



**Speech of**

**Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid**  
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**Chairman, Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO**

**World Conference on “Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)-**  
**Moving into the Second Half of the UN Decade”, Bonn, Germany**  
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**Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO**  
**Ministry of Education**  
**Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh**

**Excellency the Chairperson,**

Distinguished delegates from UNESCO Member States, United Nations agencies,  
Distinguished participants,

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good afternoon & happy wishes to everyone. On behalf of the people of Bangladesh, I convey my warmest greetings to all the distinguished delegates and excellencies present in this august gathering of the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development. Indeed, it is a great honour and privilege for me to be able to attend this majestic and momentous assembly among so many high level dignitaries.

I would like to express my thanks to UNESCO, the German Ministry of Education and Research and the German National Commission for UNESCO for arranging such timely, appropriate and grand conference. I also congratulate them for the warm reception and hospitality they have offered to us.

Mr Chairperson,

I felicitate you on behalf of my delegation and myself. We firmly believe and hope that the conference will reach the pinnacle of success under your sage and competent guidance.

Unprecedented technological capacity has serious impact on the global natural systems (i.e. climate change, eco-system, deforestation, degradation of soil fertility, water pollution etc.), which threatens our own livelihoods and the lives of the future generations. This change is a result from human actions and in particular from burning fossil fuels and change in patterns of land use. Global warming is caused by greenhouse gases being released into atmosphere, where no natural boundaries exist.

The present precarious condition of our globe is the consequence of the accumulated greenhouse gases for centuries. In the past two centuries, industrialised countries invested heavily in carbon intensive technologies, such as coal-fired power plants, massive road system and electrical grids producing huge greenhouse gases. These

greenhouse gases are being accumulated in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gas emitting technologies are being used indiscriminately. These have immediate impact on our livelihood will jeopardise the lives our future generations, the inhabitants on the earth. We in bangladeshz are particularly vulnerable to the detrimental effects of climate change.

**Mr. Chairperson and distinguished delegates,**

Bangladesh stands out as real life example what political commitment together with investment of human resource development can do to achieve our common Goal of Education for All (EFA). Despite resource constraints and lacking institutional capacity, Bangladesh has made great progress in expanding primary education opportunities and, As Ms Graca Machel has kindly note, has succeeded in eliminating gender disparity in access to primary aned secondary education. .

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

What policy makers and education institutions need to do, what can be done to protect the environment through education? We submit that education policy, curriculum content and teaching learning activities should focus on:

1. Complete knowledge about the nature and its limited resources water, air, soil, minerals, forests.
2. Knowledge about how environmental balance is seriously affected by the indiscriminate use of natural resources, unregulated emission of carbon
3. Knowledge on local issues, resources and Unregulated and improper management of industrial wastes
4. Knowledge of other culture, social values, norms, living together, tolerance, peaceful coexistence, peace and prosperity
5. Knowledge on renewable energy, and recycling of materials, and.
6. Encouraging awareness for reduction of consumption and protecting and promoting bio´diversity..

**Mr. Chairperson,**

We may inform here that the new democratically elected Government of Bangladesh has made a commitment to enroll all eligible children in primary school by 2011 in order to

reach the goal off Universal Primary Education by 2015.. Measures have taken and still have to be taken to reduce drop out of school children. We have set our target to eradicate illiteracy from our country by 2017. We would like to provide all our secondary scolls with computer and information technology by 2017 with a view to moving forward to have our targeted 'Digital Bangladesh' by 2021. We will need the support of the international community, the international finacial institutions, UNESCO and other development partners to provide the necessary resources to meet our obligations and fulfill the right to education for all.

**Mr. Chairperson**

Several of the provisions of DESD are being implemented in our country. Various social, economical and environmental issues e.g. ecology, man and biosphere, environment, climate change, global warming, cultural diversity, tolerance, peaceful co-existence etc. have already been incorporated in the curriculum of primaryn and secondary education in the form of story and essay based on the level of education in consultation with the stakeholders. ESD issues have also been incorporated in the non-formal adult education as well as in technical and vocational education, and in the curriculum of teachers training institutions. Some public and private universities have separate departments for sustainable development, peace, and human rights.

We need to do more and commit ourselves to do more to integrate the goals and principles of sustainable development within the total educational system – formal. non-formal and informal – within the framework of lifelong learning for our people.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Finally I would like to reiterate our firm belief and unflinching support to the ideals and mission of the international community, the United Nations and UNESCO and would like to say, "We are always with you." .We particularly commend the role of UNESCO as the lead agency within the United Nations system for Education for Sustainable Development. We are with you in your mission of constructing peace in the minds of men and women for ever.

Hon'ble Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates; I express my sincere gratitude for your kind attention.