

Country Consultation on

“CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY FOR THE CONTEXT



CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka

December 28, 2010



INTRODUCTION

LDC is a socio-economic construction and at present 49 countries is incorporated in this category on the basis of certain socio-economic indicators. The LDCs are not just the poorest countries in terms of per capita income but most of them have by far the lowest human development and poverty indicators than the rest of developing countries. These countries have witnessed less growth in relation to the other countries due to certain structural weaknesses. And with the dawn of the new millennium, these countries have witnessed rampant privatization and also increase of debt has proved to be a burden on these countries. Moreover the institutions of governance are facing massive challenge of corruption, and the flow of ODA from the Northern countries is on the decrease which has intensified the challenge for the LDC countries. Global climate changes have had adverse impact on these countries which now demand for climate justice and are demanding for reparation from the developed countries.

The classification of LDC countries was done in 1971 with a hope to achieving a world without 'Least developing countries' and also to collectively strive forward to achieve that aim. The important role of CSOs in the development process has been widely recognized in all the LDC conferences. Thus, SUPRO (Sushasoner Jonny Procharavizan) organized a country level consultation on **"Challenges and Recommendations for the Context of UN LDC IV"** on 28th December, 2010. This is the report is divided into following parts:-

- Background information
- Objectives of the Consultation
- Bangladesh: Reviewing the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- Process recording
- What should the next Programme of Action for LDCs
- Summary of Consultation with Recommendations

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The civil society organizations play a major role in a country's development process. They play a key role in reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the common people. They form a connecting link between the people and the governments when they represent the voices of the people and advocate for them with the governments. It plays a vital role in decentralization of the development process by ensuring that there is the presence of the common mass in the development process.

CSOs shifted their focus from charity work to the social and economic development of vulnerable groups since the 1980s. Many of them are mostly involved in service delivery activities including education, water and sanitation and micro-credit. Policy advocacy on different issues of concern is a recent phenomenon. There are some organizations particularly involved in campaign and lobby on issues such as conservation of the environment, human rights, gender equality, trafficking of women and children, good governance and aid effectiveness. Besides, CSOs also lobby on access to basic services like food, housing, education, water and sanitation, power, etc., which are commonly perceived as 'right-based activities'. Such activities contribute to mould public opinion in favor of policy changes and

CSOs are increasingly being acknowledged as pressure groups in the society. While addressing global policy issues like peace, disarmament, debt relief, global finance and WTO, local CSOs have been integrated into global initiatives and networks.

Today, over 850 million people – around 13 per cent of the world population - live in the 49 LDCs with over 72% living in rural areas and depending for subsistence and income on agriculture. The projected LDC population will be 965.2 million in 2015. Within the LDCs as a whole, 277 million or 36% of the population live on less than \$1 a day. 31% are undernourished compared to 17% in other developing countries. A child born in an LDC is 26 times more likely to die before its 5th birthday than a child born in a developed country. Women in LDCs have a 1 in 16 chance of dying in childbirth compared to 1 in 3,500 in North America. 46% of girls have no access to primary education. Only 16% of LDC population have access to electricity compared to 53% in other developing countries while just 4 LDCs have met the drinking water 2015 target (UN-OHRLLS, 2009, The Least Developed Countries: Things to Know, Things to Do).

Compounding this situation, the multiple crises of recent times have least spared the LDCs. The global financial and economic crises, food price crisis, debt crisis, energy crisis, and the alarming human-induced climate change crisis, are affecting LDC citizens the most when ironically they are the least responsible. These have only added to the already overwhelming development hurdles in these countries, also plagued by conflict, violence, political instability and stark social injustices.



The fact that the number of LDCs has more than doubled from 24 in 1971 to 49 today, demands serious rethinking of the dominant development models in practice – as the UN Report on the World Social Situation 2010 "Rethinking Poverty" affirms the "urgent need for a strategic shift away from the market fundamentalist thinking, policies and practices of recent decades towards more sustainable development- and equity-oriented policies appropriate to national conditions and circumstances". Indeed, the need of the hour is a radical policy shift that puts people at the centre of international development co-operation fundamentally based on the universal Right to Development – and, let me mention here, next year 2011 marks the 25th anniversary of the UN Right to Development!

