

UN Event ID: [CSW61]

1. Title: Revitalizing Social Protection Policies for Creating More Accessibility To Drinking Water

2. Date, Time and Location: 24 Th March from 10.0 am -12.0 PM at the UN Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, 4th Floor, 820 Diplomatic Centre, Second Avenue, in between 43-44 Street, Manhattan. NewYork. USA.

Organised by: Bangladesh Social Scientists Foundation (BSSF), ([www.bssf.org.bd](http://www.bssf.org.bd)) in lead with coalition of Bangladesh NGOs/CSOs represent in the UN 2023 Water Conference - AOSED, ARA, BRAC, BWOT, Foot Steps Bangladesh, GRAUS, Jago Nari (Barguna) and SDA

Background : Bangladesh has been graduated from low income country to middle income country's. It has successful stories in many social indices of the MDGs

like Water and Sanitation related goals attainment and Poverty Reduction. Country's both upper and lower poverty rates are declining (extreme poverty) in satisfactory level. However, the urban poverty particularly among extreme poor declining rate is slower than country's average rate. Besides, country's spends in social protection is increasing but there is sharply rural and urban divide. Urban poverty is multifaceted where access to drinking water is gradually shrinking. Let alone quality of it. As developing countries like Bangladesh is shifting from aid dependency to self Reliance where they are promoting to privatization to increase tax revenues. In doing so particularly in urban areas where there is no or very limited common natural water sources, people's living in lower level of poverty line are facing severe challenges of collecting safer/clean drinking water. Besides, there are other group of people's live in

location / geographical marginalization like ethnic groups both plain land and high land as for example Barind areas, water logging areas and saline intrusion areas called climate hot spots like South West districts of Bangladesh. Country's annual spends in Social Protection around 3% of Annual GDP while most of them are for addressing emergency or sudden shocks of people's live in different vulnerabilities. Country like Bangladesh needs to revitalize its social protection policies with innovative, more and rationalised investment to improve drinking water infrastructure and supply chain governance with equity and equality to address access to clean drinking water particularly for the poor and locational marginalised groups.

Water Action Agenda: ( <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/raising-global-voices-designing-social-protection->

program-access-drinking-water)

Description- Revitalize the social protection program carry out evidence-based policy advocacy, Review and monitoring of national and global policy initiatives, Develop and dissemination of annual status report.

Key Issues Discussed :

\* Challenges of access to clean drinking water - there are still a good number of extreme poor (12%) and people's live in some geographically marginalised areas/ regions where development of clean water sources for the year throughout are required more financial and technological investment.

\* Rapid growing urbanisation and migration of climate change impact victims in urban locations creating more

vulnerabilities for them with existing limited water sources

\* Growing industrialization and rapid urbanization creating higher pressure on ground water and thus increasing ground water depletion

\* Plastic pollutions in to water bodies now alike hazards to saving water sources where riparian countries like Bangladesh are also victims of the sources Countries as there are linked with sources of the transboundary rivers like Ganga, Brahmaputra and Tista like mighty rivers cross Nepal, Bhutan, China and India to Bangladesh and finally Bay of Bengal!

\* In adaptation strategies in most cases are being trialed some old and backward water technologies say for MAR technology to address access to drinking water in saline intrusion areas. These backward intermediaries technologies are failed to mitigate severity of water scarcities among the millions of climate

victims!

\* To attain SDG6 Bangladesh like newly graduated from LDCs to Developing countries are required to adopt more advance technology as well financial assistance from developed countries for a sustainable solution.

Recommendations :

\* Carrying out exploratory researches on water availability and accessibility in urban and climatic hotspots particularly focus on poor households to generate evident-based policy advocacy

\* BSSF will act as an advocacy platform for addressing access to water for the urban slums and Carry out Policy researches to find out feasible and innovative businesses models where it may be jointly steered by concerned local government institutions and affected communities without the intervention of any vested groups.

\* NGOs, CSOs and Private Sectors like Different Business Associations jointly carry out campaign on Promotion of Use of Water Efficiency as a shared social responsibility and of water security as a possible component of social security coverage in water stressed areas. BSSF will work together with the Ministry of Water Resources in " valuing water' across four key water- intensive sectors.

\* It is urgent to carry out beyond borders boundaries campaign as Community Based Water Shed Management like different streams, canals, Water falls locally called 'Chora' so that these must not be filled up or destroyed to build housing or structure

\* It is urgent to establish working relationship among the like minded people's organizations like CSOs, Universities, Academia, Research and CBOs globally and also with co- riparian countries as Sources of Water are the

Public Goods while Bangladesh is partnering with some neighbouring countries like India, Nepal, Bhutan. That aims to championing meaningful international partnership for implementing SDG6 ( alongwith transboundary basin management like preventing plastic pollutions), and exploring the application of big data, AI and IoT for sustainable water resources management in developing countries

\* Water and Climate Change are highly interlinked and as far estimates, 90% global warming is absorbed by seas and oceans. Therefore, a public awareness campaign may be launched not to through chemicals, plastics and alike to rivers and oceans to protect thus planet earth.

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