FYP, the policy intervention of TMED is responsible for increasing the enrolment including female enrolment, demand-driven curriculum, implementation of National Technical and Vocational Qualifications Framework (NTVQF), strengthening industry-institute linkage, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), capacity building of TVET teachers, job market assessment and creating employment opportunity, introducing apprenticeship, students and teachers exchange program in foreign countries, strengthening cooperation with developing partners, encouraging the private sector and other plans-programs relevant to SDGs. To make Bangladesh a developed, enriched country by 2041, it needs skilled and modern technology and human resources with adequate knowledge.

TMED is leading targets 4.3 and 4.4; associate ministry for indicator 4.b; and co-lead for 4.1, 4.5, 4.7, 4.a, 4. c, 12.8, and 13.3. The major activities taken by TMED against the SDG targets are the establishment of 100 Technical Schools & Colleges (TSC) in 100 Upazillas; the establishment of 329 TSCs at 329 Upazillas; capacity development of 64 TSC; the establishment of Four Mohila Polytechnic Institute in Sylhet, Barisal, Rangpur, and Mymensingh division; Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET); establishment of Polytechnic Institute in 23 districts; establishment of four engineering colleges at Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions, etc. There are so many structural challenges in achieving the SDGs targets. These include inter-ministerial coordination, support to policy formulation, smooth cooperation from development partners, spontaneous involvement of private sector/NGOs, networking among stakeholders and adequate financial support, proper knowledge and training on SDGs, and a skilled workforce. Considering the aims and implementation targets of the 2030 agenda, TMED has formulated the SDGs action plan for both Technical and Madrasah education. Aligning with SDGs targets, short-medium-long term projects/programs are to be formulated in the field of - industry-institute linkage, TVET enrollment, curriculum development, job market assessment, and other relevant areas in technical education. For effective implementation of the projects/programs and other activities the associate ministries, divisions, agencies, and development partners are to be coordinated and will act as co-lead or associates. As an implementing agency, the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) is designated to carry out as well as delegate the overall activities to achieve the SDGs targets.

Speech by the Discussants

Dr. S.M. Zulfiqar Ali, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS was the first discussant of the session. According to him, Bangladesh has been able to achieve significant progress in terms of GDP growth, poverty, and education. Earlier MDGs had also been achieved before the terminal year. In respect of SDG, Bangladesh has been on track. However, COVID-19 has pushed Bangladesh into a challenging situation including the achievements, it would not be easy to achieve the goal on time. Bangladesh has been ranked one in South Asia in coping with COVID-19. The negative impact of COVID-19 has also been handled and it has impacted less compared to other countries. Even after staying under COVID-19 for almost two years, Bangladesh achieved a lot throughout the year.

In MoWCA's presentation, early and child marriage issues got due importance. To date, more than 50 percent of girl is married before the age of 18. Bangladesh has made some progress, particularly in reducing child marriage before the age of 15, but Bangladesh has not been able to make much progress in reducing child marriage before the age of 18. Still, more than 60 percent of marriage takes place before the age of 18. This is a very challenging area where Bangladesh needs to be more focused. There are some practical challenges, in child marriage law and there are gray areas between 16 to 18. Dowry

is still an issue as some parents believe that if their daughter gets older it would be difficult to marry them and the rate of dowry will go up. Physical safety and family prestige are also a criterion of early marriage. Parents think if their girls get engaged with some that may threaten their family status. The threat of violence is also an issue. All these practical situations trigger early marriage. It needs to consider these practical situations and work at the policy level. Law and safety areas need to work more. It was discussed that progress on violence against girls and women had not been made that much as shown in the report because of the increasing use of phones and the internet. A convenient policy needs to be taken to tackle this issue. The local influential people and criminals are not punished due to a culture of impunity.

He mentioned some issues on national social security strategy and life cycle issues. Most of the social protection programs will be under one umbrella and proper coordination so that duplication is avoided. Bangladesh has not been able to implement the SSNP following the philosophy of SSNF. It is still being done the way it has been implemented earlier by different ministries and it also lacks coordination. A thorough review and proper coordination are needed and for better implementation, monitoring by a third party needs to look at how the program is doing and what needs to be done. This kind of tracking needs to be ensured for effective funding.

Cultural affairs are a very important area. Practices of cultural activities and sports should be taken to the rural level. MoPME indicates enrollment and reaching out to the community level. COVID-19 has affected the education sector. In terms of numbers, we have achieved it, but the quality has deteriorated at the secondary and tertiary levels. The completion rate is good, but the competency level is not encouraging. The major drawback is education policies have not been followed properly. There are multiple streams of education that need to bring together and work in harmonize way to ensure quality education enhancement. To ensure quality education, periodic learning assessments need to be done to see the children's learning outcomes.

Ms. Rasheda K. Chowdhury, Executive Director, CAMPE was the second discussant. She said even after working so much the government was never efficient in marketing fundamentally. She added that should be disseminated so that people knew the status of all. She then pointed out six recommendations in particular areas: i) too many acts and policies, rules and regulations, projects and programs ii) lack of scientific and research data, iii) the need to strengthen of institutional capacity of government's agencies and ministries iv) inter-ministerial or inter-sectoral coordination v) partnership among all stakeholder from the private sector to grass root level to community and vi) adequate investment where and when needed and judicious utilization of this resources, etc.

Parallel Session 03



Photo: Day 02 | Parallel Session 03

The parallel session 03 of the morning session of the second day of the SIR conference was moderated by Dr. Md. Kawser Ahmed, Member (Secretary), General Economics Division (GED), Bangladesh Planning Commission. In this parallel session, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Ministry of Food (MoF), Health Services Division (HSD), Medical Education and Family Welfare Division (ME&FWD), and Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) presented their SDGs Implementation Review Reports.

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

The thirty-three targets of SDGs are related to the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). MoA is playing a lead role in achieving 5 targets. The prominent target related to MoA in SDG 2 has to be achieved by doubling agricultural productivity per unit of labor, incomes of small-scale food produce (bottom 40 percent farmers), conservativity of genetic resources, sustainable food production system, and diversification. Some of the legal and policy reforms undertaken are National Agriculture Policy 2018, National Agricultural Mechanization Policy 2020, and Seed Act, 2018/Seed Rules 2020. The strategies that MoA follows are moving from subsistence to commercial, agro-processing, value addition and improved marketing, transition to mechanization synchronized farming, homestead nutrition gardens, and sustainable practices: low resource use and zoning location-specific research and development. To implement SDG localization Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) is extending drought and heat-tolerant, saline-tolerant, submerged tolerant varieties of rice, DAE has introduced area-specific climate-resilient cropping system, strengthening disaster management, contemporary extension services to

deal with the terrible consequences of climate change. Bangladesh Sugar Crop Research Institute (BSRI) has taken 'SDG Model Village'. Action Plan 2020 of MOA has been taken to confront the COVID-19 shock and other emergencies to ensure increased agricultural production, improve agricultural marketing systems and ensure fair prices of agricultural commodities. Enormous challenges in collection, analysis, disaggregation, and dissemination of data have been figured productivity enhancement and ensuring sustainable agriculture are contra-interest based, reducing loss of arable land and degradation of land, ensuring fair price, minimizing yield gap, minimized post-harvest loss, climate change associated with frequent and ultimately flood including flash floods of different magnitude damages crop, investment gap-financing, climate stresses, trans-boundary diseases and pests, pressure on agricultural land due to urbanization and industrialization and higher remunerative non-farm sectors led to labor migration. The way forward is to focus more on investment in agriculture, fallow land under cultivation as directed by the PM, research and development and institutional strengthening for certification.

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL)

The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL) is in charge of six targets under SDG 14 (Life below water) (14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7, and 14. b). The SDG Action Plan has been developed, and APA interventions have been carried out focusing on 8FYP, ADP, Vision 2041, Bangladesh Delta Plan 2021, Election Manifesto, and SDG. MoFL established a Technical Committee for achieving SDG targets in alignment with government development policies. MoFL implemented SDGs Localization by awareness raising program has been carried out for the successful implementation of SDGs, integration of SDGs in part of field level activities, monitoring implementation of SDGs at division, district and Upazila level, inclusive policies and extension activities to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind, fishing ban period is duly implemented by field offices, fishing activities are regulated at limited scale by field offices, safe fish, meat, egg, and milk production is encouraged, socio-economic initiatives to uplift the livelihood of poor farmers, training of SDG related personnel, both at the field and headquarter level. The challenges of MoFL are inadequate modern logistic supports, the need for more drive for effective partnership with the private sector, updating the data management system, the scope of improvement in extension and animal health service, the impact of climate change and pollution, emerging and re-emerging transboundary diseases, low level of coordination and lack of resource mapping and exercise. The ways forward are building institutional capacity, building an effective partnership with the private sector and partners, maintaining zero gaps between department and research institution coordinator, developing effective data management systems, and appropriate technology adoption.

Ministry of Food (MoFood)

The Ministry of Food (MoF) is always responsible for ensuring dependable and sustainable food and nutrition security for all. MoF is related to seven SDGs, sixteen targets, and twenty-five indicators. MoF leads Goal 12 (responsible consumption and production), target 12.4, and indicator 12.3.1. The four actions taken against the target are the Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSP, the Construction of the Multistoried warehouse of Santahar Grain Silo Premises Bogra, the Construction of 1.05 Lakh Ton Food Godown(s) across the country, the rehabilitation of Dilapidated Godowns and Ancillary Facilities across the country, the establishment of premix kernel machine with laboratory and construction of infrastructure to ensure nutrition in food grains, construction of modern paddy silo at different location of the country with drying, storing and other ancillary facilities project, supply-distribution of the household silo to ultra-poor, ethnic and disaster-prone area people for safe food storage. MoF distributed 5 lac

household silos through MFSP and 3 Lac household silos through supply, and distribution of household silos to ultra-poor, ethnic and disaster-prone area people for a safe food storage project. The challenges MoF faced are loss of production due to natural calamities, monitoring and stabilizing the food price, inadequate national data on food loss and waste (SDG 12.3.1), lack of awareness about food loss and waste, overcoming the effect of climate change, volatiles of international food grains market, ensuring a fair price for the producers and consumers. To overcome the challenges on the mentioned issues the following steps are required to take- need to expedite the preparation of a strategic plan to reduce food waste and loss; establish an integrated coordination mechanism among Ministries/Agencies to reduce food loss and waste; review the existing strategy of different agencies/sectors/sub-sectors to reduce the food loss and waste; conduct a comprehensive baseline study to assess the food loss and waste; introduce climate-smart agriculture; expedite the use of good practices in food production; introduce a multi-stakeholders institutional set up in a coordinated manner to address the target of SDG indicator 12.3.1; modernize food production, process, and distribution system.

Health Services Division (HSD)

For the implementation and attainment of SDGs by 2030, Bangladesh Government has adopted a “whole of society” approach. As a part of this, Health Service Division (HSD) is also conducting several consultations with the stakeholders for their engagement in SDGs implementation. Some of the major and recent activities accomplished on SDGs are organizing a workshop on “Data Gap Analysis on Health-related SDGs”, “Health-related SDGs Action Plan” and “A Training Handbook on Implementation of the 8FYP”, organizing two consultation workshops with different program personnel of MoHFW to prepare SDGs Implementation Review 2022, and organizing a consultation meeting with agency/organization level SDGs Focal Points. HSD is focusing on how effectively the activities can be integrated into national planning for SDG localization at division, district, and Upazila levels. HSD conducted several workshops at the divisional level where participants from different districts participated. MoHFW is trying to enhance the knowledge of stakeholders to familiarize them with the key concept, and principles of SDGs and promote a coordination platform among the inter and intra agencies, local government, private sector, and civil societies. The key challenges of MoHFW are high out-of-pocket expenditure, inadequate fund absorption capacity, unavailability of timely (survey-based) data for monitoring SDG progress, issues with routine data: timeliness, completeness, and accuracy, inadequate data use for evidence-based decision-making, insufficient skill to manage routinely collected data, lack of awareness at the root level, local level planning, shortage of human resources, insufficient skilled human resources, maldistribution of human resources, slow recruitment process and lack of intra and inter-ministerial coordination, etc. The way forward to overcome the challenges is to increase government allocation for health, gain efficiency in resource use and reduce wastage, improve financial risk protection, especially for the poor, strengthen public financial management, increase budget allocation for periodic surveys, strengthen the mechanism to routinely collect SDG data, invest in real-time data collection, strengthen capacity at individual and institutional levels.

