



Press Release, Dhaka, 8th July 2017

Right Groups on Bangladesh SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) VNR (Voluntary National Reporting) in UN HLPF (United Nation High Level Political Forum)

Strengthening Democratic Institution Is a Fundamental for Sustained SDG and Peace

Dhaka, 8th July 2017. Today twenty one right based civil society, farmers and labors organizations and networks in a press conference held at National Press Club Dhaka said that strengthening democratic institutions like inclusive election, decentralized local government, freedom of information and assembly is fundamental to achieve sustained SDG and peace in Bangladesh. They have organized the press conference on the eve of Government of Bangladesh is going present SDG VNR in upcoming UN HLPF which will be held in New York during 10 to 19th July 2017. The press conference title “Inequality is the priority to act immediately: Global community must endorse its obligation of global partnership to assist countries fighting poverty, inequality and climate change” was moderated by Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of EquityBD, other speakers are AHM Bazlur Rahman of BNNRC, Rafiqul Islam of DUS, Aminul Rasul Babul of Unnayan Dhara Trust, Badrul Alam and Jayed Iqbal Khan of BKF, Mostafa Kamal Akhanda of COAST and Syed Aminul Haque of EquityBD.

The group includes, ARPAN, BAFLF BKS, BKF, BNNRC, CDP, CLEAN, COAST, DDJ, EquityBD, GCAP, JSJ, NRDS, OKSociety, PRAN, SDO, SANGRAM, SDG Watch Bangladesh, SUPRO, Uddipon, and Voice of South Bangladesh.

On behalf of the group Syed Aminul Haque of EquityBD elaborated five points demands and concern in this regard which are (i) Regional disparities and inequalities should have priority concern, (ii) Eliminate loopholes in resource losses from our countries : act against illicit flows, (iii) Take a balance approach in respect of infrastructure for Growth and Protection : people need to be protected from climate fall out, (iv) Bangladesh is innocent victim of climate change : international communities have obligation to take responsibilities of climate displacement, and (vi) Strengthening democratic institutions should be the key for achieving SDG.

AHM Bazlur Rahman of BNNRC said that there are lack of coordination among agencies which is causing wastage of development budget, he also said that Bangladeshi coastal area have to be protected first otherwise Dhaka will not be saved. Rafiqul Islam of DUS said that 40 % of coastal area are fully unprotected, on the other hand cyclone increases four fold, he also said to gain food self-sufficiency coastal land have to be protected first. Aminur Rasul Babul of Unnayan Dhara Trust said that, government must show tangible actions that they are sincere to stop illicit flow, as Bangladesh is one of the top countries where illicit flow is high; he also said that confrontational politics is responsible in this regard.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of EquityBD and the moderator of the press conference said that, government of Bangladesh should not show or express self-complacent attitude especially in international forums, and the government must tell the truth to the international community that without international cooperation Bangladesh alone cannot stop the illicit flow and it is the developed countries who are responsible of climate catastrophes in here so they have obligations to take responsibilities.

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