



BANGLADESH

Opening Remarks by Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in the Interactive Dialogue 3: "Fostering sustainable economic growth, transformation and promoting sustainable consumption and production"

26 September 2015, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations, New York

1. Yesterday, we adopted a pro-people and pro-planet universal development Agenda. Shared prosperity through shared responsibility is the hallmark of Agenda 2030.
2. For the global community to transform, we need to ensure equality across communities and countries. Inclusive societies, diverse level of development, balanced growth need to be nurtured. We all must act together to bridge the gaps on access to resources and technology.
3. We are encouraged at the opportunities for inclusive development for all. From Rio to New York, we commit on responsible living and respecting nature and people. Yet, many of our countries need the means to be able to implement our collective commitments. We also need to address the issues related to enabling environment at the global plane – so that all can access and develop the choices to exercise freedom. Equally important is to address challenges like climate change and violent extremism – that can rapidly wipe out precious development gains.
4. Within finite resources of Mother Earth, sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources are crucial. Our pattern of living and lifestyle needs to be in harmony with the nature. Yesterday, the Pope called for ending “a culture of waste”. For all, consumption should be about an individual’s ‘choice’ that also demonstrate commitment to global sustainability.
5. To realize global transformation, the developed world can and should walk with developing world towards our common destiny. For no one to be left behind, we need to ensure that people at the bottom also enjoy fruits of development. Across the developing world, technology can make differences in sound consumption and production in ordinary people’s life.

6. At the same time, substantial focus on development and transfer of technology is essential. Sustainable economic growth, including level of consumption, largely depends on resource and technologies. Many countries need easy access to resource-efficient technologies and build their capacities to leverage development gains. Existing IPR regime need to be revisited to gain people access to key technologies related to agriculture and food security, health, chemicals and waste management.

7. Mother Earth has more than enough of resources for the entire mankind. We would need to ensure that billions are supported through global science–technology–innovation and finance. Private sector can help us plug the widening gap across communities and countries. They would need to look beyond current accounting matrix of ‘short-run profit’, enhancing people’s well-being. Responsible business conduct is critical to attain an inclusive, peaceful and stable society.

8. It is important to recognise that civil society is also making notable contribution in realising sustainable development.

9. As a climate-vulnerable developing country, we work hand in hand with our civil society and private sector to make difference in the lives and livelihoods of our people.

Dear colleagues,

10. Six decades back, I grew up in southern Bangladesh. My father, Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, used to narrate the value of pristine nature. He recounted, how lives and livelihoods of people are intricately linked to land, rivers, wetlands and sea in riverine Bangladesh. In line with Bangabandhu’s vision, our people still believe that conservation and protection of environment as a time-honoured ‘responsibility’, not just a necessity.

Thank you!

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