

**ASIA WORKSHOP ON THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION: LINKS TO THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

25-27 August 2013, Dhaka

Speech by the Secretary in the Inaugural Session

Excellencies, Hon'ble Ministers, MPs, Secretaries to the Government, Heads and Reps of the Missions and Agencies, Workshop Participants from both Home and Abroad, Colleagues and Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamu Alaikum and a very good morning

As the Secretary of the Economic Relations Division, the focal Division in the Ministry of Finance responsible for economic relations and development partnerships and more importantly as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) Steering Committee member from Asia, I warmly welcome you all to this very important workshop given the current global debate and discussion on the new development agenda, popularly coined as post-2015, with the expiry of the MDG regime.

We are delighted to be hosting you at this workshop as it provides the states of the Asia region opportunities to revisit our development aspirations and challenges together. It's also a happy point to note that though the workshop is apparently dedicated to Asia but countries of the Pacific and Latin America are also participating and the workshop is fully inclusive since the private sector and CSOs are given proportionate opportunity to lead, engage and contribute.

Distinguished colleagues,

The workshop aims to capture divergent views and issues on development cooperation from country experience to regional, from public sector to private sector to civil society and we hope these altogether will broadly underline the perspectives of Asia that we need to communicate at the global level for consideration in the post-2015 agenda.

The role and issues of Asia are important in the post-2015 agenda as some of the Asian countries will dominate the global economy and again the majority of the poor people live in Asia. Asia represents a typical scenario as many of the successful economies are from Asia but again many countries in Asia struggle to manage their development. Here development and inequality are rising together. Asia is a home to

4.3 billion people that accounts for 60% of global population and of course with more young populations compared with any regions of the world. This again characterizes a situation which is both encouraging and challenging. This workshop thus in our view is a timely event bringing together the major actors of the region and beyond. Countries from Asia including Least Developed Countries (LDCs) such as Bangladesh can take a proactive role in ensuring that Asia perspectives that are evidence-based continue to shape the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and Post-2015 development agenda dialogue at the global level.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you are aware that the Global Partnership, emerged after the Busan, as an inclusive forum for ensuring development effectiveness is playing strong role in influencing the post-2015 development agenda to be more equitable, generous and result based. Since December 2012, the Steering Committee has met thrice starting in London, then Bali and finally in Addis Ababa being the last one until now. The UN sponsored Panel of Eminent Persons submitted their report; the UN will engage dialogue in September this year to agree the successor to the MDGs. In the last meeting, the Co-Chair of the Global Partnership Excellency Justine Greening in her message urged the Global Partnership to

contribute to the debate on the post-2015 agenda and according to her the best way to do this is to demonstrate what partnership really means in the post-2015 regime.

Bangladesh strongly believes that partnerships can deliver mutual and inclusive benefits and accordingly seeks to strengthen further our partnership with this workshop. In this complex time, from different angles, from development challenges to rapid and unprecedented social changes to emerging political and cultural conflicts, collaboration and partnership could be the best recourse to address our difficulties and put forward inclusive and benevolent ways of collective wellbeing. Bangladesh is strongly committed to the Global Partnership and hence it calls on the Asian stakeholders to make best use of the Global Partnership to include our points in the post-2015 agenda. As a Steering Committee member representing Asia, Bangladesh assumes that bringing the stakeholders together is its responsibility. We look forward to having consolidated and practical positions for Asia after the workshop.

Esteemed participants,

Back to the core issues of effective development cooperation, we need to share our insights as to how development effectiveness could be

ensured; we are hopeful country experiences will be much helpful here. Experiences concerning development results and mutual accountability vary from country to country and sub-region to sub-region. Accountability and effective country systems are at the heart of development results; our collaboration may lead to strengthen country systems and provide knowledge on effective tools to ensure accountability. In Bangladesh we are trying to renovate the system and process directly linked with development effectiveness. We are trying to establish an Aid Information Management System (AIMS) to help us better capture, track, monitor and analyze external contributions to the financing of our development priorities and results; this is a major step towards increasing transparency and accountability of the use of public resources. Research knowledge justifies that when managed properly, development assistance can bring substantial benefits to recipient countries; poor management, on the other hand, continues to foster a culture of aid dependency. In order to graduate from aid dependency and guide all forms of development assistance efficiently, Bangladesh is working on developing an aid policy. A senior-level inter-ministerial committee is tasked with the responsibility. The Bangladesh Aid Policy is expected to outline clear principles of engagement to co-ordinate development assistance to Bangladesh within a government-led framework.

Colleagues,

Before I conclude let me take the opportunity to summarize that this workshop broadly intends to capture the region's issues to feed into the global dialogue and discussion but at the same time it calls for a consensus to draw a common action plan to ensure effective development partnership and cooperation. We believe a common action plan is bound to contribute to development effectiveness. Finally, we look forward to your active engagement and discussions and collaboration that will help us strengthen existing development policy solutions and to explore new and innovative and at the same time practical one.

Thank you