

**Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid
International Plan of Action on Ageing
Bangkok, 12-14 September 2017**

Name of speaker: (Mr.) (Ms.) KABIR AHMED

Country/Organization: BANGLADESH

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Agenda Item No: 3

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Bangladesh Country Statement

Good afternoon. Thanks Madam. Chair for giving me the floor.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen very good afternoon to all of you. I would like to congratulate Madam Chair for election as chairman of this auspicious meeting.

As all of you know the Madrid international Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 is the global guiding document of the United Nations on population ageing. The key objective of this plan is to build societies for people of all ages by addressing the needs of older persons and strengthening their participation in economics and societies.

Madam Chair,

Population ageing has been identified as one of the megatrends affecting sustainable development. It has significant impacts on economies, societies and the environment that need to be addressed. Ageing is natural phenomena. We have to take it as usual. But we should need to address the issue with given importance.

Madam Chair,

Bangladesh is the seventh largest and one of the most densely populated countries in the world has started to experience another emerging issue of population ageing in its highly vulnerable population and development context. In Bangladesh the statistical data represent that the year 1974-2001 the number of aged population has increased from 1.28 million to 6.05 million. At present 7% population are aged.

Madam Chair,

In Bangladesh more than 80% of elderly people are living in rural area. As head of the family the elder people are playing dominate role in decision making process. Following the social bondage and family ties people of Bangladesh are always very respectful to their older people. Most of the cases older people are living with respect and honor in his/her family. Young people specially women are very much devoted and caring to older people. But due to rapid urbanization and economic development the social values have been changed in some extent. Family are now becoming neuclear and people like to live alone. Due to the changing situation the older people now become vulnerable and some cases they are in distress situation .

Madam. Chair,

Bangladesh is one of the mentionable country who has supported and ratified Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing as from its inception. From the very beginning Bangladesh is working to implement this important action plan.

Madam. Chair,

Government of Bangladesh under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina giving more priority to address the issue. The Government of Bangladesh started old age pension from 1998, through we have resource constraint.

Bangladesh enacted a policy which is our highest political commitment on this issue and implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action. The National policy on Ageing which is formulated in 2013 is one of key policy guideline for addressing the ageing issue. The National Policy for Ageing has some goals and objectives which are formulated in alignment with MIPAA. The Policy also creates opportunities to form some implementation committees in national and district level who are supervising over all implementation process. The significant matter which is mentionable in here Government of Bangladesh enacted a law which is known the Maintenance of Parents Act 2013 where provision of punishment is keep if some not bear the maintenance of his parent.

Madam Chair,

The Ministry of Social Welfare of Government of Bangladesh is providing Old age allowance at present to more than 3.5 million older people. But we think it is not sufficient. We should provide more resource in this area. Government is increasing the amount and number of beneficieries every year.

Under the national policy guide line Government of Bangladesh formulated an implementation work plan for implementation of the national policy where most of the relevant ministries and Division are engaging.

Madam Chair,

As we know older people are vulnerable in economically. They have not specific source of income. The Government of Bangladesh is trying generate work for older people who is capable and eager to work. So they will be economically

self-sufficient. The other thing is health issue, which we are giving priority for older people. The emerging issues of the elderly people are mentioned as a current and upcoming challenges in the National Health Policy. Special hospitals and clinics for elder people are going to establish and reserve seats and beds for older people in existing hospitals.

Madam Chair,

In the era of SDGs it is an emerging challenge for most of the nations to address the ageing issues. Country like Bangladesh who has huge population and resources constraint, is a challenges job to address the issue. If we cannot properly address the issues it will be very difficult to achieve global agenda for us. With all sorts of constraint Government of Bangladesh is trying its best and investing its resources for properly addressing the issue. We hope with the appropriate cooperation among countries of the Asia pacific we may address the ageing issue appropriate way and we should ensure a respectful and secure family life for our elder people.

I thank you all.

Thanks Mr. Chair.

