

**Concluding remarks by His Excellency Mr. Anisul Huq, MP**, **Hon'ble Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, in the the Third Cycle of Universal Periodic Review of Bangladesh *(Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 14 May 2018)***

Thank you Mr President.

I would like to thank all delegations that have constructively engaged in this Third Cycle of Bangladesh's Universal Periodic Review. This is indeed an important opportunity for my Government to engage with the international community. We have carefully listened to all interventions, and the questions, comments and recommendations, on the human rights situation in  my country. We attached highest importance to the recommendations that we have received and endorsed in last two cycles, and would also do so this time. Clearly, as many of you have mentioned, despite being a developing country with capacity and resource constraints, the Government remains committed to the process of gradual but visible improvement in all areas of human rights within the country. This is a continuous process, and I can affirm today that we have made considerable progress in many areas, as reflected in our National Report and in today's discussion.

At the same time, I would like to stress upon the fact that while considering the human rights situation of a country, we must not lose sight of the specific social, political, cultural, economic and demographic situation of that country. Therefore, as a democratic Government reflecting the will of the people, our efforts need to be aligned with the people's views and opinion as well as the social, cultural and religious values of our people. More specifically, issues like death penalty or same-sex relations evoke sensitivities that could not be disregarded. It has become quite clear from ongoing consultations. This is also true for some other issues as well.

*P.T.O.*

Mr. President,

Economic emancipation, safety and security of people and human rights for all are interrelated issues for any country. Therefore, specially for developing countries, full realization of the Right to Development remains indeed a major cornerstone for achieving human rights for all. This is an area that call for adequate understanding.

Nonetheless, Mr. President, we would like to assure everyone today that Bangladesh would give due consideration to all recommendations that have been  received today, and would continue its utmost efforts, within its limited resources and capacity, to address the recommendations that are acceptable to us. Bangladesh, as a responsible and responsive nation, will continue to deploy efforts towards gradually building a prosperous nation where everyone would fully enjoy all civil and political as well as Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we call upon our friends and well-wishers in the international community to continue supporting us in this journey.

I conclude by thanking again all the delegations present here today,  the OHCHR Secretariat and the interpreters for their commendable work to make this UPR session a success.

 Let me also place on record our deep appreciation for members of the Troika – the delegations of Afghanistan,  Rwanda and Ukraine for shouldering the onerous responsibilities of overseeing the reporting process. I also thank the National Human Rights Commission and other stakeholders for their constructive engagement in the UPR process.

Thank you.