

**Statement delivered by
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the People's Republic of Bangladesh
on the occasion of the
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26 June 2019**

Mr Chairperson,
Director-General of FAO, José Graziano da Silva,
Distinguished Delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

This is a great honor and privilege for me to represent the People's Republic of Bangladesh in this historic 41st session of FAO Conference in Rome and to deliver a statement.

At the very outset, I would like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu of China for being elected as the new Director-General of this specialized UN Agency. I would also like to thank the outgoing Director-General of FAO, José Graziano da Silva, for his immense commitment and dedication towards the hungry people around the globe.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh acknowledges key findings of FAO's flagship publication SOFA Report 2018 and recognizes the central theme of the report "Making Migration Work For All" very pertinent, and time demanding when the number of hungry people are increasing in recent years around the globe due to the man-made conflicts and climate change.

Mr. Chair,

Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had a dream of building a nation, free from hunger and poverty. He could not fulfill his dream as he was brutally assassinated in 1975. His daughter, Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, with her dynamic leadership, has been carrying forward his unfinished tasks. We are on the right track of development and have prepared Vision 2021 to become a middle-income country by 2021. We want to become a developed country by 2041 and our Vision 2041 has been prepared to achieve this goal. The country is moving ahead with a steady and stable economic growth maintaining sound macro- economic stability.

With an average GDP growth rate of more than 7 percent during the last three years and surpassing 8 percent growth rate in 2018-19, it becomes the fastest growing economies of the world. We are striving to achieve the double-digit growth by 2023 and to create job opportunity for 15 million population.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bangladesh also achieved remarkable success in socio-economic indicators. Poverty reduced to 21.8 percent in 2018 from 40 percent in 2005.

Distinguished Delegates,

Bangladesh has shown an impressive performance in agriculture during the last decade with an average growth rate of 3.8 percent. We have become self-sufficient in food production. Bangladesh is the fourth largest rice producing country in the world and also secures the fourth position in aquaculture.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Honourable Prime Minister has declared “My Village -My Town” program under which “Village will be Town” with all modern civic and urban amenities made available in every village. Establishment of agricultural machinery service centers, workshops, developed infrastructure, potable water supply, modern health care, quality education, sanitation and waste management, power and energy supply, high-speed internet connectivity etc. will be expanded to every village.

Distinguished Delegates,

All of you are aware that in order to achieve the SDG targets, cooperation among the development partners are important. The mechanization of agriculture, doubling the income as well as profitability of smallholding farmers, preventing falling of prices during harvesting period, policy and action research, value addition and agro-processing, bimodal marketing system, export development, agricultural insurance etc. are the main areas of development cooperation in this sector. The FAO has significant contribution to Bangladesh for the remarkable development of agriculture sector. Still there are challenges to address where the support of FAO is indispensable.

Distinguished Delegates,

We would like to refer the SOFA 2018 report where it says almost 85 percent of the international refugees are hosted by the developing countries. It is worth mentioning that 1.2 million forcibly displaced Rohingya people sought refuge in Bangladesh since August 2017 and has drawn great concern to the Global community. We request to the world community to support create enabling situation so that they can go back to their mother land with proper dignity, honor and social justice.

Excellency,

We wish the Grand Success of the 41st Session of FAO Conference and look forward to the future role of FAO in greater outlook with the wisdom and leadership of new Director-General Dr Qu Dongyu.

Bangladesh, in principle, is committed and will continue its collaborative efforts with FAO towards a hunger and poverty-free world.

Thank you very much, thank you all.

Long live Bangladesh.