In two of the LDC conference held in Paris, there has been presence of CSOs. But it has been limited to a few major CSOs and that too from the donor countries. While the Brussels conference was an exception in this regard from its predecessors, particularly with regard to the roles and responsibilities of the civil society. There is a growing recognition, this time, which attaining an overall progress in LDCs requires the concerted and coordinated efforts of all stakeholders including civil society actors. However, the primary responsibility for progress in LDCs rests with the LDCs themselves. Thus, a comprehensive plan of action with the name of Brussels Program of Action (BPoA) was adopted in the year 2001.

In the same line, in 22-23 November 2010, civil society representatives from nine Asian LDCs met in Bangkok, Thailand, to review progress corresponding to Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to firm up civil society position corresponding to the UN LDC-IV 2011. The participant countries identified the major challenges that the countries are facing in its road to achievement of MDGs and BPoA. Increasing privatization, decreasing ODA, Global climate change, Lack of 'good governance', natural disasters and also the role of external factors were identified as major challenges. This conference gave rise to the Asia Declaration which incorporated certain basic steps that need to be undertaken to bring forth Development in the LDCs. Cancellation of all kinds of Debt, prioritizing of LDCs as they are the most vulnerable, fair and not free trade, addressed and redressed of bad impacts of climate and food crisis etc were some of the major recommendations taken in the civil society assembly.

Bangladesh: Reviewing the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) A Civil Society Report

Bangladesh has been marked on her forehead as a "least developed country" (LDC) by the international community together with many other nations. It is no exaggeration that income poverty in Bangladesh is still high, 47.2 percent of the population (estimate of 2008)¹ is below national upper poverty line (2,122 kcal), and a large section of the population has no or little access to basic services. The target is to reduce the poverty level to at least 29 percent by 2015.

In September 2000, Bangladesh joined the international community in adopting the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Aside from setting out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Declaration also highlighted the importance of democratic governance and human rights in underpinning sustainable human development. In 2001, Bangladesh joined other LDCs in the UN LDC-III conference to enter into an understanding with the international community to pursue certain development processes and goals. Since then, Bangladesh has made some progress towards meeting some targets. As a decade has been passed, it is evident that some targets are unlikely to be met and others will need more attention. Here, a brief analysis of the achievements and gaps has been presented.

COUNTRY CONSULTATION IN BANGLADESH

Keeping the above in the background, SUPRO organized the country level consultation on "Challenges and Recommendations for the Context of UN LDC IV" on 28th December, 2010 at CIRDAAP Auditorium. The Consultation was organized keeping a few objectives in mind:-

- To review the progress achieved by Bangladesh with regards to Brussels Program to Action
- To identify the challenges faced by the country on its path to achievement of the goals mentioned in MDGs and BPoA and
- To trace the role of CSOs and give recommendations from Bangladesh for the coming UN LDC IV to be organised in Turkey in May 2011.

PROCESS RECORDING

Representatives from Civil Society Organizations, Academicians, Government Officials, members of the parliament were present in the Consultation. Dr. Akbar Ali-Khan, former adviser to the Care Taker Government of Bangladesh was chief guest for the consultation and it was chaired by SUPRO chairperson Abdul Awal. Dr. Piyash Karim, Professor at



Economics & Sociology Department, BRAC University; Mr. Rezaul Karim Chaudhury, Chief Moderator, EquityBD; Mr. Bijon Kumar Baishya, Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Finance; Md. Abdul Mannan, Fomer State Minister of Civil Aviation & Tourism; Dr. Sadeka Halim, Comissioner, Information Commission of Bangladesh and Prof Ali Ashraf, MP and former Deputy Speaker were present as special discussants in the Consultation. Besides this, Ahmed Swapan Mahmud, Exceutive Director, VOICE, Mastafizur Rahman Khan, SUPRO National Council Member, Rashid Lal, Manju Rani Pramanik were present in the consultation meet.

