

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Dharendra Debnath Shambhu, MP,
Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry
of Disaster Management and Relief, Government of the
People's Republic of Bangladesh, at the High-Level Leaders'
Roundtable on -**

**“Disasters and Climate Change: Managing Risks and Crises
Differently”**

Beyazit Hall, Istanbul Conference Centre; 24 May 2016 from 0900-1100 hrs

**Hon'ble Co-Chairs, Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon,
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen**

1. Natural disaster strikes Bangladesh regularly, as did Cyclone Roane 5 days back. And despite losing around 2% of GDP annually due to disasters, Bangladesh economy continues to grow around 7% over the past seven years.
2. So what are we doing differently?
3. First, as a part of the vision of creating the ‘Shonar Bangla’ or ‘Golden Bengal’, our great leader and the Father of the Nation, *Bangabandhu* Sheikh Mujibur Rahman established the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief in 1972, the apex body, that focuses on the complete disaster management concept.
4. Second, we changed the concept of disaster response from a reactive to proactive one by mainstreaming disaster management into our national policies and strategies.
5. Third, we focused on saving lives. We have done it by investing in early warning system, including application of ICT to send disaster warning messages to at risk population. Our approximately 4000 cyclone shelters and 60 thousand volunteers are working towards the same goal.
6. Fourth, the government brings the concerns of the

6. Fourth, the government brings the concerns of the vulnerable groups such as women, children, elderly and persons living with disabilities into the in all levels of decision-making. This year, Bangladesh hosted international conference on ‘Disability and Disaster’, and launched Dhaka Declaration, echoing the voice of the people living with disabilities.
7. And lastly, under the strong and visionary leadership Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in building resilience against disaster and climate change impacts. One of the important developments is creation of the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT), which emphasizes strong coordinating role of government and leverages the collective capacity of the Government, national NGOs, local NGOs, Civil Society and international actors to ensure effective and people centric humanitarian response in all areas of disaster risk management.

I thank you.