Medical Education and Family Welfare Division (ME&FWD)

The Medical Education and Family Welfare Division (ME&FWD) leads two indicators under SDG 3 and co-leads 23 indicators (19 indicators under SDG 3, 2 indicators under SDG 2, and 2 indicators under SDG

4). For the implementation and attainment of SDGs by 2030, Bangladesh Government has adopted a “whole of society” approach. As a part of this, ME&FWD is also conducting several consultations with the stakeholders for their engagement in SDGs implementation. The demand side actions/initiatives taken so far by ME&FWD are ‘Paribar Sommilon’, SBCC mela, campaign and service week, audio-visual van/ traditional IEC, FP gift boxes through marriage registrars, motivational program for newly-wed. The actions taken for SDG localization by ME&FWD are regional workshops, recruitment of paid Peer Volunteers (PPV) to address the HR gaps in Hard-to-Reach areas, engagement of NGOs to strengthen LARC and PM methods at remote areas, observance of Paribar Sommilon and service weeks to popularize FP, prevention of child marriage, ensuring of facility deliveries for reducing maternal and child deaths. The key challenges are insufficient skilled human resources, staff availability for 24/7 services, maldistribution of human resources, skill mix, low budget in terms of GDP, and lack of intra and inter-ministerial coordination. To overcome the challenges, the 8FYP has incorporated the changing population dynamics and the associated population management agenda in defining the national and sectoral development strategies and policies for FY 2021- FY 2025, strengthening the outreach and campaign on sexual education and reproductive health issues with special attention to the lagging districts, the rural poor, the urban slums and the adolescents, increasing institutional deliveries, health budget, facility readiness for ensuring institutional delivery and PFP, strengthening partnership with NGO-based community health workers to increase access and enhancing of the capacity of health personnel.

Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS)

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is the lead Ministry for implementing SDG indicators 8.6.1 and 8.b.1. NEET population in Bangladesh was 28.88 percent of the total population in the age group 15-24 years which is approximately 8 million in the base year 2016. The Ministry of Youth & Sports has planned to reduce the NEET population rate to 12 percent by 2025 and 3 percent by 2030. The major implementation projects are the strengthening and modernization of Sheikh Hasina National Youth Center; capacity building of the Department of Youth Development for providing IT training in sixty-four districts; opportunities for employment and self-employment of unemployed youth in seven districts of North Bengal, Integrated Management of Resources for Poverty Alleviation Through Comprehensive Technology (IMPACT) and establishment of new youth training centers in eleven districts for continuous training. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many young people out of their jobs and thousands of them have suffered losses in their businesses. The pandemic has also reduced the opportunities for self-employment and entrepreneurship for many talented and promising young people, which is one of the ministry’s main challenges in achieving the SDG target 8.6.1 in reducing the NEET youth. The quality of the professional and life skills training being carried out by various agencies needs to be enhanced by adopting an effective course curriculum and developing training infrastructures. Training should be need-based and market-driven so that it can create more opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship and access to finance and technology to become entrepreneurs for the youth needs to be expedited. The Ministry of Youth & Sports has been working tirelessly with the other co-lead and partner Ministries and Divisions to update and upgrade training course curricula in conjunction with other key stakeholders, provide cutting-edge equipment and training facilities to make the training successful, and overcome the hurdles to accomplish SDG target 8.6. The Ministry of Youth & Sports has aligned SDG target 8.6 with the relevant sections, including goals and objectives of the 8FYP, Perspective Plan, and Election Manifesto 2018, and has been undertaking and implementing development projects. Youth are also given financial support in the form of soft loans to help them succeed in their efforts.

The goals and objectives of these projects are aligned with SDG indicators 8.6.1 and 8.b.1. To attain indicators 8.6.1 and 8.b.1 as assigned, the Ministry of Youth & Sports has also involved the development partners like WB, USAID, UNICEF, Different Banks, and other Organizations closely.

Speech by the Discussants

Dr. Tahmeed Ahmed, Executive Director, Icddrb was the first discussant of the session. He talked about achieving the agenda of SDG 2030. According to him, the rate of poverty reduces with time. In 2019 the poverty rate was 20 percent. The qualitative aspect matters as well along with statistics. School-going children and people who used to work for us are having wristwatches. So, without having a look into statistics we can say that poverty is getting down and people's standard of living is getting better. A substantial proportion of the population has completed primary education. There are dropouts but many girls are going to school. He adds that Bangladesh has the highest density in the world, but there is not much food insecurity in the country. Food security has increased meaning rice security increased. Fish production has increased by 90 percent, and egg production by 70 percent. Stunting is when a child does not grow, meaning the brain does not develop. Stunting increases the death rate of children. Just before the pandemic, the country has about 2.9 million children suffering from stunting which means that the country is poised to achieve the target of stunting by 2030. The colleagues of the Ministry of Health talked about COVID-19. The prediction said the people would die in the street of Dhaka, and the city would be flooded with dead bodies, so icddrb helped us to provide the treatment. Fortunately, this scenario never took place. This was possible because of government and non-government-associated initiatives. The three vaccines helped us to overcome the situation, Bangladesh provided these vaccines to everyone. Moreover, the vaccine for cholera and diarrhea is provided as well. The challenges to achieving the agenda are huge population, food insecurity for huge population, and climate change. So, we should start thinking about it. Government has a delta plan which might help us to overcome it by ensuring a reduction in inequality and inequity

Dr. Barkat-e-Khuda, Former Professor and Chairman, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka was the second discussant. He said in his speech that during independence, there had been the presence of food scarcity, but then the production of food grain had increased four times, despite that there was a problem of hunger. He said that 25 percent of the population was under the poverty line, which showed the existence of high inequality, 52 million people were severely or moderately undernourished. He addressed the need for attention to a structural challenge. He suggested updating the outdated policies. He said some progress was made, but it was not enough to achieve the agenda of 2030. He said it was required to strengthen the data M&E system, and needed credible, quality, and timely data, otherwise it would not be possible to make corrective measures.

Post Lunch Session



Photo: Day 02 | Parallel Session 03 | Pre-Lunch

Parallel Session 01

The parallel session 01 of the afternoon session of the second day of the SIR conference was moderated by Mr. Muhammad Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, Former Cabinet Secretary. In this session, the Cabinet Division (CD), Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA), Public Security Division (PSD), Security Services Division (SSD), Law and Justice Division (LJD), and Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division (LPAD) presented their SDGs Implementation Review Reports.

Cabinet Division (CD)

The Cabinet Division leads SDG 1 (No Poverty) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institution), targets 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 16.5, and 16.6. Three Projects are running to monitor the Safety net Programmes under the cabinet division. First, the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme, the first and flagship program of the government (Cabinet Division) in rolling out the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) guided national social protection reform initiatives commenced in 2014 (TA from FCDO, DFAT, and UNDP), and will continue up to 2026 until next NSSS developed. Second, support to the Central Management Committee (CMC) Policy Guidance on Child Component of NSSS to provide technical support to the CMC to enhance policy environment and sub-national and national systems for the realization of child rights, with a focus on equity and resilience, guided by knowledge and evidence. Third, promoting Nutrition-Sensitive Social Security Programmes, to provide technical support to the CMC to strengthen inter-ministerial coordination for improving food security and nutritional well-

being and reducing poverty. The projects taken to ensure good governance by Cabinet Division are the National Integrity Strategy Support Project (2015-2017), National Integrity Strategy Support Project Phase 2 (July 2019-June 2022), P4D (Platform for Dialogue) project, Project on Capacity Development of the Cabinet Division and Field Administration, Scheme on Administrative and ICT related capacity development of Cabinet Division and Project on Technical Support for CRVS improvement system in Bangladesh (Phase1-4). To ensure people's involvement in SDGs planning and implementation at the local level, Cabinet Division has formed Upazilla SDGs Implementation & Coordination committee, District SDGs Implementation & Coordination committee, and Divisional SDGs Implementation & Coordination committee. The challenges Cabinet Division faced are in terms of financing, availability of data, and engaging all stakeholders.

Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA)

The Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA) leads goal 16, 12 targets, and 24 indicators. The achievements of the MoPA are the Formulation of the Financial Grants Policy 2013 for the permanently disabled/ families of deceased government employees, the Public Administration Award Policy 2015, formulation of the Public Service Act, 2018, the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center Act 2018, Bangladesh Employees Welfare Board (Amendment) Act 2018, and Bangabandhu Public Administration Award Policy 2022. MoPA promotes training and learning opportunities related to SDGs, covering disabled people, and women empowerment. The difficulties MoPA faces are an occupation-based format, a standard method of data administration, and the gathering and compilation of data. MoPA has started a government-funded project called Government Employee Management System (GEMS) to collect and maintain disaggregated data of all public employees. Since GEMS produces robust data and has the potential for expansion on various dimensions, this database will be useful for other organizations.

Public Security Division (PSD)

The Public Security Division (PSD) of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) along with its departments/agencies has been consistently working to build a 'Safe Life and Peaceful Bangladesh'. PSD's mission is to protect lives and promote peace in Bangladesh by developing laws, regulations, and policies related to public security, ensuring that the law is properly enforced to uphold peace and safety, and securing Bangladesh's borders. The PSD of MoHA is assigned as the lead for the implementation of SDG 16, Target 16.1, and indicators 16.1.1 and 16.2.2. To achieve the targets of SDG, PSD has implemented several important projects from 2016 to 2021. Some of these projects are the construction of the SB training school in Dhaka, infrastructure development and strengthening of training in Police Staff College, construction of 101 dilapidated Thana to strengthen the capacity, and many more.

PSD is functioning principally to keep Bangladesh free and secure from terrorism and militancy regardless of their origin. Thus, to achieve the SDGs, the highest emphasis is being put on maintaining the overall public security of the country. This Division works to prevent terrorism following the "Zero Tolerance Policy" declared by the Hon'ble PM. Some of the important achievements during this period are the freeing of our mangrove forest, the Sundarbans, from pirates and rehabilitation of them through financial assistance, the establishment of woman and child support desks in every police station in the country, installation of Border Surveillance System in bordering areas, and establishment of 6 new Battalions of BGB, etc.

With the view to localizing SDG Targets, PSD is implementing need-based activities across the country. The division is giving special attention to the needs of women, girls, marginalized communities, and those who are in a vulnerable situations. Awareness programs, poster publication, and leaflet distribution were undertaken to aware people of terrorism. Bangladesh police are practicing pro-active policing or preventive policing to reduce the rate of organized crime. Awareness programs were undertaken in police stations countrywide, at educational institutions, and in public places to aware people for preventing illegal migration and human trafficking and an anti-human trafficking cell has been established in the police headquarters to prevent human trafficking. Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG) Units are carrying out patrolling along the maritime borders to prevent human trafficking, and BGB is performing its duties in bordering areas to prevent organized crime, arms, human trafficking, terrorism, etc.

The PSD's challenges include preventing terrorism and cybercrime in the ever-changing world of modern information technology, as well as drug and human trafficking. The COVID-19 pandemic is the biggest threat to ending human trafficking, and other challenges include a lack of data sources, budgetary restrictions, and the timely completion of development projects. The way forward is bringing metropolitan cities under CCTV surveillance in phases by 2030 using modern equipment, reducing the response time of the national emergency call center-999 to 05 Minutes by 2024, constructing of border road by 2026, updating training course curriculums to improve the performance of manpower, modern equipment, and technology, providing training facilities to ensure people friendly law enforcement agencies, implementing new projects for the capacity building of forces and giving priority to increasing this division's annual budget on regular basis. PSD is working tirelessly to build a citizen-friendly law enforcement force, to eradicate terrorism, militancy, and communalism taking proper actions against the offenders within the purview of law and justice. It is not too far to witness getting the SDG targets achieved and putting a huge step forward toward a safe, peaceful, and prosperous Bangladesh.

