



# BANGLADESH

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**Statement by His Excellency Mr. Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, B.B. Minister for Water Resources, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at the High-level Meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the theme: Responding to Challenges on April 29, 2004**

**Mr. Chairman,**

We align ourselves with the statement of the distinguished representative of Qatar made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We would, however, like to highlight the following.

Two years back, at Johannesburg, the world community met – concerned by the non-action on the implementation of the Agenda – 21 and the gradual degradation of the environment of the planet. We came out with an accomplishable programme of implementation (PoI) and a set of commitments. The Johannesburg Plan is a participatory process where all the stakeholders, including the UN agencies, have important roles to play in attaining the goal and targets set therein.

It is needless to reemphasize the important complementary role that the UN agencies play in our development endeavours. We are encouraged to see that since Johannesburg, the inter-agency cooperation and coordination has been initiated to implement the PoI. We hope this will result in reduction of transaction cost. Greater cooperation and coordination should lead to effective harnessing of the comparative advantage of various UN agencies.

We concur with the views of Chief Executive Board (CEB) that strategic and programmatic framework to advance implementation should be flexible and action-oriented and maximum UN system support should be provided for a sustained follow-up. We, however, remain convinced that development is primarily a national responsibility – domestically engineered, owned and driven. Collaborations therefore must take place in the priority areas identified by the national government.

While we fully appreciate the research work done by the UN agencies – what is regarded as their involvement upstream, we stress their greater involvement in downstream as well. We are concerned by the near stagnant situation of core resources and request our development partners to fulfill their commitments regarding ODA. UN agencies that service us must be strengthened.

I thank you.

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