

Keynote Speech by Mr. Farhad Hossain, MP, the Honorable Minister of State for Public Administration, Bangladesh

HE Mr. Chin Young, Minister of Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea,

HE Mr. Liu Zenmin, Under Secretary General for UN DESA

HE Mr. Ban Ki-moon, 8th Secretary General of the UN

HE Mr. Namchoon Park, Mayor, Incheon Metropolitan City

Distinguished participants,

Colleagues and symposium organizers,

Assalamulaikum and Good morning,

At the outset, I would like to convey my greetings to all of you on the occasion of the centennial birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh –Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Also, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for inviting me to this very important and timely symposium on public institutions.

Under the leadership of our great leader -the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and through the sacrifice of millions of people during the war of liberation, Bangladesh emerged as an independent country in 1971. In the present day Bangladesh under the pragmatic leadership of our Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a parliamentary form of government operates through a very dedicated public administration. It may be mentioned here that honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is also the Minister for the Ministry of Public Administration which is primarily responsible for human resource development and management across the Government. Ministry of Public Administration is also responsible for developing and maintaining institutional frameworks in the public sector.

At this point I would like to draw your attention to some of the most important efforts by my government in promoting an effective, inclusive, and accountable public service.

Digital Bangladesh is now a reality. We aim to bring 60% of all government services over mobile phones (call center, text messaging, data, social media, apps, etc.), 30% through digital centers (within 5km radius of households) and 10% through traditional means (by visiting office physically) by 2021. A crucial component in terms of infrastructure is the National Information Portal, which has brought 42,000 government offices and more than 1000 government forms under one umbrella. Digital Centers have been developed at union level— the lowest tier of the government.

To ensure institutional transparency, accountability, and efficiency Performance Management System (PMS) through Annual Performance Agreements (APAs) have been introduced. For transparency and accountability in the financial sector, a Medium Term Budget Framework (MTBF) has been introduced to measure results from the resources allocated by the government.

National Integrity Strategy (NIS) has also been implemented as a comprehensive set of goals. It will enhance accountability, efficiency, transparency and effectiveness of public institutes. With the Right to Information Act 2009 and the National Information Commission, we have ensured public access to information and strengthened democratic governance. Citizens are now more aware of the available public services with the implementation of citizens charter at all tiers of public sector.

We have ensured our **political commitment** to SDGs through national development plans, such as the 20 Year perspective plan, Five Year Plan and Annual Development Plans. These development plans and SDGs are thematically and functionally aligned.

In order to resist the implications of the covid-19 crisis, we have implemented community-based prevention practices, case identification, and ensured quarantine. To increase the capacity of the health service, since May, 2020 Ministry of Public Administration has recruited four thousand (4000) physicians in our national medical service. Since 25 March of this year, the fiscal and financial packages announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister is equivalent to 3.7 percent of GDP, which is the largest in South Asia. Alongside health safety measures, Government has widened social safety measures, food security and continuity in our education system.

Excellencies,

Bangladesh is one of the world's rising economies. In the coming years, our grand priorities include achievement of middle-income country status, substantial progress in Agenda 2030 in SDGs, becoming a developed nation by 2041, and progressing towards the delta plan 2100.

At the end, I would like to emphasize that we live in a globalized world with a reality of 'One world one future'. In our contemporary public administration, we need to understand this and we must strive towards **building effective, inclusive and accountable public institutions**, as our performance in many instances, is likely to have ramifications beyond our national boundaries.

Thank you all.