

BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT FORUM

15-16 NOVEMBER 2015

DHAKA

BDF COMMUNIQUÉ

Ministers and leading representatives of Bangladesh and its development partners, multilateral, regional and bilateral development and financial institutions and civil society organizations, met in Dhaka on 15-16 November 2015 for the 2nd meeting of the Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF2015), which was inaugurated by the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The 1st meeting of the Forum was held by the coalition Government of Sheikh Hasina in 2010.

The Government has hosted the BDF2015 at an important time. Bangladesh has just launched a 7th Five Year Plan 2016-2020 aiming to set forth a strong trajectory of inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Bangladesh in 2015 crossed the Lower Middle Income threshold, according to the World Bank classifications. Internationally, the world has just endorsed the UN's new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - 17 goals for 7 billion people, aiming to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change. The world also adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in 2015, defining a series of bold measures to overhaul global finance practices and generate investments for implementing the SDGs, encompassing a diversity of sources, from domestic resource mobilization, southern finance flows and private investment as well as official development assistance. Finally, the BDF2015 is taking place only two weeks before the historic international climate conference COP21.

This Bangladesh Development Forum serves as an important platform for dialogue on ways to accelerate Bangladesh's development. The Forum allowed the Government to share its plans for achieving development and poverty reduction as set out in the Seventh Five Year Plan and in line with the SDGs. The Forum also allowed the Development Partners to share their views, and ideas. The BDF serves to affirm broad-ranging support for Bangladesh's development.

The keynote session focused on macro-economic considerations and the development of an inclusive growth strategy to ensure achievement of the SDGs. This session was followed by six thematic working sessions centering on the 7th Five Year Plan and SDG implementation, focusing on the themes:

- Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change
- Strengthening Economic Foundations: Strategies for Development of Infrastructure
- Health and Quality Education: Offering a Secure Future for All
- Governance and Development: Strengthening Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
- Social Protection: Leaving No One Behind
- Mainstreaming Gender in Economic Development