Abdul Awal (Chairperson, SUPRO)



I take this opportunity to welcome all the distinguished guests gathered here today. In 2001 in Brussels, we (the LDC countries) adopted a program of action and we dreamt of a world without poverty. Bangladesh has achieved considerable growth in GDP but it is not manifested in all sections of the society. The adoption of Neo-Liberal policies has paved the way for more and more privatization of the essential services which as a result have weakened the safety net programs of the government. In response to these challenges faced, we need to take certain necessary actions to address these challenges. LDC watch Bangladesh has prepared a brief report on the status of Bangladesh with regard to achievement of BoPA and MDGs.

A.M. Moinuddin Ahmed (Researcher)

We also have a narrative report but now here I will only focus on the presentation. LDC is a socio-economic construction and it entirely depends on us whether we want to accept it or not. At present there are 49 countries in that category. Besides the socio-economic indicators vulnerability also plays a major role in a country being termed as LDC. Maldives can be an example in that regard which has high GDP but is very vulnerable. In Brussels the LDCs agreed on a certain factors like improving governance, Building Human and Institutional Capacities, Enhancing the Role of trade in Development, Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment and Mobilizing Financial resources. Bangladesh is also facing serious challenges with regard to increasing corruption. The recent report of transparency international gives



Bangladesh only 2.4/10 and includes Bangladesh in one of the most corrupted countries. The amount of grants is decreasing day by day along with the subsequent increase in Loan which is increasing the liability of country in debt servicing. Frequent policy changes, top down approach to development, increasing aid dependency are some of the major challenges which need to be tackled.

In terms of Bangladesh, to graduate from LDC we need to take a certain few steps, which can be checking the drop-out rate from school, addressing the needs of Climate victims, developing a inclusive framework of development can be undertaken. The developed countries should also comply with the commitment of providing 0.7% of their GNP as ODA and trade policies should be targeted towards bringing forth development and not privatization and cancellation of all kinds of debt can also go a long way in bringing forth development in Bangladesh which will help us to graduate from LDC.

Dr. Akbar Ali Khan (Adviser to the Former care-taker government)



Most of the times the discussion on poverty gets limited into statistics and it can create problems. For instance, if the international poverty line of 2 dollars per day is considered then almost 80% of the population is under the poverty line while according to the definition of Bangladesh, it is only 40%. In the same line, the achievement in MDGs or in other LDC accords is all defined in the terms of statistics. Thus there is no emphasis on the quality of the services offered. Thus, it gives rise to definitional dualities which needs to be addressed and clear and focused definitions needs to identify and future decisions or action plans should be based on those programs.

All the goals and targets in MDGs and other discussions are targeted towards benefitting the poor but there is no representation of the poor. And also the development planning is defined from the above. The discussions need to have emphasis on the poorer sections of the society and development should be defined from the perspective of the poor.

There is also a huge need for Decentralization in Bangladesh and the local governments should be strengthened and three-tier efforts should be made to bring forth participatory democracy and a humane development in Bangladesh. Decentralization not only means the centre giving their power to the state government, the state also should be ready to take power. Thus what Bangladesh needs is decentralization in real sense in what can be term as 'Double Devolution' in the words of Gordon brown.

In terms of Foreign Aid, we can notice a duality when we accept loans and also ask the developed nations to give development assistance while on the other side we also talk about not accepting foreign aid any more. In this regard we have two models we can learn from. One is the model of china and India and Myanmar. Both India and china accept aid but on their own conditions and they have been able to achieve considerable growth and increase their GDP while Myanmar has closed itself and has been underdeveloped. Thus, there is need to learn from the experience of India and china.

Professor Ali Ashraf (MP and former Deputy Speaker)

Our goal is to graduate from LDC to middle income countries. Aid is a reality today but we have not been able to increase our bargaining power. To do that, we will have to increase our capacities and try to raise our own resources.



Concentrated efforts should be taken to bring forth democratization at all levels. It is said that democracy is the weakest form of government but the best form of government. I agree that education is primary tool to bring forth good governance. Thus there is need for implementation of Free and primary compulsory education.

The CSOs, NGOs and government should together try to collectively strive towards bringing the targets specified in MDG and BoPA.

Thus we should recognize our limitations and collectively fight to bring forth good governance which will pave the way of achieving development.

