

## **Third UN Private Sector Forum**

Statement by

**Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina**

Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Mr. Chairman and Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki Moon,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Business Leaders and Delegates,

Assalamu Alaikum and Good Afternoon to you all.

I am pleased to be here at the Third UN Private Sector Forum. I am confident that the outcome here would contribute significantly towards reaching the MDGs by 2015.

As a signatory of the Millennium Declaration and MDGs of September 2000, I believe in the Declaration's call "To develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication".

The importance of the private sector's role is particularly amplified by MDG 8, Target 8E which calls for cooperation with pharmaceutical companies in providing access to affordable and essential drugs in developing countries, and Target F which calls for cooperation with the private sector in making available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication.

In this context, I appreciate the report, "Keeping the Promise" which is before us and which clarifies that the MDGs represent a "pact" also with the private sector, highlighting that they disseminate technologies and create fair employment in support of the goals. Indeed, the UN Global Compact showcases how the private sector can forge strong partnership with the UN and its member states in furthering global social responsibility.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

My government has mainstreamed MDGs in PRSPs, Annual Development Programs, and in the Sixth Five Year Plan (2010-2015) to achieve the goals within the stipulated time. We have the MDGs in the heart of our "Vision 2021," the year of the Golden Jubilee of our independence, by which time we intend to celebrate "Digital Bangladesh" as a middle income country. Our efforts are directed towards attaining an annual growth rate of 10 percent and ensuring benefits reaching the poor; food security; poverty eradication; education and health for all; countering climate change impacts; terrorism; and social injustice.

For a successful journey, we are evolving a strong partnership with the private sector and the civil society, and, therefore, involved them with our development partners, in the important Development Forum held in Dhaka during 15-16 February, this year. Our efforts are also directed towards creating a level playing field for the private sector to supplement public sector's development endeavors; and include, adopting defined property rights, market oriented incentives, sound monetary policies, sustainable public finances, rule of law, and good governance.

Mr. Chairman,

I thank the UN family for assisting us in preparing the report on "MDG Needs Assessment and Costing for Bangladesh." It indicates need of US \$ 22.10 billion to attain all the MDGs by 2015, and suggests an annual outlay of US \$ 4.4 billion for the next five years. The requirement is substantial and calls for the support of the development partners. We are also inviting FDI with our liberal investment policies, business friendly environment and cost structure, and promises of attractive returns. We are also encouraging Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) investments in areas like power, infrastructure, construction and transportation sectors.

Fortunately, the recent global economic recession did not unduly disturb the flow of investment to Bangladesh and the GDP growth rate remained around 6 percent; stock market stable; and export growth increased at 4.11 percent. J.P Morgan has placed Bangladesh in their "Frontier Five"; Goldman Sachs, in their "Next Eleven"; and S & P and Moody's gave BB- and Ba.3 sovereign credit ratings, due to our macro-economic stability on the basis of prudent macro-economic policy, and micro-economic reforms. Indeed, investment in the market of 160 million consumers is a win-win situation with profit for the private investors, and acceleration of efforts in our achieving the MDGs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted with the world's major companies willing to share technologies, business models, outreach strategies and skilled managers towards scaling MDG initiatives in many parts of the world. I am also pleased that the UN will release a framework for strategic business action in support of MDGs. I join the Secretary General and other world leaders in calling upon private companies to align their social investments with development in general, and attainment of MDGs, in particular.

I thank all the companies which have already done so. I also thank the Secretary General for involving the civil society and the private sector with the High Level Meeting. I believe this would go a long way in harnessing the private sector's enormous potentials for sustainable development.

I thank you all.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

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