Security Services Division (SSD)

The Security Services Division's (SSD) vision is to have secured citizens and the mission is to increase the institutional capacity to increase citizen protection, citizen service, and civil status through disaster management, drug control, fair jail management, and sustainable and timely transportation. SSD is implementing the mission through the issuance of passports for Bangladeshi citizens and visas for foreigners, strengthening of the legal framework and its proper implementation for reducing drug abuse and illegal trafficking and providing treatment and rehabilitation, protecting lives and resources from disasters and accidents, and management of prisons and prisoners. SSD leads SDG 3 and 16 (target-3.5 and 16.3 and indicator 3.5.1, 3.5.2, 16.3.2). The SSD established treatment facilities for women and children and offered paralegal support, grants, counseling, and training in echo. The challenges of SSD are the unavailability of proper statistics, adulterated alcoholic substances, illegal avenues, multiculturalism, availability of drugs, inadequate legal representation during trial, delayed investigation, non-appearance of witnesses, and repeated imprisonment. Increased drug addiction testing facilities, DNC capacity building, expanded legal channels and monitoring, and expanded paralegal roles are the best ways to move forward in overcoming the difficulties. It has been suggested that it take the lead of SDG Indicator 16.3.2 because it relates to the Law and Justice Division (LJD).

Law and Justice Division (LJD)

The Law and Justice Division (LJD) has a vision of delivering cost and time-effective justice to establish rule of law. The mission of this division is to ensure a low-cost and timely justice delivery system through

organizational and infrastructural development of the justice institutions and ensure equal access to justice for all. LJD leads SDG 16 (target 16.3 and indicators 16.3.1 and 16.3.3) and the major activity of this division is to provide legal advice to all ministries, appoint judges, PPs, GPs, and legal advisors, develop and enhance resources' capacity for the judiciary, conduct cases on behalf of the Government in all courts, promote outside court dispute resolution, and promote equal access to justice by providing legal aid. With the view of localizing SDG, LJD built district Legal Aid Offices in 64 districts, formed Upazilla and Union Legal Committees, extended Legal Aid Services to the unattended prisoners, a litigant in Supreme Court and Labor Courts and 120 legal aid clinics in 10 Districts to expand the legal services up to the community level. The challenges of LJD are a backlog of cases due to procedural complexities and shortage of judges, non-appearance of witnesses and long pending investigation, shortage of court staff, infrastructures, logistics and resources, lack of inter-institutional collaboration, coordination, and communication gap among the relevant actors, lack of digitalization in the legal system and legal aid services, lack of digital literacy, the minimum scope for settling the dispute at the local level through ADR or mediation or restorative justice and lack of awareness and information among the mass people on the availability of justice services. The way forward to overcome the challenges is introducing a systematic and scientific case management system for screening and filtering new cases, formulating witness management mechanisms through a digital platform, introducing alternative measures including alternative sentencing, probation measures, etc., strengthening inter-institutional collaboration, coordination, and partnership, adopting an integrated approach to enhance digital literacy, allocating adequate financial and human resources and capacity development measures, making justice available to the doorsteps of people by ensuring justice delivery at all level and disseminating information on legal rights, the justice system, legal aid, etc.

Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division (LPAD)

The legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division (LPAD) is one of the vital Divisions of the Government. This Division is entrusted with the duty of providing legal advisory services to other ministries, divisions, departments, and organizations of the Government. LPAD is working on legislation and constitutional and legal affairs to achieve the goal of economic prosperity by consolidating the good governance system and socio-economic progress of the country by upholding the Constitution within the said legal framework. The major function of LPAD is drafting, scrutiny, and opinion on all kinds of Bills, Ordinances, Constitutional Orders, statutory orders, rules, regulations, etc., drafting, scrutiny, and opinion on all contracts and agreements including international contracts, agreements, covenants, MoU, etc., translation and publication of laws and other statutory rules and orders, codification, consolidation, and amendment of laws. LPAD leads SDG 16, 12 targets, and 24 indicators. Eight workshops on constitutional and legal rights were held in various divisions and districts to implement localization in the SDGs. These workshops attracted more than 5000 participants, including representatives from local government organizations, the private sector, the legal profession, NGOs, academia, and marginalized and vulnerable groups. The agenda's implementation faces several obstacles, including the need for legislative reform on discriminatory issues, the enactment of new laws and policies within the allotted timeframe and their implementation, raising public awareness and educating people about equality, equity, and discrimination, and the lack of or outdated data on SDG-16. The key to success in attaining SDG target 16.b is to build strong partnerships at the local, national, regional, and global levels. The necessary measures have already been taken by making suitable legislation with the support of associate ministries/ divisions/ agencies/NGOs/other relevant stakeholders. If the ongoing efforts are expedited, access to justice for all will be ensured, and effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels will be ensured.

Speech by the Discussants

Mr. Golam Md Hashibul Alam, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Defense thanked all the presenters for their thoughtful presentations. He said Bangladesh had already integrated SDGs in all of its development plans, i.e. 8FYP, 7FYP, ADP and The government was also committed to good governance in alignment with SDG 16 and initiated various reforms. He mentioned the availability of appropriate data was crucial for achieving the SDGs and therefore, ministries/divisions should focus on the generation of appropriate and authentic baseline data so that milestones could be rightly set and progress could effectively be monitored. He also emphasized the regular update of data on the SDG tracker so that the national progress of SDGs could be tracked at any instant. He urged not only the lead ministries/divisions but also the co-leads/associates to come forward for the implementation of the SDGs. The development partners and private sectors should also play a positive role in SDG implementation, he added. He thanked the Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs for their focus and priorities on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) as the number of cases being settled by ADR was increasing day by day and the access to justice for all was being enhanced.

Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh thanked all the participant ministries/divisions for their insightful and thought-provoking presentation. He said that implementing the SDGs in the current rapidly changing global scenario was very challenging. Therefore, gaps and challenges should be properly identified to address the right way forwards. The government of Bangladesh was widely recognized to put the agenda 2030 into effect and effectively engaged with the SDGs since its inception as the Hon'ble Prime Minister played a pioneering role to make the SDGs more people-centric. He pointed out that commodity price and energy security were becoming major development challenges for countries like Bangladesh in the current global context and immediate attention should be given to this regard. He underlined the linkage among peace, justice, governance, and partnership for the successful implementation of the SDGs both nationally and globally and addressed various laws/reforms (i.e. Anti-discrimination bill) enacted by the government to fulfill its commitment to justice for all and Agenda 2030.

Speech by the Special Guest

Mr. Farhad Hossain, MP, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Public Administration thanked participants for their constructive participation and apprised the ministries/divisions of their continuous effort to implement the SDGs despite the global challenges of the pandemic and current Russia-Ukraine war. He said the government had already integrated the agenda 2030 within its various short, mid, and long-term development plans and underscored the necessity of human resource development for successful implementation of the SDGs. He mentioned that the Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA) had already adopted policies and strategies for the capacity development of Govt. officials to implement the SDGs so that they could be better prepared to face the various economic and social challenges both globally and nationally. MoPA commenced various reforms by promoting the Annual Performance Agreement (APA), Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR), career planning to set the right people in right place in the government hierarchy, skill development through ICT, etc. He hoped that the country would be able to achieve all the milestones of the SDGs within a specified time through the combined efforts of all stakeholders.

Speech by the Chief Guest

Mr. Anisul Haq, the Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs paid his homage and prayed for eternal peace for the greatest Bengali of all times, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, his family members who were martyred during the 15 August 1975, the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the independence, mothers, and daughters who were brutally tortured and raped by the occupational force during the liberation war and the martyred four national leaders. He thanked especially all the ministries/divisions for their endeavors to make the SDGs a success. He said that the establishment of Sonar Bangla was not merely a political rhetoric of the Father of the Nation rather his aspiration was based on the perception of an organized struggle for economic emancipation. The Philosophy of Bangabandhu was to ensure political and economic sovereignty and establish a non-communal society free from hunger and poverty, he added. Therefore, the concept of sustainable Bangladesh was enacted in the 1st constitution of Bangladesh introduced by him in 1972, he further said. He then stated that the 17 Goals of SDGs and fundamental principles written in the constitution had similarities and were closely aligned which meant the idea of sustainable development was conceptualized long before in Bangladesh before being globally adopted.

The chief guest said under the dynamic and visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh had already moved towards people-centric modern democratic system resulting in higher GDP growth, macroeconomic stability, impressive socio-economic development, increased per capita income and reduced poverty. He mentioned that Bangladesh was highly applauded for its success in implementing the MDGs for which the Hon'ble Prime Minister received numerous awards and recognitions, i.e. UN MDG Award, South-South Award, and Planet 50 50 Champion Award. He pointed out that the government also developed a structured framework to achieve the SDGs through formulation and implementation of mapping of SDGs with ministries/divisions, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework, Data gap analysis, National Action plan, financing strategy, localization involving inclusive participants at the grassroot level (i.e. Natore Model) so that no one would be left behind. Under these initiatives, the parliamentarians were also empowered with the role in the SDG implementation through which they would be able to track the progress of the SDGs in their respective constituency and compare the performance with others. He further added that despite the unprecedented effect of COVID-19, Bangladesh made significant progress towards desired economic development and achievement of the SDGs due to various initiatives taken by the government to mitigate short, mid and long-term economic shocks. As a result, the Hon'ble Prime Minister was awarded SDG Progress Award by the UN-sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network

The Hon'ble Minister underlined the initiatives that had been taken to ensure access to justice for all. He said all the legal aid offices of all the districts, upazillas and unions were open during the pandemic. Under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the ministry along with the Supreme Court initiated the digitalization of the Supreme Court and subordinate courts. Virtual Court System became operationalized in 2020 through which about 3, 14, 482 No. cases were disposed of whereas about 1, 58, 507 persons were on bail between 11 May 2020-10 August 2021 resulting in less overcrowding and limited impact of COVID-19 in the jails. He anticipated that the ongoing 2nd National Conference on SDG Implementation Review (SIR) would be able to address the existing gaps and challenges in implementing the SDGs and identify the inclusive, integrated and holistic approach to achieve Vision 2041 for a sustainable and resilient Bangladesh.

Parallel Session 02



Photo: Day 02 | Parallel Session 03 | Pre-Lunch

The parallel session 02 of the afternoon session of the second day of the SIR conference was moderated by Dr. Shahnaz Arefin, ndc, Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division. In this session, the Statistics and Informatics Division (SID), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Mol), Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD), Post and Telecommunication Division (PTD), and Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) presented their SDGs Implementation Review Reports.

Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)

The statistics and Informatics Division (SID) is responsible as the Lead Ministry for the implementation and coordination of the SDG targets 17.18 and 17.19. SID and BBS will provide 109 (BBS 105+ SID 04) indicators out of 231 SDGs indicators. SID has been overseeing the authentication process being done by BBS for all the 231 indicators and its SDG tracker management. BBS is providing data for 23 indicators out of 39+1 priority indicators of Bangladesh. NDCC has approved the indicator for District and Upazilla level indicators of +1. BBS is working on the mapping of the data source. The challenge for SID is to update data on the SDG Tracker; roughly 55% of data sources are administrative, where relevant sources are struggling with capacity and concentration. Frequent transfers of Data Focal Points and coordination within ministries or organizations for data compilation are major challenges in most data sources. As a way forward SID enhances the capacity of the data providers for timely updating of SDG data, strictly follows the SDG data calendar for reporting in-depth review of the Statistics Act, 2013 for amendment data modeling for big data and data mainstreaming the administrative data to find alternative sources and build an effective partnership with international agencies including development Partners for timely support.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Mol)

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Mol) has been playing a significant role in implementing the SDGs by involving people in the overall development activities and empowering them through greater access to information since 2016. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is assigned as the lead ministry for SDG target 16.10. Mol is implementing an agency for fifteen SDG goals (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 & 16), 37 targets, and 58 indicators as the associate ministry.