Abdul Mannan (Former State minister of civil aviation, Tourism and Textile)



According to me eradication of complete poverty is not possible in the world. Thus, I would recommend the usage of ‘Eradication of Extreme Poverty’ rather than eradication of poverty. Bangladesh is witnessing a phenomenon of cultured corruption. Thus there is need to fight corruption at all form at all levels and efforts should be taken to discard the cultural corruption.

Education is the tool to bring forth good governance. These essential services like education should not be privatized and free and primary education should be established. Thus we cannot afford to follow laissez faire economy which would mean privatization of essential services like Education and health. Thus Bangladesh should follow a mixed economy.

In terms of foreign aid it is always seen that a certain committed amount never reaches the country. For instance only about 70% of the committed amount reaches Bangladesh, out of which 20% again is gone for debt servicing and only about 50% is actually left. Thus Foreign Aid serves to be unprofitable bargain. Thus, Bangladesh should no longer take foreign Aid.

Mr. Bijon Kumar Baishya (Joint secretary, Economic Relations Division Finance ministry, Bangladesh)

I want to limit myself into the discussion of Aid Accountability and Good Governance. The economic relations department is responsible for resource mobilization. Between our own resources and remittances there exist a ‘Resource Gap’ and economic relations department try to fill this resource gap and it is not directly responsible for the misuse of the funds. Thus we are in responsible for collecting resources from



various ‘Donor Countries’. We call them ‘Development Partners’. When we talk about Aid accountability we can go back to Paris declaration which Bangladesh has ratified. The first principle itself talks about ‘Ownership’ which means that we have to take ownership and also be responsible for the aid received. Though Aid is supposed to be untied it still comes with a few conditions. When we get aid and also distribute it in the per-capita income, it means that all of us are responsible for the aid received. Thus CSOs play a major role in that. We have already invited civil society organizations in many consultations and Discussions on Paris declaration and Accra Accord.

When we say that the amount of grant is decreasing and loan is increasing, I think we need to think over it. Taking grants would mean that we are begging from the developed nations, thus we are borrowers to which we pay interest. We have failed to raise internal resources that are why there has been the need to take loans and foreign Aid. Thus according to me, the CSOs, NGOs and the parliamentarians together act as monitoring agents and see to it that the foreign aid received are properly implemented.

Professor Sadeka Halim, (Commissioner, Right to Information Commission, Bangladesh)



I have been related to this field as a researcher, Activist and an academician. I am a social scientist that I find the term ‘third world’ and ‘LDC’ as derogatory and I did not understand why it is used in the Brussels conference and I personally prefer the use of the term ‘Developing Nations’. Bangladesh has seen considerable success in its path and we are on our road to achieving democracy but the path is not easy. I have myself seen in my experience that the terms and conditions of the donor agencies are very long and we have yet to be able to

establish our negotiation power. Thus, in our consultations we always have representations from parliamentarians and CSOs but we never call people from the lowest rung of the society. We do not have representatives from informal sector, garment workers or rickshaw pullers. Thus, there is a need to give representation to their voices.

It has been seen that CSOs and political parties are polarized but I see no problems in it. According to me, Even though we are polarized we need to raise voices from whatever platforms possible and try to address the problems that Bangladesh is facing today.

The NGOs should start questioning themselves about their functionality rather than only blaming the Government and should constructively assist the government in bringing forth development. And there is a need to understand the process of development in a broad canvas and address the issues.

Dr. Piyash Karim (Professor, Economics and Sociology Department, BRAC University)

The term LDC has come from an economist perspective and we can debate on the justification of it. But we have to acknowledge the fact that we are not developed and Bangladesh has historical and social reasons behind its underdevelopment. Today Bangladesh is seen to be functioning with petty bourgeoisie and we can witness a progressive disengagement from essential services by the state which is not good



news for the people. Countries like china have brought forth development from a model of state dominated capitalistic development. In all the market economies the state, local capital and the global capital form a tripartite alliance and carry forth the development process. It is a sad development that Transparency international has listed Bangladesh as one of the most corrupted countries in the world.

