**Press Release**

DHAKA, August 20, 2023, The Government of Bangladesh, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) officially signed the Project Documents for two projects: "Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh, Phase-III" (AVCB) and "Partnerships for a More Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh, Phase-II" at the Economic Relations Division today. The signing ceremony was attended by Ms. Sharifa Khan, Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD), representing Bangladesh, and Mr. Stefan Liller, Resident Representative of UNDP. AKM Sohel UN Wing Chief moderated the ceremony.

The Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh, Phase-III project, implemented by the Local Government Division, aims to strengthen Village Courts across the country as effective platforms for local dispute resolution. With a total budget of USD 50,016,785, the project is funded by the Government of Bangladesh (USD 18,639,941), the European Union (USD 28,376,844), and UNDP (USD 3,000,000). This phase builds on the success of prior activations in 1,416 Union Parishads (UPs) and will extend activation to 3,041 additional UPs.

The Partnerships for a More Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh, Phase-II project, led by the ICT Division, focuses on engaging youth to promote peace, tolerance, and inclusivity. The project empowers young advocates to counter hate and radicalism, fostering a harmonious society. The total budget for this phase is USD 757,453, with contributions from UNDP (USD 326,472), Norway (USD 424,528), and the Government of Bangladesh (matching funds of USD 6,453). The event was attended by senior representatives from the Government of Bangladesh, the European Union, the Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka, and UNDP. For more information, please contact: Md. Anwar Hossain Senior Assistant Secretary UN-1, UN Wing Economic Relations Division Ministry of Finance Bangladesh