Mol has been implementing various projects and programs such as Advocacy Communication and Awareness Building for Children and Women (5th Phase) (NIMC, Betar, BTV, PIB, BSS, DMC, DFP, PID), strengthening the Motivational and Publicity Program for the Development of Rural People (DMC), Better Service and Coordination of the Media (PID), raising awareness among journalists and enhancing their Skills in Self-Security and Workplace Safety (PIB). The main challenges include a lack of adequate research and fresh, creative concepts for broadcasting, promotion, and campaigns, a lack of knowledge regarding SDGs, data management and technology adaptation, frequent changes in Designated Officers (DOs), SDGs Focal Points, a lack of sources of information and data, and ongoing capacity building of the ministry and departments. Mol anticipates launching more SDG-aligned projects, promoting SDGs through social media, private and public platforms, creating an information hub on SDGs, and enhancing the skills of SDG focal points, alternative focal points, and others by providing training.

Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD)

The major activities taken by Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD) as the Thrust Sector to build “Smart Bangladesh” By 2041; create Digital Bangladesh; produce the four pillars-e-Governance, connectivity & infrastructure, skilled human resources development; ICT industry promotion ICTD to achieve both nation’s objectives & SDGs targets (lead-9.c & 17.8); leading agencies: DoICT, BCC, CCA, DSA, a2i, BHTPA, Startup Bangladesh Ltd, National Data Centre Company Ltd.; set up priority targets to align with vision-2041, LDC graduation, and SDGs. ICTD leads 2 SDGs targets (9.c, 17.8) of SDG 9 and 17. From 2016-2022, ICTD took 60+ projects, among which 8 were e-governance, 20 were HRD, 20 were Connectivity and infrastructure, and 12 were ICT promotion. Some of the initiatives were taken by ICTD for implementing SDG localization leaving no one behind. Data silos/data sharing mechanisms, digital literacy, project implementation & coordination among several agencies, professional human resources, technical capabilities on sophisticated technology, and covid-19 are the obstacles of ICTD (increases the vulnerability of the left behind people). The way forward is: relevant ministries should take necessary actions for providing real-time data/quality data, the implementation of SDG needs to determine the source of funding and ensure adequate funding of resources, capacity building programs should be enhanced for implementation of the project timely, a clear roadmap for SDG localization should be prepared and ensure ownership of ministries, international development cooperation and effective partnership should be ensured and covid-19 roadmap should be effectively implemented.

Post and Telecommunication Division (PTD)

The responsibility of the Posts and Telecommunications Division (PTD) is to deliver quality post and telecommunication services to the doorstep of mass people at affordable prices and convenience by using modern ICT facilities. PTD has been assigned to play the role of lead (in 2 targets) 9.C, 17.6 co-lead

(in 1 target) 5.B associate (in 3 targets) 1.5, 8.10, 17.8, 17.1. The challenges of SDGs implementation of PTD are rapid changes in telecom technology, connectivity to remote/hard-to-reach areas, balancing three dimensions- economic, social, and environmental, disaster management, lack of underground fiber network security, lack of skilled investor/vendor in the telecom sector, digital security, insufficient local content, shortage of skilled manpower, institutional reforms, allocation of functions needed to make DoT as a properly functioning unit. The way forward is to establish a wireless broadband network in hard-to-reach, implement the project in time for coping with new technology, form the institutional, legal, and technical framework for the growth of e-commerce and cyber protection, build expert human resources in this sector, formulate a guideline for satellite landing rights, unify licensing and ISP, digital Broadcasting Switchover, do upgradation and extension of the spectrum monitoring system, coordinate among network owners, LGs and other service providers, render services of Bangabandhu Satellite-1, effectively, and ensure the Internet Safety Solution (ISS), Central Data and Transmission Network Management System Development for Strengthening Digital Connectivity. Initiatives have been taken to create functional units of DoT along with providing necessary manpower.

Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST)

The Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) has the vision to develop a science-minded nation and a mission to provide support for achieving the overall socio-economic development of the country through research & development and successful utilization of science and technology. MoST is the lead ministry for 3 indicators and associate Ministry for 11 indicators among 248 indicators of the SDGs. They established 1 NINMAS and 14 INMAS in different medical college hospitals in the country. By June 2023, additional 8 INMAS will be established under a development project in a different part of the country. They also established 1 planetarium in Dhaka, and 3 more planetariums in Rajshahi, Barishal and Rangpur are under construction. MoST has the plan to establish 1 planetarium in every Divisional headquarters of the country. A total of 542 (Upazila-492 + union-50) Science Clubs have been established throughout the country. The challenges of MoST to achieve SDG are a shortage of skilled human resources, a lengthy process of post-creation under revenue budget, and a lack of sufficient budget for R&D, research grants, and fellowships. The strategies to overcome the challenges are the development of skilled manpower through appropriate education and training, the need for simplification in the existing system of post-creation under the revenue budget, the creation of a separate or dedicated section/ branch in the Ministries/Divisions for proper monitoring and evaluation of SDG progress, and sufficient allocation of budget for R&D, research grant and fellowships.

Speech by the Discussants

Dr. Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, Former Professor, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) was the first discussant of the session. He talked about the importance of data for people engaged with technology and research. He requested SID to make the data open for researchers and academics. He added the use of AI and big data could reveal a lot of things that would be important in the future. He mentioned the importance of the right to information (RTI). He also talked about the need to be aware of the global unrest and new platforms such as search engines for our own country. He noted that the software industry needed to be developed and a lot of them were going abroad then and needed to use them properly the need to fill up the vacuum by using them in the ICT industry was required and retrained them if possible. He said that device addiction of children should also be addressed including

the security issues for the server and they need to be aware of malware and hackers. He also mentioned that blockchain technology needed to be adopted and made everything secure online. He added research funding should be increased and for that, they needed to work on it. He further said that they had invested heavily in ICT, but Science and technological research was lagging. Moreover, the need for the introduction of PhD programs in universities was required, he said. He then pointed out that people were interested in physical infrastructure, but human development was the most important factor in achieving digital development. He concluded by saying that developing a knowledge pool was a prerequisite for harnessing the benefits of ICT infrastructure.

Dr. Hafiz Md. Hasan Babu, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, University of Dhaka was the second discussant, he said data was needed for SDGs implementation by integrating the 4th Industrial Revolution. The same data were being used which were not coordinated between ministries, therefore, the use of data needed to be ensured, and data architecture and data legacy needed to be defined, he added. He said that the effective implementation of SDGs linkage with the technology was needed and so the integration of the SDGs with the 4IR so that the SDGs brought a meaningful outcome. He then said to introduce a data policy and roadmap for ensuring the use of data by citizens.

Speech by the Special Guest

Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Planning was the special guest of the session. He said that we were in our 6th year of SDGs implementation and the decade of action was upon us, and that conference was a great platform to work towards the SDGs. He added data was essential for policymakers and any effectiveness of steps taken should be assessed by data. He also said that they needed live data for policy assessment and data correlation should be assessed as well. Legislation for the global standard was necessary but data correlation was essential, he added. He also pointed out that in some cases, they were regressing data collection and they needed a data revolution and data-based policymaking needed to increase efficiency and achieve SDGs. To leave no one behind they needed to identify the most marginalized and monitor to report on changes in their lives and livelihood, he said. He pointed out that they looked forward to quantitative aspects of the thing, but qualitative aspects were often overlooked and that was the challenge of data to bring out the qualitative aspects. He noted that the PM had introduced an action plan for data management and they could see the projects and allocation in each constituency. Coordination between big data and AI for creating models and predictive behavior was needed for meaningful impact of data, he added. In conclusion, he said that day's arrangement should be taken as an introductory step, and they needed to work towards revising the goals and fine-tuning their strategy for development.

Speech by the Chief Guest

Mr. Muhammad Hasan Mahmud, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of information and broadcasting was the chief guest of the session. He thanked the panelist and participants. He said Bangladesh achieved all the MDG goals two years before the deadline and SDGs were more challenging because they needed to be economically/ environmentally and ecologically sustainable. Addressing some of the weaknesses he said that all the developments were Dhaka-centric. As an example, he cited that a school teacher needed to come to Dhaka for a pension, and all the development projects were separated for Dhaka and other areas of the country. He added that the development of the country should be done which was in progress by the Delta plan 2100 and all the Dhaka-centric development was making Dhaka

city unlivable. Every city had its carrying capacity and putting much pressure on Dhaka was making it unlivable, he added. He said that ICTD had been working on achieving a digital Bangladesh and the digitalization of the process had driven children out of the field and into their homes. He doubted the effectiveness of the online classes. He mentioned that he took the class of oceanography in DU. He added that Government had asked Facebook to create IDs with NID verification and the children needed permission from their parents. He said that the availability of the internet was all over the country, but then they had to work on how to identify and remedy the harmful aspects of the internet with an expert panel. He added the idea of media had been expanded and diversified and people had thought of Facebook as a news media. He had faced issues regarding the fake news spread through social media. He further added that fundamental riots and misinformation had been spread through social media which had been a big challenge for them. He noted that parliamentary committees had been considering fact-checking stories that had been disseminated via social media. He said that all the online media were being registered one by one and media was also responsible for SDGs. A comparison to Sri Lanka had been made in the media recently and that was creating panic in the market, he commented. He believed that they were in a much stronger position than Sri Lanka and said that creating panic and unrest on this issue was impacting the money market, share market, and commodity market. He again said that all the ministries presented that day had been very sincere about their work related to SDGs. He emphasized that while they had lagged behind the first, second, and third industrial revolutions, they were not doing so with the fourth, and they needed to understand the difficulties it brought.

Parallel Session 03



Photo: Day 02 | Parallel Session 03 | Pre-Lunch

The parallel session 03 of the afternoon session of the second day of the SIR conference was moderated by Mr. Md. Mokammel Hossain, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism. In this session, the Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD), Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (MoCAT), Ministry of Housing and Public Works (MoHPW), Power Division (PD), and Local Government Division (LGD) presented their SDGs Implementation Review Reports.

Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD)

The Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD) leads 3 SDGs (3, 9, and 11), 3 targets (3.6, 9.1, and 11.2), and 4 indicators (3.6.1, 9.1.1, 9.1.2, and 11.2.1). By modifying policies, streamlining all services, increasing capacity, enforcing laws, and monitoring them, as well as assisting many projects and programs, RTHD was able to execute the SDGs. The Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga Road, a road connection and facility upgrade for the Feni Bridge to facilitate trade with India, and the construction of highway connections for the Hill Districts to enhance the quality of life for those who live there are the projects that are now being carried out. RTHD is making the seasonal and submergible road in the Haor, and other flood and disaster-prone areas as a means of resilient infrastructure. RTHD has been taking a few research projects to study domestic technology development in terms of road infrastructure, quality road construction, and innovation in road design and constrictions. RTHD promotes public procurement practices that are sustainable, and follow national policies and priorities. While procuring foreign assistance projects, RTHD ensures that the national procurement principle is not violated. It is also making border connectivity roads to facilitate industrial production. Moreover, RTHD is implementing NDC to fight off

carbon emissions as a leader in the transport sector. RTHD is constructing Metro and BRT Lines which would combat carbon emissions as well. The challenges faced by RTHD are undue pressure from road transport unions, owners, and labor entities, overloading vehicles, lack of integration among various modes of transportation, non-compliance with the rules and regulations, and data gap for indicators 9.1.1; 9.1.2 and 11.2.1. The way forward of RTHD is two road safety projects and many initiatives, 3 lac skilled drivers, major corridors with 4 lanes plus SMVT lanes.

Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (MoCAT)

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (MoCAT) is assigned to the implementation and coordination of targets 8.9 and 12.b as a lead ministry. To attain target 8.9 and related indicator 8.9.1, several policies acts, strategies, and reform plans have been formulated between 2016 and 2021. A few of them are Bangladesh Tour Operator and Tour Guide (Registration and Management) Act 2021, Bangladesh Travel Agency (Registration and Control) (Amendment) Act, 2021, Bangladesh Hotel and Restaurant Rules 2016, Civil Aviation Act 2017, and Civil Aviation Authority Act 2017, Drone Registration and Flying Policy 2020 and Policy for operating flights in unspecified routes within Bangladesh-2020. The assessment of project implementation status from Jan 2016 to December 2021 are Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Expansion Project (Phase-1), Cox's Bazar Airport Development Project, Cox's Bazar Airport Development Project, Cox's Bazar Runway Extension Project, Development of Sylhet Osmani International Airport and Boarding Lounge of Sylhet Osmani International Airport, Strengthening Existing Runways and Taxiways at Sylhet Osmani International Airport. MoCAT localized SDG to achieve the desired targets are a partnership between people, elected representatives, Civil Society Organizations, Youth/ Women networks, government institutions, development partners, media, and NGOs. District branding, promoting a positive image of the nation, involving local government agencies, public-private partnerships, ecotourism, safety, and security, developing SMEs in the tourism sectors, enhancing the quality of service, and networking with neighboring nations are all responsibilities of MoCAT. The challenges of MoCAT are lack of resources, lack of multi-sectoral engagement and coordination, lack of infrastructures, development of exclusive tourism zone, poverty reduction and lack of employment opportunities, lack of trained manpower, lack of availability of tourism-related data, lack of successful implementation of PPP projects and lack of diversification of tourism products and services. The way forward to mitigate the challenges is to attract foreign tourists, upgrade the database of tourism-related information, and tourism master plan, formulate and develop some successful public-private partnership projects and build a positive image of the country, district branding, develop SME in the tourism sectors, involve local government institutions, networking with surrounding countries and improve quality service.

Ministry of Housing and Public Works (MoHPW)

The Ministry of Housing and Public Works (MoHPW) coordinates Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), leads for two and co-leads for one target, leads for four and co-leads for one indicator, and associates for six indicators. The vision of MoHPW is to enhance planned urbanization and to ensure safe and affordable housing and their mission is to provide safe, sustainable, and affordable housing for low- and middle-income people through research and planning ensuring maximum utilization of land; to construct building/ infrastructure with modern facilities for different Ministries/ Divisions/ Organizations. MoHPW worked on some remarkable projects such as Azimpur flat project for government employees, flat projects at Mirpur, Motijhil, Mailbag, Tejgaon, Jhigatola, etc., and flat

project for slum dwellers on a rental basis (533 flats have been constructed), Hatirjehik lake improvement project, projects in other divisions and largest ever block-based apartment Project in Uttara. MoHPW implemented SDG localization by preparing development plans for the district level & Upazila level, implementing community support projects for low-income people, constructing integrated office buildings at the district level & preparing the project for the Upazila level. The challenge of MoHPW is the unplanned use of land, a common phenomenon in the country. Rapid urbanization, a lack of an urban and regional planning act or national urban policy, a lack of stakeholder coordination, a lack of data availability, climate migration, a data gap, a lack of use of modern technology, land litigation for project implementation, an improperly followed master plan, and the absence of a master plan are all reasons why the housing issue is not a national priority target. The ministry created and followed a master plan for urban concerns, the land use policy of 2001, the urban and regional planning act of 2021, and public awareness raising to lessen the challenges.

Power Division (PD)

Bangladesh has successfully achieved the targets of MDGs. Bangladesh intends to achieve the targets set by the SDGs as well. Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) of the SDGs falls under the purview of the Power Division. Power Division and its agencies are persistently striving hard to achieve the targets of this goal. There are 5 targets under this goal with 6 indicators (including 2 means of implementation i.e., 7.A & 7.B). Power Division is the lead division for targets 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 & 7.B and the associate division for targets 7.A. In the National Action Plan prepared in 2018 a total of 258 projects were included among these 119 were ongoing projects and 139 were pipeline projects to be implemented between 2020-2030. Among the 119 ongoing projects, 66 projects have already been completed, 48 projects are still ongoing and 4 projects were canceled. Among the 139 pipeline projects, 6 projects have already been completed. A total of 33 projects have been approved and are currently under implementation, 12 projects have been merged or altered, 23 projects have been canceled due to various reasons, rest of the 58 projects will be implemented gradually. The challenges of the Power Division are depleting domestic natural gas reserves, inadequate infrastructure for LNG import, volatile international fuel market, global concern, infrastructure, transportation, tariff adjustment, augmentation and modernization of T&D system, skilled manpower, awareness, and high initial investment. The way forward to overcome the obstacles is adequate infrastructure for LNG import, an effective and sustainable fuel mix to ensure adequate fuel supply, financing diversification, a strong distribution network for uninterrupted electricity supply, scaling up net meter rooftop solar, strengthening regional cooperation—a regional power market—and exploring offshore wind potential.

Local Government Division (LGD)

The Local Government Division (LGD) is a Government Division under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Co-operatives responsible for the development and providing support to the local government bodies. The LGD is assigned as the lead for 14 indicators of 12 SDG targets under 5 goals (Goal 6, 11-13, 16). The Government of Bangladesh is planning to organize SDGs implementation at Upazila and district levels. LGD having an organizational setup both at Upazila and union levels can actively participate in the planned implementation process. To localize SDG Target, LGD is paying special attention to the needs of women and girls, marginalized communities, and those in vulnerable situations. In this regard, LGD as the leading organization has adopted several projects to ensure safe drinking water supply and sanitation for tea garden workers, and vulnerable people in the Haor

and Char areas and the people of climate vulnerable areas are ongoing to help marginalized and vulnerable people. A total of 176 development projects are related to climate change and funded by Bangladesh Climate Trust Fund and Green Climate Fund. Moreover, City Corporations are implementing urban greening and park development projects which have been localized in City corporations up to the ward levels. In order to ensure smooth achievement of all the assigned targets and indicators of SDG for the Local Government Division, the main challenges are to reduce climate vulnerability on environment (including WASH); availability of safe water source (Ground and Surface water) and Insufficient integrated water resource management; lack of awareness, ownership and participation of City authorities/Community; rapid urban growth demanding more accommodation and amenities; increased air and water pollution, environmental degradation; inadequate waste management system in cities; insufficient Data for monitoring of SDG indicators; inadequate capacity of the LGIs, implementing agencies, and user community for ensuring operation and maintenance; ensuring good governance to promote accountability, transparency and efficiency; lack of research-and-development activities; shortage of resource (human and financial) implementing SDG; challenge to ensure land acquisition for development facilities and lack of preparedness to combat global pandemic and emergencies impacting our rising economy. Achievement of SDG targets requires adequate resource allocation, capacity building of relevant agencies, timely implementation of agreed action plans, regular monitoring in terms of both quality and quantity aspects, and initiation of an ICT-based live data monitoring system for each LGIs and other agencies. LGD enhances the inter-ministry coordination platform, uses surface water more, and implements alternative water sources securing water reservoirs, more investment in country-contextual innovative Research and development, ensuring adequate resource allocation to achieve SDG targets and building capacity of relevant agencies including local government institutes.

Speech by the Discussants

Dr. Md. Shamsul Hoque, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, BUET addressed some issues related to transportation. He suggested overcoming the challenges that arose at the beginning of any initiative through a feedback mechanism. He added that Bangladesh was working on several projects, of which the construction of an artery for national highways was one and many issues were happening around those artery roads (e.g., local Hut Bazar, waste dumping system at the side of the national highways). He said that those bottlenecks were hindering the speed of the highways and that SDG was there to develop the world based on the data. He pointed out that underpinning assets should have been included in the presentation of the transportation progress PPT, unfortunately, it had not been addressed. He added Bangladesh was more development-focused rather than sustainable-focused and eventually, there would be no villages, and most of them would be converted into urban areas. To achieve fuel-free and fuel-efficient targets, Bangladesh needed to act collectively, he said adding that the infrastructure-driven focus was on their transport department, but not integrated duly. He further said that was not sustainable development, but they needed to make the transportation system sustainable and pro-people.

Mr. Md. Mahbub Hossain, Senior Secretary, Energy & Mineral Resources Division said that was impossible to solve the problems by borrowing expertise and knowledge from outside the country. He added Bangladesh had achieved the target of providing access to affordable energy and their development activities should focus beyond SDG's achievement. He pointed out that they needed to be more focused on inclusive and integrated development and added that the presentation format needed to be revised. He said that they could invite ministries who worked to achieve the same target. The discussant

recommended that to show the complete picture of any sustainable goals, targets, and indicators, the Lead ministry might present their achievements along with the achievement done by the co-lead and associated ministries and added that in that case, the lead ministries might consult other ministries, who worked on the same SDGs.

Speech by the Special Guest

Mr. Nasrul Hamid, MP, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral started his remarks on affordable energy. He said PM wanted to ensure people's accessibility to affordable energy and Bangladesh needed to achieve sustainable development for the future that was renewable, reliable, and affordable. He added that Bangladesh needed to go for a fuel mix to make our energy sector sustainable. The Energy Ministry came up with a reasonable price for the energy sector. Mr. Nasrul raised the question of whether we were going in the proper direction in terms of reliability and sustainability. He added Bangladesh was working to implement the ultra-critical superpower plant in terms of implementing a coal-based power plant so that the carbon emissions were not too high in the context of Bangladesh. He assured that within the next five years, the energy sector would be paperless. He talked about another important issue and that was integration, without integrated planning, sustainable development would not be achieved. He concluded by saying that mismanagement was one of the major problems of development.

Speech by the Chief Guest

Mr. Md. Nurul Islam Sujan, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Railways said without electricity, no development would be possible and that was the key to the development of the nation. He added that the Father of the nation took so many initiatives to make this nation free. He further added that they needed to use the natural resources properly to achieve sustainable development. He pointed out that they were destroying their natural resources to achieve development and they needed to be very careful so that their development process/initiatives did not destroy the natural setup. He said that their main objective was to bring smiles to people's faces and they had taken so many projects and environmental issues into consideration. He then concluded by saying that the rail projects would not create any disruption in the natural system of the country and responsible ministries should take responsibility for their respective development works.

SIR DAY THREE



Photo: Day 03 | Plenary Session

Plenary Session with Development Partners, Private Sector, and NGOs/CSOs

Opening Speech by Moderator

Mr. Khan Md. Nurul Amin, ndc, Chief (Additional Secretary), General Economics Division (GED), Bangladesh Planning Commission was the Moderator in the plenary session. In his opening speech, he summarised the first two days of the second national SIR conference. He informed the guests and participants of the plenary session that H. E. Sheikh Hasina, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh inaugurated the conference as Chief Guest and unveiled the report titled "Revised Mapping of Ministries/Divisions and Custodian/Partner Agencies for SDG Implementation in Bangladesh" prepared by GED. He mentioned that a total of nine parallel sessions took place in the first two days of the conference where 43 lead Ministries and Divisions presented their SDGs implementation review reports. He also added that a parallel session on SDGs localization was organized on the second day of the conference in the presence of Divisional Commissioners from 08 divisions. He recapitulated that each parallel session facilitated discussion on the implementation status of SDG-related plans, policies, projects, and programs; initiatives undertaken in implementing SDGs at the local level; and SDGs implementation challenges as well as the way forward. He stated that Bangladesh made significant progress in achieving SDGs and was committed to attaining SDGs within the stipulated timeline. He hoped that the second SIR conference would help Bangladesh to assess the

policy actions and activities taken in the last six years and give a strategic direction on how to proceed in implementing SDGs at the national as well as local levels. At the end of his deliberation, Mr. Amin invited the representatives from development partner agencies, the private sector, NGOs, and CSOs to enlighten the audience about what initiatives they had taken to help Bangladesh in achieving SDGs; the challenges they had faced so far; and recommendations/suggestions for the future endeavors.

Presentation by the Development Partner Representative

Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee, Resident Representative, UNDP Bangladesh gave a presentation on behalf of development partners. In his presentation, he talked about the four pillars of the SDG framework for collaboration. They are (i) enhancing evidence-informed policy analysis and formulation; (ii) accelerating the implementation of policies; (iii) securing and prioritizing financing; and (iv) fostering a “whole of society” approach. He mentioned that national data was at the heart of the monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the 2030 Agenda. He added that there were three kinds of data - available and useable, available but not useable, and unavailable and needed to freshly collect. He emphasized supporting SDGs financing through an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). Moreover, he talked about the changed context of Bangladesh by Bangladesh’s graduation from LDCs and the new era of trade, recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact of international conflicts and changing global political scenarios. He specified four key areas of intervention - poverty reduction, food security, and economic growth; climate change, resilient environment, and urbanization; participation and inclusive governance, rule of law, and human right; and lastly human development and Leave No One Behind (LNOB). He added that significant work had been done in those four areas. According to him, SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, and 17 belong to the first area; SDGs 5, 7, 9, 11- 15, and 17 belong to the second area. SDGs 5, 10, 16, and 17 belong to the third area and SDGs 3-7 belong to the fourth area. Mr. Mukerjee stated that the implementation of SDGs localization was required for the achievement of the 2030 agenda. He iterated that issues such as paucity of data, spatial disparities, the mismatch between people’s priorities and authorities’ perception of people’s needs, institutional complexities, etc. needed to be addressed for implementing the SDGs at the local level. Finally, he opined that going forward, effective SDGs implementation would require inclusive COVID-19 recovery, striving for a more equal society, digital literacy and digital transformation, prioritizing climate action, accelerating SDGs localization, investment in generating quality and rapid data analytics, and exploring innovative funding sources.