Bangladesh today does not need ‘good governance’ but ‘Democratic governance’. The concept of Good governance is the brainchild of World Bank and was born to address the failure of SAP. Thus today Bangladesh needs to bring forth ‘*Participatory democratic governance*’ at every level if it needs to graduate itself from LDC. And this participatory governance would not come by its own and we have to do it by ourselves but special efforts needs to be taken to involve Women, Adivasis, Political parties and other sections of the society. But we cannot do it alone or only the political parties cannot do it alone. There needs to be a collected effort with CSOs playing more and more active political role in the process.

Ahmed Swapan Mahmud (Executive Director, VOICE, National Council member, SUPRO)



Rather than talking about certain phenomenon like eve-teasing and Corruption, the focus of our discussions should be to understand the reasons behind these phenomenons. Thus, I would like to give a few concrete recommendations for the forthcoming LDC IV.

The state should try to establish its own rights over the resources.

To graduate from LDC what are the concrete steps that should be taken should be focused in the presentations.

Concrete steps should be taken to bring forth Participatory democratic governance in the country.

Rather than focusing on unconditional aid we should approach the aid from the perspective of reparation for the historical injustice meted towards Bangladesh. Thus we should bargain for ‘Repatriation rather than Aid’

Harun-or- Rashid Lal (Executive Director, Solidarity, Vice Chairperson, SUPRO)

We are labeled or incorporated in the LDC countries and this categorization will bring certain obligations. Thus there should be efforts to graduate from LDC countries and foster a sovereign development process. Bangladesh faces *monga* (Seasonal food crisis) and there should be concrete efforts taken to deal with the food crisis. Special efforts and policies should be undertaken for the development of the workers, farmers and daily wage laborers and also decent wage and just wages should be paid to them. To government should take steps to make it more and more participatory.



Mostafizur Rahman Khan (National Council Member, SUPRO)



The interests of the people involved in garment sector, prawn cultivators and farmers also need to be reflected in the report of the country. I personally feel that the country is in a good platform. We have been able to overcome an economic crisis with the help of the remittances got from the migrants.

The state should try to establish its sovereign ownership over its resources and the process of planning.

Just reducing gender parity and also involving women folk in the economic sphere is not enough but also there should be constructive efforts to involve them in decision making positions.

Mr. Rezaul Karim Chaudhury,(Chief Moderator, EquityBD)

I am personally against the macro-level methodology of identifying corruption by Transparency International. In the next LDC IV conference in Istanbul, I would like to request the representatives of the LDC to collectively talk about the victims of the climate change. In Bangladesh due to climate change, almost 17 districts run the risk of getting wiped out and millions and millions will be displaced. And the LDC countries are not singularly responsible for it and have majorly been the outcome of the carbon emissions from the developed nations. Thus, we should demand that the ‘Climate Refugees’ should be allowed access in the developed nations and also they should be allowed to reside in the Developed nations. We know that the political parties and the representatives have failed the people. The NGOs today need to play a strong role in making itself transparent and accountable and collectively try to build the capacities of the Political parties and make them more and more accountable to the people.



Md Abdul Hai (Economist)



To bring forth development in Bangladesh it needs to bring forth a people-oriented policy and also build the capacities of the local government and try to build a corruption free state. To ensure people-oriented development few steps like E-governance, transparency and accountability can be built.

Manju Rani (Executive Director, Shoroney and Executive Board member SUPRO)

The CSOs and the government of the LDC countries should collectively highlight their voices and try to bring forth development in the countries. The Principles and the programs agreed upon in Doha Round and Brussel’s



Conference need to be implemented into practice. In terms of Bangladesh, I would like to recommend that the country should make special efforts to

bring forth decent wages-especially to the traditional weavers and farmers in Tangail.

Uma Choudhury (Director, SUPRO)



I welcome all of you to this conference organized jointly by SUPRO and LDC watch. The LDCs, we must bear in mind, are a "special" group of developing countries that hence, require specific development attention as was first recognized by the United Nations (UN) four decades back.

Corruption, lack of transparency and accountability and prioritizing privileged agenda are characteristics of many LDC governments. Democracy, justice and the rule of law have suffered very much.

