

## **Summit of LDC Group**

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,  
Distinguished Heads of State and Government,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

#### **Assalamu Aliakum and Good Morning to you all.**

I am pleased to be here at this meeting today. The holding of this meeting is most appropriate for us to strengthen the LDCs' position on its needs to achieve our goals. I take this opportunity to express my profound thanks to the government of Turkey for the warm hospitality and commendable arrangements for a successful conference.

Mr. Chairman,

The LDCs meet today still insecure with fragile economies with structural weaknesses, human asset deficit, marginalized in trade, wealth generation, technology, connectivity and global decision making, and vulnerable to external shocks. Though the LDCs have made significant progress on MDGs, no comparable progress was made in enhancing productive capacity and spur growth in pace with developing countries.

Therefore, LDCs need to redouble efforts to sustain high levels of growth for long period to accelerate development. This is possible with enhanced support of our development partners.

LDCs acknowledge that development is their own responsibility. Our partners must also acknowledge that the current state of the LDCs is, to a large extent, due to unfair treatment and a non-inclusive world order. LDCs continue to suffer from global inequity, falling commodity prices, increasing price of high end manufactures and services, unaffordable energy and technology, poor return of foreign investments, and climate change.

In an ever increasing globalized world, mankind's common goal for world peace, security and progress is attainable with only global cooperation.

Therefore, the development partners have a clear responsibility for LDCs' development. Much could have been achieved if most of them had kept their commitments made in the Brussels' Program of Action for LDCs. It is unfortunate that they are even now not forthcoming when LDCs seek to engage them on a renewed and enhanced partnership.

They continue with protectionism and point out their difficulty for additional commitments to the recent global financial meltdown. This meltdown has also affected LDCs' efforts to reduce poverty, enhance economic growth and attain the MDGs.

Moreover, global warming and climate change whose origin is in the developed world have adversely affected the LDCs most in terms of reduction in ODA, investment, export earnings, remittances, tourism, and spiraling energy and food prices.

Food security is central to the needs of the LDCs. Food productivity, affordability, accessibility are of great concern calling for greater investment in agriculture and facilitation of technology transfer from developed countries to the LDCs. Indeed, the adverse effects of climate change are experienced worldwide and never more so than among the LDCs.

For Bangladesh, climate change is expected to affect the livelihood of one-fourth of our population, displace over 20 million people, and destroy existing bio-diversity and ecology. Most

of the LDCs face similar situation and therefore, must be compensated for climate change induced ills.

This ought to be over and above the ODA provided for in the Brussels Program of Action. LDCs must get adaptation support and green technology at affordable price. As for the climate migrants, a new legal regime under UNFCCC Protocol ensuring their social, cultural and economic rehabilitation, needs to be in place.

Other common interests of LDCs that need to be in the Istanbul Outcome Document are:

(1). Trade with enhanced and meaningful access to markets of developed countries of LDC products; thereby helping them to reduce their dependence on ODA.

(2). ODA developed partners must honor their commitments made in Brussels and enhance their commitments in Istanbul in the face of new realities as climate change.

(3). Debt relief must continue under bilateral and multilateral frameworks with highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) included in debt relief measures on case by case basis.

(4). Energy, including new and renewable energy availability to LDCs must be stable, cost effective, diverse, clean and affordable.

(5). The Istanbul document must pave the way for easy transfer of appropriate technology at affordable cost.

(6). Periodical monitoring of the realization of commitments made under Istanbul Program of Action. This was a major weakness in the Brussels Program of Action.

(7). Removal of present impediments to free movement of labor to the extent possible after taking into account each others national interests.

Mr. Chairman,

LDCs need to graduate from their present status. Therefore, the Istanbul Program of Action must create the conditions for LDCs to get out of poverty and underdevelopment. Our development partners must offer us space to develop necessary human, social and financial capital.

Therefore, we would call upon them to renew, enhance and timely make available their full commitment of support. We also would like to call upon the emerging developing countries for their cooperation and support so that LDCs dream of becoming middle income countries becomes a reality.

LDCs by such graduation would have greater capacity to economically interact, thereby, providing added impetus to the developed world in making further progress in their development and living standards. I believe that the Istanbul Summit could create the conditions for transforming the one-sixth of humanity that LDCs comprise into productive assets and attain dignified lives.

Let us all, therefore, take an oath for a strong partnership in promoting human dignity, ensuring good and development governance, and realizing our common vision of a world with equal opportunities for all children.

I thank you.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu.

May Bangladesh Live Forever.

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