Presentation by the Private Sector Representative

Mr. M.A. Momen, Vice President, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) represented the private sector. He talked about UN SDG Report 2021 and mentioned that the SDGs were already off track even before COVID-19 had emerged. Bangladesh ranks 5th among the 121 countries and 1st in South Asia for that Hon’ble Prime Minister received the “SDG Progress Award”. He said that Bangladesh’s economy had a phenomenal transformation and so Bangladesh was considered the fastest growing economy of the world and was graduated to a developing country. Mr. Momen talked about the contribution of the private sector to the national economy. He pointed out that the private sector contributed 76% of overall investment, hence this sector could create jobs and FBCCI was the Apex Trade Body of the country, having a network with 135 international strategic partners. He then added that FBCCI changed the logo and portrayed SDG in a wheel to reflect the sustainable development agenda and the current focus of FBCCI was LDC graduation, 8FYP, 4th IR, delta plan 2100, national vision 2041, and SDGs 2030. He said that FBCCI committed to UNGP 2011 HR Compliance

and it had contributed to social programs towards SDGs 1-6, national economy towards SDGs 7-11, environmental issues towards SDGs 12-15, promoting peace and partnership SDGs 16-17. The way forward of FBCCI is the implementation of public and private business enterprises in goods and services, NGO and trading partners, facilitation with technical and financial support, and monitoring and supervision of the government.

Presentation by the NGOs/CSOs Representative

Mr. Towfiqul Islam Khan, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue represented NGOs/CSOs and gave a presentation in this session. He talked about the VNR 2020, which mentioned the need to have a government-NGO partnership for providing services in remote areas where government mechanisms could not provide service within affordable means. He recognized the continuum of SDG implementation i.e., setting the agenda, implanting the agenda in monitoring and accountability. He said that the role of NGOs was to voice to the marginalized, services provision mechanism support, evidence generation, and advocacy. Data presented in this section is extracted from NGOAB central database and many projects are interconnected with multiple SDGs. Foreign donations to NGOs trend growing over the year till 2020. In 2021 it came down; one reason can be COVID-19. Foreign donations to NGOs as a percentage of total foreign aid share came down. The initiatives to support the government in achieving SDGs are four pillars- economic, environmental, social, and governance. We are highly concentrated in the social sector. It is true for several projects that have concentrated beneficiaries in the social sector. NGOs worked in sub-national, local solutions for local-level people. Overarching issues that NGOs had to deal with included the impact of climate change and inequality, the effects of COVID-19 on the global ecosystem, the exclusion of people from the mainstream development process due to their unreached status, a lack of programmatic and financial sustainability, a readily available lack of data, disaggregated, real-time, and of high quality, as well as untapped opportunities for collaboration between NGOs, the private sector, and the government. The way forward to overcome the challenges is to prioritize climate change, make data accessible, and provide demand-driven financing, CSO supports, and partnerships with private, internal development, knowledge actor, civic space, and inclusion.

Speech by the Guest of Honour

Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim, Chief Executive Officer (Secretary), Public Private Partnership Authority highlighted the importance of SDG17. He stated tapping new and innovative financing could ensure SDG achievement. According to him, bridging the SDG financing gap private sector requires guidance from the public sector. Government must identify the projects where PPP is required. The government also needs to introduce reporting system. CSOs and NGOs can play critical roles in localizing the SDGs. CSOs can translate the voices of the marginalized, form relationships and mutual trust with local government, identify development lands from human rights lens, generate knowledge and disseminate it among relevant stakeholders. Businesses must learn to go beyond philanthropy. The private sector needs a proper environment to flourish. Government can encourage and oblige them to engage in SDG implementation. Private investment must be tapped with proper collaborative initiatives.

Speech by the Special Guest

Dr. Shamsul Alam, Honorable Minister of State, Ministry of Planning started his speech by talking about the importance of SIR. He said the conference was supposed to be held in 2020 but due to Covid-19, the conference got postponed. However, the conference helped to know about the latest information on the SDGs implementation and reviewed from all relevant stakeholders (ministries, CSOs, DPs, NGOs,

and the private Sector). The covid-19 pandemic somehow slowed down our initiative in achieving SDGs by 2030. Hon'ble PM has received international recognition for achieving certain SDGs in due time. He addressed Mr. Sudipto's presentation and the four pillars that he discussed in his presentation. Regarding data, it can be said that the big problem in SDG implementation would be the unavailability of data. Initially, data was available for only 72 indicators out of 231 indicators. Meanwhile, with the collaborative efforts of GIU, PMO, GED, and BBS, Bangladesh has improved a lot in terms of providing baseline data (now 173) for SDGs indicators. Now it can undertake many projects/programs as data are generated in many other ways. SDGs are comprehensive; therefore, it is required to keep our effort continued to achieve SDGs.

Regarding financing, he said it was required to get a big amount from international support, development partners, and the PPP initiative. However, to date financing challenges are considered the biggest challenge, but Bangladesh has done a tremendous job in terms of SDG implementation. He talked about launching a couple of projects during the Covid-19 period and improvement in HDI, Hunger Index. Hence, it can be stated that Bangladesh is not lagging, the momentum just slowed down, but it will be picked up in due time. To some extent, SDG financing from NGO sources has changed a bit. In Bangladesh, it has got an extension with the support of the government. The Health Ministry is supporting NGOs for health-related programs. Our participation in terms of supporting NGOs has got an extension. He added localization would be the best outreach program. In the initial years, GED developed a framework, but there is no evidence of replication of this model so far. GED was supposed to take up the piloting in 8 Upazilas, but now concentrating on 5 Upazilas. GED must not abandon this localization activity. Our whole-of-society approach needs to continue to achieve the SDGs. Three milestones for the government along with the two-milestone mentioned by Mr. Sudipto may make Bangladesh the number one country in terms of GDP growth and other social indicators.

In terms of COVID management, Bangladesh is the 5th country in the world to manage the effect of the covid situation. He mentioned that as Sudipto mentioned, Bangladesh needed to continue four key areas of intervention to achieve the development goals as stated in Bangladesh's perspective plan. Bangladesh follows an inclusive growth strategy in its every development strategy. A strong road network, coverage of electricity, and an inclusive growth model helped to change the scenario of the rural areas. In Bangladesh, the private sector faces difficulties in getting human capital for its factors. In the village, the labor force situation is worse than in urban areas. He also talked about income inequality and rural-urban disparity in terms of so many social and economic indicators that are increasing day by day. Regarding human development, Bangladesh has alleviated its position during the Covid period. So, it can be claimed that inner strength is so strong compared to Sri Lank and that's why Bangladesh will not face the Sri Lankan situation. Challenges as referred by Sudipto, are important to address in different ways. He requested CSOs, NGOs, and the private sector to invest more money in research and knowledge generation to sustain in the challenging time, especially during the post-Covid era. The private sector can play role in the village in terms of providing education and health-related services. To achieve SDGs, it is important to reduce inequality and be required to go long to achieve health and education goals. Moreover, SDGs attainment is very critical in terms of branding Bangladesh outside the country.

Speech by the Chief Guest

Dr. Mashiur Rahman, Economic Affairs Adviser to the Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that the discussion would help to understand how all stakeholders would coordinate with each other for achieving the global goals. National and International communities are committed to achieving this objective. Covid-19 has created new problems for the countries that are working on achieving SDGs. Intermittent relaxation of lockdown helped both formal and informal sectors continue their businesses. He talked from the macroeconomic aspect. He tried to look at inflation and found some interesting observations. As per the BBS report, inflation was high around 6% from December 2021 to January and February 2022.

According to him, since the price of a certain product cannot be maintained for an extended period, the commodity's price will change. The general wage increased at a higher rate of inflation up until February and March 2022. The cost of living index should follow the CPI, and core inflation should be studied by others. Policymakers would have had more options and the ability to implement larger interest rate reductions when necessary with 4% inflation targets and a 7% policy interest rate. Sticking rigidly with very low inflation is not necessarily an optimal policy. Four percent unemployment was accepted as consistent with full employment. Foreign exchange is another problem area. Central bank exchange rate says it adopts the real effective exchange rate indexes. Tax revenue increases because of the increase in the import price. Looking at the import and export, it can be seen that the import is more than the export, which means it is needed to import many commodities, capital commodities, so it will be difficult to cut the import. If the import is reduced, access to foreign currency will reduce. Budget adjustment is needed and it needs to check what is safe and unsafe in terms of budget revision. The tendency of public investment has gone up. Our remittance saving is higher than our domestic saving. Unless there is an adequate investment, the future seems bleak. The bank provides domestic financing, and it is expanding as a result of people starting to alter their saving habits due to job loss and income loss. Household income goes down and this was a minor shock. Covid -19 has poverty implications. It might have gone up to 25% of the population as per the BBS report. However, BIGD and PPRC reports tell a different story. But this is not true for the whole nation. 43 percent of the population lost their income due to Covid as per the BBS report.

He added SDGs were a smart program that gave a framework for all nations and OECD set up a High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) where it was noted that SDGs had an adverse effect because 17 goals with 169 targets and 232 indicators are too many to focus on. He recommended prioritizing some goals. He talked about the priorities of Bangladesh derived from policies pursued i.e., employment, income as wage and transfer payments, poverty and inequality reduction, investment including FDI to expand and diversify production, productivity improvement, Investment in education/skill development and health, raising revenue to pay for government expenditure and containing deficit financing and sustained development and welfare policies.

CLOSING SESSION



Photo: Day 03 | Closing Session

Conference Summary and Way forward

Mr. Khan Md. Nurul Amin, ndc, Chief (Additional Secretary), General Economics Division (GED), Bangladesh Planning Commission provided a brief recap of the three-day conference. He mentioned that Hon'ble Prime Minister H. E. Sheikh Hasina had inaugurated the Second SIR Conference as Chief Guest, and her presence and thought-provoking address in the inaugural session had inspired and guided them in evaluating the progress achieved so far in implementing SDGs and getting a strategic direction to further strengthen Bangladesh's effort to attain SDGs at the national as well as local levels. He added that the Hon'ble Prime Minister had unveiled the report titled "Revised Mapping of Ministries/ Divisions and Custodian/Partner Agencies for SDG Implementation in Bangladesh" prepared by GED. In the last two and a half days, nine parallel sessions which included a session on SDGs localization and a plenary session were organized successfully, he added. More than 2,000 guests and participants from forty-three Lead Ministries/Divisions, Offices of the Divisional Commissioners, Private Sector, Development Partner Agencies, NGOs/INGOs, CSOs, Academia, and Research Organizations participated in the discourse actively. During the different sessions, a fruitful discussion rightly identified some of the critical challenges that would need to be addressed for moving forward. A synthesis report soon would be published where valuable suggestions and recommendations would be reflected, he pointed out. Lastly, he quickly highlighted some of the key challenges and recommendations that came out of the discussions- more coordinated efforts would be required in the coming days to generate data, especially for SDGs 12, 13, 14, and 15; the vision of a developed nation by 2041 calls for escalating further

investment of time and resources in areas of smart technology, research, and innovation; Improving basic service delivery, particularly in public health and education; generating more employment, creating opportunities for entrepreneurs especially the Cottage, Micro, and Small Enterprises (CMSEs), tackling urban poverty, and reducing all forms of inequality are some of the major development concerns.