The least developed countries were first classified in 1970 on the basis of certain socio-economic indicators. The first and the second conference were held in Paris in 1981 and 1990 wherein we adopted the Paris declaration. Subsequently the third was organized in Brussels where we adopted the Brussels Program of action and the fourth conference will be Istanbul in 2011. The Civil Society Organizations play a major role in almost every sector in the development process in the developing countries today. The CSOs have held consultations and have kept strong recommendations in the conferences. Thus, we are gathered here to review the Brussels program of Action and identify the challenges and put forward strong recommendations from the perspective of Bangladesh. Finally we want a world with no LDCs.

Final Word by Moinuddin Ahmed (Member, LDC watch)

The CSOs and government should collectively take efforts to graduate itself from LDC. The initiatives of both the sector should complement each other. The government should incorporate the recommendations of the civil society report on LDC in the government report and certain points should be jointly discussed. The CSOs are given an observer status thus the CSOs cannot actively engage even though they wish too. Thus there is need for the government and the CSOs to look for certain common and work together if they need to graduate from LDC status.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The consultation tried to understand the progress of Bangladesh with regard to the achievement of MDGs and BPoA and identify the challenges and obstacles and plan a further course of action. All the discussants and the speakers in the consultation highlighted a few trends that have been visible in Bangladesh in the past few years:-



- Bangladesh, though has achieved considerable growth, the fruits of the same are not witnessed in all the sections of the society. There has been a growth of rampant privatization which has created a middle class which have enjoyed most of the fruits of the development process and the poverty does not cease to exist.
- Some changes have taken place in the field of democratic governance since 2000. For example, the judiciary has been separated from the executive and a number of independent commissions have been established, such as the National Human Rights Commission, Right to Information Commission and Anti-Corruption Commission; new laws and an electoral roll with photographs supported national and local level elections in 2008 as well as the transition to democratic governance through a significantly improved electoral process; the UN Convention against Corruption was ratified; a National Identity Card has been introduced to support public service delivery; and civil society and mass media continue to flourish. A National Plan of Action for e-governance is now being pursued to improve public sector service delivery. This is likely to make the service delivery system more efficient.
- Some progress has also been made in combating trafficking in persons. Providing access to justice to survivors, however, remains a challenge. UNDP is supporting the Bangladesh Police Anti-Trafficking Unit to improve the quality of investigations and victim support.
- Gender parity has already been achieved both at the primary and the secondary levels, while it is declining at the tertiary level.
- In 2009-10, 60 percent of the total budget was allocated to activities targeted to “poverty alleviation”, of which 18 percent was allocated for “safety net” programs for the poor and the vulnerable. These are intended to create capacity to cope with the trends of globalization.
- External debt is on increase in the country. The amount of grants is on the decrease and also the loans are increasing. Thus the debt liability is increasing and Bangladesh allocates more money for debt servicing than other essential services like health and education in its National budget.
- Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries with regard to climate change though it cannot be blamed for most of it. Thus Bangladesh is demanding for compensation and repatriation money from the developed nations.

The speakers also came out with certain recommendations with regard to Bangladesh and thought that it have to follow these steps if it has to grow out of LDC. They are:-

- Bangladesh should opt for “Democratic Participatory governance” rather than ‘good governance’
- Climate impacts have displaced millions in Bangladesh and they are fleeing Bangladesh and have turned into ‘environmental refugees’. Thus there is a need by the developed nations to recognize these category of people as ‘Natural citizens’ and allow them to reside within their borders.

- Bangladesh has been the receiver of grants and most of it comes with terms and conditions. And Bangladesh has not yet been able to bargain its way through the same. To do the same it need to increase its capacities and try to establish its sovereign control over its resources.
- More and more efforts should be made by CSOs, government and the people to make the government Accountable towards it people.
- All the CSOs, NGOs, and the people should collectively campaign and work together to bring forth the goals and targets in MDGs and BPoA
- Efforts should be made to development an ‘Inclusive development’ framework which does not discriminate. A new development paradigm should be defined and developed where development is defined from the perspective of the poor
- Demands for ‘Repatriation’ and ‘compensation’ for the ill-effects faced by Bangladesh due to Global climate change should be raised. The developed nations also should follow their commitment of providing 0.7% of their GDP as development Assistance to them.
- Education should be promoted to bring forth an accountable, transparent and democratic participatory governance

What should the next Programme of Action for LDCs

LDC is a political-economic construction, whereas the concerns of the people are far beyond economic growth and actually correspond to distributive justice and participation in decision-making, at the national level, as well as in the global arena. These two issues would be the agenda for the coming years. At the external front, the adverse terms of trade imposed by the industrialized countries would threaten all the benefits of democratization process, whatever its scale may be. The present trend of globalization is likely to continue as threat in many respects, rather than an opportunity. Some areas of concern have already been identified in the previous discussions. Emphasis should be given on the following.

