



77th Session of the World Health Assembly
Bangladesh statement to be delivered by H. E. Dr. Samanta Lal Sen,
Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare

Theme: “All for Health, Health for All.”

Mr. President,
Hon'ble Health Ministers,
Director-General Dr. Tedros,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed my honour to speak before you on ‘**All for Health and Health for All**’.

The Government of Bangladesh under the robust and visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is advancing fast aiming to materialize the dream of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for building a happy, prosperous and developed smart country by 2041. Towards that, we have made remarkable progress, among others, in the socioeconomic sector which has been widely appreciated by the global community. As a recognition of leadership, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been given, among others, South-South award, MDG-4 award, vaccine hero award etc.

Despite resource and capacity constraints, we made strategic investment in healthcare infrastructure with a specific focus on primary healthcare and set up community clinics under Sheikh Hasina initiative to render basic health services to the doorstep of our people. We are implementing universal health coverage on a pilot basis. Our routine immunization program, robust antenatal care and post-natal care and nutrition services have contributed to reducing child and maternal mortality rate. As the direct impact of socio-economic progress and healthcare services, life expectancy at birth has increased from 50 years in 1971 to 73 years as of now. We achieved MDG targets well ahead of time and are in right direction to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Based on the lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have undertaken requisite measures to strengthen our health systems at various levels. We would like to thank WHO, CEPI, GAVI and COVAX facilities, and friendly countries for their support in COVID vaccination during the pandemic. In the coming days as well, your support will remain vital in our overall going forward.

Mr. President,

To translate the narrative of the theme of health assembly into reality, we would like to suggest the following:

First, to prioritize investments, among others, in primary healthcare, service delivery and capacity building;

Second, to implement Universal Health Coverage;

Third, to adopt a multisectoral approach to address health inequities particularly, for climate vulnerable population; and

Finally, to enhance international support, assistance and cooperation and facilitate transfer of technology and knowhow.

Let us all put our hands together to the noble goal of ‘All for Health and Health for All’ in the spirit of achieving health equity for us and for the generations yet to come

I thank you, President.

Joy Bangla.

Net word count: 410