



---

**BANGLADESH**

---

*Please check against delivery*

**Statement by**

**H.E. Ms. Ismat Jahan**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations  
at the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women  
on Agenda item 3:**

**'Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third  
special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender  
equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

**Priority theme: Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women**

**New York, 28 February 2008**

---

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to join the previous speakers in warmly congratulating you and your bureau, upon your well-deserved election. Bangladesh associates itself with the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. My intervention will, therefore flag some of the issues that we consider significant.

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh has always been in the forefront of international community's endeavour to establish gender equality and women's empowerment. Our National Policy—and the National Action Plan for the Advancement of Women are being implemented, among others, through incorporation of gender equality concerns in the National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction (NSAPR). We believe that investment in women has a multiplier effect. Financing for gender equality, therefore, remains a top priority of my government. In the national strategy, gender is integrated in all the 19 policy matrices, including a specific matrix on gender equality. The line Ministries implement and monitor the gender elements of the strategic goals in a coordinated manner.

We have embarked on a Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) to incorporate gender equality policy considerations into the budgeting process. We have a framework to explicitly evaluate and monitor gender responsive budgeting and the impacts of gender-related government strategies and public expenditures on women's advancement. However, we need to improve the collection of sex-disaggregated data to effectively measure our progress and ensure gender equality in allocation of domestic resources.

The national budget has the highest allocation for the education sector with particular emphasis on women's education. Notably we have achieved gender parity in primary and secondary education in line with MDG 3. Our human resource development programmes

focus on poor disadvantaged women. Job opportunities for women are also being created through targeted public investment in infrastructure.

Domestically inspired innovative ideas of access to micro-credit schemes and non-formal education have proved to be effective strategies for empowerment of our women. Micro-credit and micro-finance, pioneered by Grameen Bank, are fostering their entrepreneurship and thus their overall empowerment. Our national efforts for advancement of women are being complemented by the active support of NGOs.

Pressing macroeconomic issues have to be addressed to incorporate gender perspective in the public finance management systems. Aid modalities and reform should be realigned with gender equality. Differential impact of trade policies on men and women in the Monterrey Consensus should be corrected to expand trade opportunities for women. Adverse effect of trade liberalization on women has to be minimized. Resources released from debt cancellation should be diverted to attain the Beijing Platform of Action benchmarks.

Climate change is not a gender-neutral phenomenon. Women and children in general are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. It is therefore, imperative to integrate gender perspective into all aspects, including adaptation and mitigation, of the Climate Change debate.

It is disconcerting to note in the Secretary-General's report that a significant gap between global policy and national level implementation exists in many countries in relation to implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action. Access to resources is particularly crucial in bridging this gap. We urge upon the developed countries to fulfill their ODA target as well as increase funding for the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action. The current session should address this critical concern and review the gender implications of financing for development. I hope the outcome of this session would make useful contribution in the review process of the Monterrey Consensus.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

\*\*\*\*\*