

National Statement by Hon'ble Prime Minister at the UN Secretary General's Transforming Education Summit

19 September 2022

**Mr. Chair,
Distinguished delegates,**

I thank the Secretary General for organising the Transforming Education Summit. This Summit marks a new way of thinking about education with future changes in the world of work.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused learning losses all over. In Bangladesh, we have enrolled six hundred thousand out-of-school students into non-formal education since December 2021. We have started vaccinating children above 5 years of age.

We shall continue to provide cash incentives through mobile gateways to hard-pressed families. Our successful programmes involving stipends, midday meal and free text book distribution on the first day of the year will be carried on.

The pandemic also opened up scope for innovations in distance learning. In Bangladesh, we have developed a Blended Education Master Plan. We shall set up nearly 59,780 multi-media classrooms by next year. We shall put focus on reducing digital divide among our students.

Bangladesh has made significant gains in achieving gender parity in primary and secondary schools. We shall continue to work on reducing gender gaps in higher and technical education. Educating our girls has always been one of my key priorities.

We look forward to raising our children as truly global citizens. We are introducing a new national curriculum from next year. It will prepare our students for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. It will make them aware of becoming climate resilient. It will turn them into the real agents of our Vision-2041 to become a developed, knowledge-based economy.

In higher education, we are giving priority to research and development. For technical education, we aim to have better industry linkages. Our children should have skills that they can use anywhere in the world. We need international

cooperation for mutual recognition of qualifications. We commit to improve access to foundational and life-long learning.

To promote multi-lingual education, we have developed text books in the mother tongue of some of our ethnic groups. We are offering education in Myanmar curriculum to millions of children forcibly displaced from Rakhine State and sheltered in our land.

For quality and inclusive education, we must to invest in regular training and incentives for our teachers. They are responsible for making classrooms a safe space for our children.

We commit to increasing budget allocation for education in proportion to our GDP. Our development partners need to live up to their fiscal commitments for SDG 4. The resources spent on global arms race should be channeled to a sound partnership for education.

Bangladesh is pleased to play its role in the SDG 4 High-level Steering Committee. We shall continue to monitor SDG4 indicators from local to national level.

Education is the backbone of a nation. We must take an equity and rights-based approach to deliver on this common good. We look forward to the Secretary General's Vision Statement as our shared commitment to our future generations.

I thank you.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu