

**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

STATEMENT

BY

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**AT THE UNITED NATIONS
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
THIRD SESSION**

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Statement of the Leader of Bangladesh Delegation.

Mr. President, Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Bangladesh delegation and my own, I wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government of Japan for hosting the third COP of the Climate Change Convention in this beautiful and historic city of Kyoto and for excellent arrangements made for the conduct of the session.

Mr. President,

The IPCC Second Assessment Report which has been the basis for our actions reveals that the projected sea level rise by 1 meter by 2100 will inundate 17.5 percent of the total land of Bangladesh. It also predicts that the countries with higher population densities would be particularly vulnerable to this change and it would result in adverse impacts on our ecosystems, food supply, water resources and on human health.

Being within a few meters of sea level a major portion of the country is threatened with inundation , intrusion of salinity and increased frequency of cyclones. Moreover, the floods that are very common phenomena in our country will also be on the increase. Consequences of climate change may seriously affect the economy , particularly that of the coastal areas. The Sundarbans, which is the biggest mangrove forest in the world with one of the highest concentration of biodiversity, is already under threat.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh , a least developed country contributes very little to GHG emission due to anthropogenic interventions yet she will have to pay a heavy price for this climate change. 80 percent of global emission of carbon dioxide is from industrialised countries while only 20 percent of the world population live in this industrialised nations. Developed nations, therefore, need to act first to solve this global problem.

Mr. President,

With its limited resources and modest external assistance, Bangladesh has undertaken a number of studies on climate change consistent with the priority we have attached to that problem as a global partner. The government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to monitor and oversee the studies on climate change in the country. Bangladesh has completed preliminary emission inventory and vulnerability assessment studies in some sectors. Bangladesh is also participating in Asia Least Cost Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy (ALGAS) project funded by GEF in defining mitigation Strategy.

In order that the mitigation strategy can be implemented successfully we need adequate and timely support of the developed countries.

Mr. President,

The responsibility of the world community in translating the objectives of the convention into action can not be overemphasized. We should be clear in our mind that UNFCCC has two main objectives: (a) Achieving sustainable development and (b) Reducing GHG. I wish to join other heads of the Delegations of developing countries to reiterate that the developing countries are committed to achieve sustainable development and in the process reduce GHG with sound policies and practical steps.

Our principal emphasis, therefore, would be that (a) the Annex-I countries must set an agreed timetable to reduce their greenhouse gas emission; (b) ensure adequate new and additional funds and timely flow of resources to developing countries attaching high priority to the needs and special situation of the LDCs.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I appeal to all of you to mobilise collective political will and through accommodation, flexibility and understanding reach a negotiated Kyoto protocol acceptable to all the parties. This is essential for the survival of the global family of ours and to save the planet.

Thank you Mr. President, thank you all.