Speech by Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs)

Ms. Zuena Aziz, Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs), Prime Minister's Office briefed the takeaway from the 2nd National Conference of SDG Implementation Review (SIR). She stated that the main attraction of the conference was the presence of the PM who categorically reiterated her commitment to the SDGs which revealed the ownership of the SDGs from the head of the Government level. The hon'ble PM also emphasized ensuring the best use of funds and preventing their wastage as well as the continuation of providing policy support and funding for the implementation of the SDGs, she added. She (PM) also instructed all to ensure optimum utilization of arable land, and maintain austerity in using water, electricity, and food in every sphere of life, she then said. She pointed out that the PM also emphasized making the best use of the fund and preventing misuse of it, therefore, ensuring the optimum utilization of the fund. She said, "The private sector's role in keeping economic growth up is tremendous and needs to be strengthened. Not only should we emphasize the development of the infrastructure, but we also need to concentrate on other social issues. The key to decreasing all forms of inequality is different levels of stakeholder engagement with the development process." She then added that the conference would give a clear message to the field level and coordination at the district and Upazila level would be given the highest priority and monitoring would be given priority at both local and national levels including the local level of data generation.

Speech by the Special Guest

Dr. Mashiur Rahman, Economic Affairs Adviser to the Hon'ble Prime Minister talked about the official statistic count at the Upazila level. He said that the availability of data was required along with the disaggregation data for further analysis. According to him, some data may be collected indirectly such as the income of village people, use of land, etc. as these data are not available. He added education expenditure appeared in the revenue budget as consumption, but it needed to be redesigned further to use it as an investment expenditure in the revenue budget. He further added that higher productivity concerning the 4th industrial revolution should address through skill development and in that regard, effective coordination was needed to make an informed policy decision. Reorientation of the health service sector was required to achieve SDG and vaccine development and innovation was also an opportunity for collaboration between researchers and health personnel, he said.

Closing Speech by the Chief Guest

Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs stated the Hon'ble Prime Minister received the SDG Progress Award in 2021, even though the period was 2016-2030 and it was an achievement for Bangladesh. He added that MDG was successful, and PM was rewarded for that regard in several ways and it was a proud moment for Bangladesh to achieve MDG. According to him, the reduction of poverty, child marriage and illiteracy has been achieved in MDG. GoB has started

working on it in full swing. PM got rewarded with a peace award and delta plan 2100 was introduced. To achieve all the targets of SDG, it is important to emphasize more on women's empowerment, and women's rights. The PM helped to move forward to achieve the SDG agenda. However, the Covid-19 pandemic made it difficult for the world to achieve SDG. The PM helped to overcome the challenges and moved forward to achieve the SDG agenda. The achievements of SDG will reduce poverty, inequality, and inequity and with the help of PM, it was possible to achieve MDG before the target year. Similarly, it is expected to achieve the SDG agenda before 2030, he says in conclusion.

Speech by the Chair

Mr. M. A. Mannan, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Planning stated it was a great success for the nation in coming out of the extreme poverty, illiteracy, food scarcity, clean water, sanitation, and environment. To live in a nation with the same equal level of respect as other nations, economic stability and enrichment were required, he added. He further said Bangladesh had achieved MDG, and so far, our success was good. All the ministers' divisions would help to achieve agenda 2030 and vision 2041, he said. He finally thanked Ms. Zuena Aziz and her team who worked for three days and successfully organized the second national conference on SDGs Implementation Review (SIR).

KEY CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensuring timely and quality national as well as local levels data remains a big challenge for Bangladesh. Bangladesh has made significant progress in generating data in the last few years. Nevertheless, more coordinated efforts will be required in the coming days to generate data, especially for SDGs 12, 13, 14, and 15.
- Mobilizing additional resources required for SDGs implementation from the public and private sectors to finance SDGs is a mammoth task. The tax/GDP ratio of Bangladesh is still one of the lowest in the world. Bangladesh must broaden its tax base and revenue substantially through the modernization of the system and enacting the policy. Innovative and sustainable financing models have to be explored to create investment space for the private sector particularly to encourage private investment in green projects. Mobilizing finance from actors beyond the government for the SDGs will require a policy-enabling environment that is conducive to sustainable and inclusive development. Effective collaboration between government and other stakeholders including dialogue on policy issues and active partnerships on specific projects will be required to sensitize the private sector on SDG-related issues and reduce the financing gap.
- The government has walked a long way in its effort to build Digital Bangladesh. However, the vision of a developed nation by 2041 calls for escalating further investment of time and resources in areas of smart technology, research, and innovation.
- Improving basic service delivery, particularly in public health and education continues to be a challenge. The primary focus should be on improving the quality of education and health services. In the case of education, technical education should be a top priority. Besides, job market-driven education and skills should be encouraged especially at the tertiary level.
- Generating more employment, creating opportunities for entrepreneurs especially the Cottage, Micro, and Small Enterprises (CMSEs), tackling urban poverty, and reducing all forms of inequality are some of the major development concerns. We will need to work together to find innovative and sustainable solutions to overcome these challenges.
- Maintaining the healthy functioning of the country's ecosystems is challenging for sustaining development. Therefore, considerable efforts have to be made to prevent environmental degradation, restore balance in the ecosystem and further improve it and promote green growth which is a prerequisite for attaining sustainable development. Also, the potential of the blue economy needs to be explored to achieve inclusive development.
- Bangladesh's food supply can be disturbed, and food inflation may see a hike due to the frequent disruption in global supply arising from a multitude of factors. Therefore, reliance on domestic food production/supply has to be intensified in the coming years.

Lack of coordination among Ministries/Divisions and also between the state and non-state stakeholders is another challenge that needs to be addressed. There is an SDG Action Plan to guide the Ministries/Divisions to work in a coordinated way. This Action Plan should be revisited and revised in line with the 8th Five-Year Plan so that the Ministries/Divisions can work in a more coordinated manner. However, coordination with non-state stakeholders especially the private sector is a big challenge. A common coordination framework will need to be developed to overcome this challenge.

- The lack of awareness and capacity of the local people and administrative units is a great obstacle to localizing the SDGs. Initiatives will need to be taken to make the local SDGs Implementation and Coordination Committees more proactive to sensitize and build the capacity of wider stakeholders so that everyone can participate actively in implementing SDGs at the local level.
- SDG 16 will play a critical role in achieving sustainable development. Therefore, Bangladesh will need to re-emphasize good governance and strong institutions.
- Until now, Bangladesh has handled the COVID-19 pandemic with great efficiency. However, there is a fear that the effect of COVID-19 may prolong and therefore, timely interventions will be required to assess the current situation and find the right pathway to attain sustainable development.
- Finally, SDGs are all-encompassing and thus, the partnership will be critical and challenging to implement SDGs by 2030. The Government has already adopted a “Whole of Society” approach to engaging wider stakeholders in attaining SDGs. However, more emphasis will need to be given to the inclusive and enhanced participation of multiple state and non-state stakeholders in the future. Bangladesh will also need to strengthen bilateral and multilateral partnerships, particularly for developing the expertise and capacity and bringing in investment as well as technologies.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



Second National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review 2022

03 DAYS CONFERENCE

Day 01 (16 May 2022)

Inaugural Session
03 Parallel Sessions

Day 02 (17 May 2022)

06 Parallel Sessions

Day 03 (18 May 2022)

Plenary Session
Closing Session

Location

Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC), Dhaka



Day 01

16 May 2022, Monday

Inaugural Session | Venue: Hall of Fame, BICC

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 09:00 - 09:30 | Registration |
| 09:30 - 10:00 | Guests Take Their Seats |
| 10:00 | Arrival of Hon'ble Prime Minister |
| 10:00 - 10:05 | Opening Speech: Ms. Zuena Aziz , Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs), Prime Minister's Office |
| 10:05 - 10:15 | Presentation on SDGs Achievements: Dr. Md. Kawser Ahmed , Member (Secretary), GED |
| 10:15 - 10:20 | Documentary on SDGs |
| 10:20 - 10:25 | Speech by Development Partner Representative: Mr. Tuomo Poutiainen , UN Resident Coordinator, a.i. and Country Director, ILO Bangladesh |
| 10:25 - 10:30 | Speech by Special Guest: Dr. Shamsul Alam , Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Planning |
| 10:30 - 10:35 | Speech by Chair: Mr. M. A. Mannan , MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Planning |
| 10:35- | Speech by Chief Guest: HE Sheikh Hasina , MP, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh |
| | Unveiling the SDG publication titled 'Revised Mapping of Ministries/Divisions and Custodian/Partner Agencies for SDG Implementation in Bangladesh' |
| | Refreshment |

Parallel Session 1: Reviewing SDGs Activities Undertaken | Venue: Carnival Hall, BICC

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---|
| 02:00 - 02:30 | Prime Minister's Office | | |
| 02:30 - 03:00 | Finance Division | Moderator | Mr. Khandker Anwarul Islam Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Division |
| 03:00 - 03:30 | Economic Relations Division | | |
| 03:30 - 04:00 | Internal Resources Division | | |
| 04:00 - 04:30 | Financial Institutions Division | | |
| 04:30 - 04:35 | Discussant 1 | Discussant 1 | Mr. Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh |
| 04:35 - 04:40 | Discussant 2 | Discussant 2 | Dr. Mohammad Farashuddin Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank |
| 04:40 - 04:50 | Speech by Special Guest | Special Guest | Dr. Shamsul Alam Hon'ble State Minister Ministry of Planning |
| 04:50 - 05:00 | Speech by Chief Guest | Chief Guest | Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen , MP Hon'ble Minister Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 05:00 - 05:30 | Closing Tea | | |

| Parallel Session 2: Reviewing SDGs Activities Undertaken Venue: Media Bazaar, BICC | | | |
|--|--|---------------|---|
| 02:00 - 02:30 | General Economics Division | Moderator | Mr. Pradip Ranjan Chakraborty Secretary, Planning Division |
| 02:30 - 03:00 | Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division | | |
| 03:00 - 03:30 | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change | | |
| 03:30 - 04:00 | Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief | | |
| 04:00 - 04:30 | Ministry of Water Resources | | |
| 04:30 - 04:35 | Discussant 1 | Discussant 1 | Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri Executive Director, Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM) |
| 04:40 - 04:50 | Speech by Special Guest | Special Guest | Mr. Zaheed Farooque, MP Hon'ble State Minister Ministry of Water Resources |
| 04:50 - 05:00 | Speech by Chief Guest | Chief Guest | Mr. Md. Shahab Uddin, MP Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change |
| 5:00 - 05:30 | Closing Tea | | |

| Parallel Session 3: Reviewing SDGs Activities Undertaken Venue: Windy Town, BICC | | | |
|--|--|---------------|--|
| 02:00 - 02:30 | Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Moderator | Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad Former Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs), Prime Minister's Office |
| 02:30 - 03:00 | Ministry of Commerce | | |
| 03:00 - 03:30 | Ministry of Industries | | |
| 03:30 - 04:00 | Ministry of Labour and Employment | | |
| 04:00 - 04:30 | Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment | | |
| 04:30 - 04:35 | Discussant 1 | Discussant 1 | Mr. Md. Shafiul Islam (Mohiuddin), MP Former President Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI) |
| 04:35 - 04:40 | Discussant 2 | Discussant 2 | Dr. Mustafizur Rahman Distinguished Fellow, Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD) |
| 04:40 - 04:50 | Speech by Special Guest | Special Guest | Mr. Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, MP Hon'ble State Minister Ministry of Shipping |
| 04:50 - 05:00 | Speech by Chief Guest | Chief Guest | Mr. Golam Dastagir Gazi (Birpratik), MP Hon'ble Minister Ministry of Textile and Jute |
| 05:00 - 05:30 | Closing Tea | | |

Day 02

17 May 2022, Tuesday

Parallel Session 1: Reflections on SDGs Localization | Venue: Carnival Hall, BICC

