



Remarks to be made by the Hon'ble Planning Minister Mr. M.A Mannan, MP in the HLPF Thematic Session on “Lessons learned from the first cycle of the HLPF and Messages for 2019 HLPF summit: how can we improve the HLPF?”

18 July 2019, 4 pm, CR 4, UNHQs

Q. 1. Sharing of experience on a particular issue: [Bangladesh-‘Whole- of- the- Society’ approach]

HLPF as a review mechanism gave us the opportunity to share best practices and success strategies among the member states.

Bangladesh presented its VNR in 2017 and shared with others the story of its resolute start to achieve the SDGs. We reiterated that an inclusive and ‘whole of the society’ approach would guide us throughout our journey.

The Government integrated the 2030 Agenda in its national development plans.

Government machineries at all levels have been mobilized to implement the SDGs. The works of the Local Government has been particularly emphasized so that the vulnerable and marginalized section of the society including the women, children, disabled people, minority groups remain within its development plans and strategies.

To spearhead the process, SDGs Implementation and Review Committee was formed at the Prime Minister’s Office to facilitate the implementation of SDGs both at national and local level. A high level position, Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) was created at the Prime Minister’s Office to head this committee.

The responsibilities of the ministries and agencies to achieve the SDGs have been clearly identified. The government prepared a “National Action Plan for SDGs Implementation” and shared with all relevant ministries for preparation of their respective implementation plan for achieving the SDGs targets.

The Government also held several consultations with the NGOs, CSOs, Business community, Development Partners, Ethnic Minorities, professional groups, labour associations, women network and media.

Bangladesh has introduced Annual Performance Agreement (APA) to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability. With the massive use of ICT, public service delivery has been hugely improved and corruption has been reduced. These are expected to streamline the implementation of the SDGs.

The Government for the first time organized a conference namely SDG Implementation Review in 2018.

Thank you.

Q. 2. What would you recommend to improve HLPF? (at least one recommendation to be made)

In my view, as the overarching platform for the review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, HLPF delivered well. It could review an SDG progress report and five or six SDGs every year and worked on a theme. It provided the opportunity to learn the strategies, and best practices countries have in implementing the SDGs through the mechanism of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). We could also have an intergovernmentally agreed political declarations each year.

However, we need to remember that the 2030 Agenda is very ambitious, and its implementation is challenging. Currently several other global development agendas are in place and countries are committed to implement those agendas.

Moreover, there are some Programme of Actions such as the Istanbul Programme for the LDCs, Vienna Programme for the LLDCs and Samoa Pathway for the SIDS. There are cross-cutting and cross-regional issues in all these agendas and Programmes. The implementation of these agendas will complement and expedite the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Hence, HLPF needs to further focus on interlinkages and must be able to forge effective linkages between the 2030 Agenda and others including the Paris Agreement, Addis Ababa Action Agenda and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the programmes I have just mentioned.

This can be done through the discussions at the HLPF and the national reports presented during the VNRs. Countries need to mention what progress they have achieved in implementing these agendas and programs and what are the challenges they faced. For instance, 'global partnership' lies at the heart of all these global development agendas. However, the 'partnership' component seems to be disappearing gradually from our discussions. Countries should report at the HLPF how they promoted global cooperation for development. My point is that a holistic approach is required

in expediting development and without recognizing the interlinkages among the development agendas in the HLPF we cannot achieve that.

Thank you.