- Measures should be taken to effectively check drop out of students from schools. Pro-active measures are needed to achieve gender parity at the level of higher education.
- Poor people in disaster-prone areas require particular attention. The climate victims should be provided necessary supports and livelihood opportunities for their survival when in need.

We call for LDC IV

- Reorientation of trade policies and negotiations to ensure that they support development and equity and do not become a vehicle for forced liberalization and privatization of basic services;
- Abolition of all forms of trade distorting subsidies by rich countries that adversely affect the livelihoods of the small and marginal farmers in the poor low-income countries and must end dumping of agricultural products by rich countries;
- Rich countries must stop imposing unfair conditions through bilateral and regional trading agreements which have been rejected in the WTO negotiations;

- Donors must fulfill their commitment to provide 0.7% of their national income;
- Aid conditional ties should be ended; Aid must not be tied with economic liberalization and privatization of basic human services;
- The international community including the G-8 must take necessary steps immediately to ensure full Debt cancellation for Bangladesh; Debt cancellation of any kind must not be conditional
- A “MDG-consistent” frame-work of Debt Sustainability should be applied and cancellation must be available to all that need it.
- Being one of the most affected and vulnerable countries in the world due to climate change, Bangladesh is right worthy to get fair share in the global climate deal
- The management of climate fund should have controlled of the sovereign state, not by the facilitation of World Bank.
- The people forced to be migrated due to climate change should bestow a different status and a different term and they should be given a dignified status “Universal Natural Person” with social, cultural and economic rights.

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Publication date:

Organizers:



Sincerely,

Name of the organizations participated in the consultation. Media, individual CSO,

| Sl. No | Participant Organization s | Sl. No | Participant Organization s |
|--------|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|
| 01 | NRDS, Noakhali | 26 | Dhaka University |
| 02 | SOLODARITY, Kurigram | 27 | BUUS |
| 03 | SETU, Kustia | 28 | DEP |
| 04 | Shaw Unnayan, Rajshahi | 29 | T.T.C |
| 05 | Shorony, Tangail | 30 | BBS |
| 06 | PPS, Pabna | 31 | SB |
| 07 | Speed Trust, Barishal | 32 | The Daily Star |
| 08 | CTW, Dinajpur | 33 | New Age |
| 09 | PKSS, Natore | 34 | Bdnews24.com |
| 10 | SUS, Rangamati | 35 | Daily Naya Digangnta |
| 11 | Welfare Efforts, Jhinaidah | 36 | Sangbad |
| 12 | EquityBD | 37 | Ittefaq |
| 13 | SSSW, Dinajpur | 38 | Daily Sun |
| 14 | NISSCO, Dinajpur | 39 | Sangraam |
| 15 | PTS | 40 | Bangladesh Somoy |
| 16 | BECHS, Dinajpur | 41 | Kaler Kantha |
| 17 | Green Voice | 42 | Barta24.net |
| 18 | U.S.U.S | 43 | RTV |
| 19 | Pave, Bogra | 44 | ATN Bangla |
| 20 | Amer Odhikar Campaign | 45 | ETV |
| 21 | SBSS, Dhaka | 46 | Desh TV |
| 22 | M-G.V | 47 | Mohona TV |
| 23 | LRC | 48 | Boishakhi TV |
| 24 | Dhoritri Foundation | 49 | ABC Radio |
| 25 | Nagorik Uddyog | 50 | Radio Today |

ANNEXURE

- Power point presentation of “Bangladesh: Reviewing the Brussels Programme of Action and the MDGs-A civil society report”