

Statement by H. E. Mr. Mohammed Shahriar Alam, *MP*
Hon. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs – Bangladesh
at the Third SIDS Conference
Apia, Samoa, 02 September 2014

I congratulate you, **Mr. Chair**, for your able stewardship of this Conference. My delegation and I would also like to thank the people and the government of Samoa for a warm hospitality accorded to us. We are confident that a result-oriented outcome of the Conference would allow the international community to address the concerns of SIDS as well as those facing our oceans and seas. Bangladesh pledges its full support in assisting you in reaching that common goal.

As we deliberate, climate change remains a key challenge before us. Climate change poses even existential threats to the SIDS as also some of the coastal countries like Bangladesh. Millions of people already face those – in their daily living and livelihoods. It is striking that the climate

vulnerable countries suffer without contributing even a **miniscule** portion to global climate change. Significant share of our GDP and precious development gains are now at stake.

As the world and the planetary system needs urgent and robust corrective actions, all countries must respond on 2 degree celcius stabilization target. Later this month, we wait to hear from industrialized world on their mitigation ambitions and other support measures at the Climate Summit in New York.

We must rise above national politics and prism of sovereignty to address climate change. This is as much as for arriving at a robust framework within UNFCCC as also within the Post-2015 Development Agenda by 2015. We are happy that the OWG could recommend a stand-alone Goal on Climate Change; and we all need to integrate climate change across the Post-2015 Agenda to make it truly transformative.

The SDGs ask the global community to make sustainable transition from MDGs through a much more holistic, integrated framework. Needless to say, many of the SIDS are also LDCs. These countries represent around two-fifth of UN membership. As the 'indicators' and implementation aspects within Post-2015 Agenda are finalized, the challenges faced by LDCs and SIDS *vis-à-vis* sustainable need to be robustly reflected across the Agenda. This is particularly in regard to poverty alleviation; inclusive industrialization and development of resilient infrastructure; disaster risk management;

sustainable use of water; food and energy security; conservation and development of seas and oceans; bio-diversity.

Given the **precarious** challenges faced by the SIDS and LDCs, a comprehensive look at **means of implementation** will be critical. Surely, means is not just not in terms of finance. In the rapidly changing ecology of global systems, the LDCs and SIDS needs broad-based support – though predictable finance from international community; development of and access to adaptive, life-saving technology; and building of manifold capacities. All these are **premised** on the principles and provisions of global instruments that the global community have pledged to. Next year's Financing for Development (FfD) and Post-2015 outcome should robustly address all issues and elements of an integrated global support architecture.

Coordinated efforts are also required to ensure sustainable development of the SIDS in the area of trade and development. Last December's Bali outcome (*9th WTO Ministerial*) provides a most pertinent framework. We all must strive to ensure realization of the full benefit of the Bali package. In WTO, Bangladesh has long been highlighting the importance of appropriate and demand-driven trade facilitation scheme for LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs. It is important to support these countries in creating necessary infrastructure and address all barriers - so that imports from these countries are cost- effective.

Finally, **Mr. Chair**, we do appreciate the unique challenges and opportunities before SIDS. Right this hour, Bangladesh is hosting 20 countries from Africa, Asia-pacific, Europe through Oceania in an International Workshop on Blue Economy. As a littoral State, we are trying to harness and let all share each others' perspective, capabilities and knowledge towards conservation, utilization and exploration of diverse resource potential in and around our seas and oceans. Bangladesh is committed to work together with the SIDS for ensuring a blue planet for all of us.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.
