As delivered

Joint High Level Segment of the

Sixteenth Session of the
Conference of the Parties (COP 16) &
Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties
serving as the Meeting of the Parties to
the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 6)

Statement by

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Cancun, Mexico
8 December, 2010

Honourable Vice President, honorable ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished Heads of Delegations, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen

A hearty good evening and greetings from the people and the Government of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh joins other leaders of the world, who has spoken before me, in congratulating COP President. We express our confidence in COP President for her guidance towards progressive achievement of our collective endeavour. We are also inspired by the visionary statement made by the Honourable President of Mexico setting the tone of the conference. We express our confidence in the collaborative framework that COP President has set up with Denmark, and South Africa to closely monitor progress in the consultation process and provide necessary impetus towards a legally binding agreement by 2011.

Honourable Vice Chair
We all agree that erratic weather pattern and climatic trends are real. Adverse impacts of global warming are clearly visible. Recent severe climatic events such as severe drought and forest fires in Russia, heavy floods with landslides in China, landslides in Venezuela with consequent heavy rainfall, devastating cyclones and early and late flood coupled with severe drought in Bangladesh and flood in Pakistan are the alarms for the global community. Urgent and immediate actions must be taken without loss of time. Natural disasters are on the rise and becoming severe and possibly will be more in coming days.

Mr. Vice Chair
I believe that developed countries are ready to fulfill their commitment they made a year back of contributing about US$ 30 billion. Although mitigation is the ultimate solution to climate change, the immediate and priority need of LDCs, SIDS and countries in Africa is adaptation. So, in fast start funding, adaptation should be prioritized.

Mr. Vice Chair

We are dismayed to note that the future of Kyoto Protocol is still uncertain. This is unfortunate. As KP is the only legally binding instrument that we have now in achieving mitigation. This will of course be an integral part of the total global mitigation plan as and when we have a more comprehensive and legally binding outcome of the LCA process. But till that happens we must continue KP.

Bangladesh, though an LDC, has expressed its willingness to participate in mitigation if supported with finance and technology. Bangladesh needs huge amounts of energy to fuel its development process and at present we have large shortfalls in commercial energy. Our government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has launched

a big effort to achieve energy security. And we seek global support in producing cleaner energy. We shall not compromise with our efforts towards development, but we are committed to put our efforts for mitigation activities.

Mr. Vice Chair

Bangladesh emphasizes that all activities be country-driven. However, in the process, all countries should have adequate access to technology and their capacity be enhanced. I hope that whatever decisions are taken in the AWG LCA process, they will be implemented with a sense of urgency.

Mr. Vice Chair

Our long term vision remains unclear as we have not fixed up global targets in controlling GHG emission and global warming. We made a commitment to humanity in the Rio Summit in 1992 to control GHG emission by establishing the Framework Convention. This commitment has been reiterated time and again since then. In Bali that pledge was loud and clear; so it was in Copenhagen.

I understand that the gap in commitments towards appropriate level of reduction of GHG emission is still very large. In Copenhagen, a commitment was made to keep the rise in global temperature below 2 degrees and preferably aim at 1.5 degrees. I urge upon leaders of the developed countries and other major economies, indeed to all the leaders of the World, to take bold steps to achieve these targets. Unless these targets are achieved the cost of adaptation is going to go up, probably several folds than what is being thought now. In such circumstances, many may not need any adaptation as they will probably already be dead either due to hunger or sever natural disasters caused by climate change.

Many countries of the world particularly those in LDCs, SIDS and Africa and countries with low lying coastal belts and flat deltas and countries that suffer from floods and uncertainties in rainfall will not have the capacity to cope with the adverse impacts of the resulting climate change. We apprehend that these would lead to outmigration both inside the country as well as beyond national borders. The AWG-LCA text on this aspect is still unclear. We call for immediate action on this issue.

Mr. Vice Chair

Before I conclude let me flag up some of our recommendations for your perusal;

First, let Cancun deliver some realistic outcome; keeping in mind that Cancun is not the end of the process, but we have to be mindful that time is the essence.

Second, let Cancun Conference adopt a robust work plan with a definitive timeframe for preparing a legally binding document by 2011 in Durban.

Third, the existing two tracks must be continued in the negotiation process.

Four, Cancun Package should contain the preferential treatment of LDCs, SIDS and countries in Africa in allocation of fast start finance.

Five, a comprehensive adaptation framework as well as adaptation committee must be finalized.

Six, action on the ground towards REDD Plus must be supported with sense of urgency.

Seven, all countries of the world should play their due role in mitigation, whether voluntarily or on a mandatory basis irrespective of definitions or special status for countries agreed upon twenty years ago.

Eight, Fast Start Finance must be agreed without delay, alongside a consensus on long-term financial mechanism

Finally, the financial architecture must be in accordance with both existing and new institutions to seal a credible outcome in Cancun.

Mr. Vice Chair

I would like to conclude expressing my sincere thanks and appreciation to the government of Mexico as well as the people of this country and the people of Cancun for hosting this event with generous hospitality and care.

Thank you Madam President, Thank you all.