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|---------------|--------------|--------------|---|
| 09:00 - 09:25 | Dhaka | | |
| 09:25 - 09:50 | Chattogram | | |
| 09:50 - 10:15 | Khulna | | |
| 10:15 - 10:40 | Rajshahi | | |
| 10:40 - 10:50 | Tea Break | Moderator | Ms. Zuena Aziz Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) Prime Minister's Office |
| 10:50 - 11:15 | Sylhet | | |
| 11:15 - 11:40 | Barishal | | |
| 11:40 - 12:05 | Rangpur | | |
| 12:05 - 12:30 | Mymensingh | | |
| 12:30 - 12:35 | Discussant 1 | Discussant 1 | Mr. Mohd Monirul Islam , Joint Secretary, PMO |
| 12:35 - 12:40 | Discussant 2 | Discussant 2 | Mr. KAM Morshed , Senior Director, BRAC |
| 12:50 - 01:30 | Lunch Break | | |

Parallel Session 2: Reviewing SDGs Activities Undertaken | Venue: Media Bazaar, BICC

| | | | |
|---------------|--|--------------|---|
| 09:00 - 09:30 | Ministry of Women and Children Affairs | | |
| 09:30 - 10:00 | Ministry of Social Welfare | | |
| 10:00 - 10:30 | Ministry of Cultural Affairs | | |
| 10:30 - 10:45 | Tea Break | Moderator | Ms. Mosammat Nasima Begum Member (Secretary) Socio Economic Infrastructure Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission |
| 10:45 - 11:15 | Ministry of Primary and Mass Education | | |
| 11:15 - 11:45 | Secondary & Higher Education Division | | |
| 11:45 - 12:15 | Technical & Madrasa Education Division | | |
| 12:15 - 12:20 | Discussant 1 | Discussant 1 | SM Zulfqar Ali Senior Research Fellow Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) |
| 12:20 - 12:25 | Discussant 2 | Discussant 2 | Ms. Rasheda K. Chowdhury Executive Director, CAMPE |
| 12:45 - 01:30 | Lunch Break | | |

Parallel Session 3: Reviewing SDGs Activities Undertaken | Venue: Windy Town, BICC

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|---------------|---|--------------|---|
| 09:00 - 09:30 | Ministry of Agriculture | Moderator | Dr. Md. Kawser Ahmed , Member (Secretary), GED |
| 09:30 - 10:00 | Ministry of Fisheries And Livestock | | |
| 10:00 - 10:30 | Ministry of Food | | |
| 10:30 - 10:45 | Tea Break | | |
| 10:45 - 11:15 | Health Services Division | | |
| 11:15 - 11:45 | Medical Education and Family Welfare Division | | |
| 11:45 - 12:15 | Ministry of Youth and Sports | | |
| 12:15 - 12:20 | Discussant 1 | Discussant 1 | Dr. Tahmeed Ahmed , Executive Director, icddr,b |
| 12:20 - 12:25 | Discussant 2 | Discussant 2 | Dr. Barkat-e-Khuda Former Professor and Chairman, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Dr. Muzzafer Ahmed Chair Professor, Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management. |
| 12:45 - 01:30 | Lunch Break | | |

Post-lunch Session

Parallel Session 1: Reviewing SDGs Activities Undertaken | Venue: Carnival Hall, BICC

| | | | |
|---------------|--|---------------|---|
| 02:00 - 02:30 | Cabinet Division | Moderator | Mr. Muhammad Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan Former Cabinet Secretary |
| 02:30 - 03:00 | Ministry of Public Administration | | |
| 03:00 - 03:30 | Public Security Division | | |
| 03:30 - 04:00 | Security Services Division | | |
| 04:00 - 04:25 | Law and Justice Division | | |
| 04:25 - 04:50 | Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division | | |
| 04:50 - 04:55 | Discussant 1 | | |
| 04:55 - 05:00 | Discussant 2 | Discussant 2 | Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque Former Foreign Secretary and Professorial Fellow South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) |
| 05:00 - 05:10 | Speech by Special Guest | Special Guest | Mr. Farhad Hossain, MP Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Public Administration |
| 05:10 - 05:20 | Speech by Chief Guest | Chief Guest | Mr. Anisul Huq, MP Hon'ble Minister Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs |
| 05:20 - 05:30 | Closing Tea | | |

| Parallel Session 2: Reviewing SDGs Activities Undertaken Venue: Media Bazaar, BICC | | | |
|--|---|---------------|--|
| 02:00 - 02:30 | Statistics and Informatics Division | Moderator | Dr. Shahnaz Arefin, ndc Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division |
| 02:30 - 03:00 | Ministry of Information | | |
| 03:00 - 03:30 | Information & Communication Technology Division | | |
| 03:30 - 04:00 | Post and Telecommunication Division | | |
| 04:00 - 04:30 | Ministry of Science and Technology | | |
| 04:30 - 04:35 | Discussant 1 | Discussant 1 | Dr. Muhammed Zafar Iqbal Former Professor, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) |
| 04:35 - 04:40 | Discussant 2 | Discussant 2 | Dr. Hafiz Md. Hasan Babu Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, University of Dhaka |
| 04:40 - 04:50 | Speech by Special Guest | Special Guest | Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Planning |
| 04:50 - 05:00 | Speech by Chief Guest | Chief Guest | Mr. Muhammad Hasan Mahmud, MP Hon'ble Minister Ministry of Information and Broadcasting |
| 05:00 - 05:30 | Closing Tea | | |

| Parallel Session 3: Reviewing SDGs Activities Undertaken Venue: Windy Town, BICC | | | |
|--|--|---------------|---|
| 02:00 - 02:30 | Road Transport and Highways Division | Moderator | Mr. Md. Mokammel Hossain Secretary Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism |
| 02:30 - 03:00 | Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism | | |
| 03:00 - 03:30 | Ministry of Housing and Public Works | | |
| 03:30 - 04:00 | Power Division | | |
| 04:00 - 04:30 | Local Government Division | | |
| 04:30 - 04:35 | Discussant 1 | Discussant 1 | Dr. Md. Shamsul Hoque Transportation and Safety Expert, BUET |
| 04:35 - 04:40 | Discussant 2 | Discussant 2 | Mr. Md. Mahbub Hossain Senior Secretary Energy & Mineral Resources Division |
| 04:40 - 04:50 | Speech by Special Guest | Special Guest | Mr. Nasrul Hamid, MP Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources |
| 04:50 - 05:00 | Speech by Chief Guest | Chief Guest | Mr. Md. Nurul Islam Sujan, MP Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Railways |
| 5:00 - 05:30 | Closing Tea | | |

Day 03

18 May 2022, Wednesday

Plenary Session (Development Partners, Private Sector, NGOs/CSOs) | Venue: Carnival Hall, BICC

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|---------------|---|-----------------|--|
| 09:30 - 09:35 | Opening Speech by Moderator | Moderator | Mr. Khan Md. Nurul Amin , ndc, Chief GED |
| 09:40 - 10:10 | Speech/Presentation by Development Partner Representative | | Resident Representative , UNDP Bangladesh |
| 10:10 - 10:40 | Speech/Presentation by Private Sector Representative | | Vice President , Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI) |
| 10:40-11:10 | Speech/Presentation by NGOs/CSOs Representative | | Mr. Towfiqul Islam Khan , Senior Research Fellow |
| 11:10 - 11:30 | Tea Break | | |
| 11:30 - 11:40 | Speech by Guest of Honour | Guest of Honour | Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim Chief Executive Officer (Secretary) Public Private Partnership Authority |
| 11:40 - 11:50 | Speech by Special Guest | Special Guest | Dr. Shamsul Alam Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Planning |
| 11:50 - 12:00 | Speech by Chief Guest | Chief Guest | Dr. Mashiur Rahman Economic Affairs Adviser to the Hon'ble Prime Minister |
| 12:00 - 02:00 | Lunch | | |

Closing Session | Venue: Carnival Hall, BICC

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|---------------|---|--|---|
| 02:00 - 02:10 | Conference Summary and Way Forward | | Mr. Khan Md. Nurul Amin , ndc, Chief GED |
| 02:10 - 02:15 | Speech by Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) | | Ms. Zuena Aziz Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) Prime Minister's Office |
| 02:15 - 02:20 | Speech by Guest of Honour | | Mr. Khandker Anwarul Islam Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Division |
| 02:20 - 02:25 | Speech by Special Guest | | Dr. Mashiur Rahman Economics Affairs Advisor |
| 02:25 - 02:35 | Speech by Chair | | Mr. M. A. Mannan , MP Hon'ble Minister, , Ministry of Planning |
| 02:35 - 02:45 | Closing Speech by Chief Guest | | Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan , MP Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs |
| 02:45 - 03:00 | Tea/Coffee | | |



Organized by

General Economics Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission
&
Governance Innovation Unit, Prime Minister's Office



SNAPSHOTS OF THE CONFERENCE



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LIST OF SDG PUBLICATIONS BY GED

| | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Integration of Sustainable Development Goals into the 7 th Five-Year Plan (February 2016) |
| 2 | Policy Coherence: Mainstreaming SDGs into National Plan and Implementation [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 71 st UNGA session 2016] (September 2016) |
| 3 | A Handbook on Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the Implementation of SDGs aligning with 7 th Five Year Plan (2016-20) (September 2016) |
| 4 | Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (January 2017) |
| 5 | টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্ট, লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ও সূচকসমূহ (মূল ইংরেজী থেকে বাংলায় অনূদিত) (এপ্রিল ২০১৭) |
| 6 | Bangladesh Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) 2017: Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world (June 2017) |
| 7 | SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective (June 2017) |
| 8 | A Training Handbook on Implementation of the 7 th Five-Year Plan (June 2017) |
| 9 | Bangladesh Development Journey with SDGs [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 72 nd UNGA Session 2017] (September 2017) |
| 10 | Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (March 2018) |
| 11 | National Action Plan of Ministries/Divisions by Targets for the Implementation of SDGs (June 2018) |
| 12 | Journey with SDGs: Bangladesh is Marching Forward [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 73 rd UNGA Session 2018] (September 2018) |
| 13 | এসডিজি অভিযাত্রা : এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে বাংলাদেশ (জাতিসংঘ সাধারণ পরিষদের ৭৩তম অধিবেশনের জন্য প্রণীত) (সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৮) |
| 14 | Synthesis Report on First National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (November 2018) |
| 15 | Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh First Progress Report 2018 (December 2018) |
| 16 | টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্টঃ বাংলাদেশ অগ্রগতি প্রতিবেদন ২০১৮ (ইংরেজী থেকে বাংলায় অনূদিত) (এপ্রিল ২০১৯) |
| 17 | Empowering People: Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality [For Bangladesh Delegation to High-Level Political Forum 2019] (July 2019) |
| 18 | Prospects and Opportunities of International Cooperation in Attaining SDG targets in Bangladesh (September 2019) |
| 19 | Bangladesh Moving Ahead with SDGs [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 74 th UNGA Session 2019] (September 2018) |
| 20 | টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্ট অর্জনে এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে বাংলাদেশ (জাতিসংঘ সাধারণ পরিষদের ৭৪তম অধিবেশনের জন্য প্রণীত) (সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৯) |
| 21 | Consultation on Private Sector Engagement (PSE) in attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bangladesh: Bonding & Beyond. Proceedings (January 2020) |
| 22 | Revised Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (April 2020) |
| 23 | Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2020 (June 2020) |

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| 24 | টেকসই উন্নয়ন অর্জন: বাংলাদেশ অগ্রগতি প্রতিবেদন ২০২০ (মূল ইংরেজি থেকে বাংলায় ভাষান্তরিত) (জুন ২০২০) |
| 25 | Bangladesh Voluntary National Reviews 2020 (June 2020) |
| 26 | Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) in Bangladesh; Recommendations for the 8 th Five Year Plan for implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (September 2020) |
| 27 | Promoting Sustainable Blue Economy in Bangladesh Through Sustainable Blue Bond: Assessing the Feasibility of Instituting Blue Bond in Bangladesh (June 2021) |
| 28 | Bangladesh Moving Ahead with SDGs (Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 76 th UNGA session 2021) (September 2021) |
| 29 | Revised Mapping of Ministries/Divisions and Custodian/Partner Agencies for SDG Implementation in Bangladesh (January 2022) |
| 30 | Workshop Proceedings on Annual High-Level Consultation on SDGs Localization and Efficient Use of Ocean Resources (May 2022) |
| 31 | Synthesis Report on Second National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (SIR) 2022 (June 2022) |



General Economics Division (GED)

Bangladesh Planning Commission

Ministry of Planning

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