

Implementing Agenda 2030

QAZI KHOLIQUZZAMAN AHMAD



The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 under the title "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." It seeks to bring about a societal transformation equitably for everyone. To implement such an agenda, a high level of political commitment is absolutely necessary.

In Bangladesh, a strong political commitment does in fact exist. Buoyed by the country's exceptional performance in implementing the MDGs, the government of Bangladesh actively participated in the process of the formulation of the 2030 Agenda. The civil society input into the process in Bangladesh, often in tandem with the government, is also noteworthy.

Clearly, the political commitment to the 2030 Agenda in Bangladesh has grown as a necessary concomitant of that involvement, which, in turn, has arisen from the commitment of the government to the eradication of poverty and sustainable development, including all citizens of the country.

A reflection of the strong political commitment of the government of Bangladesh led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the 2030 Agenda is the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals: Implementation and Review that was set up in the office of the Prime Minister under Chairmanship of the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister on November 25, 2015, only two months after the Agenda was adopted by the UN and Bangladesh signing into it and



more than a month before it came into force on January 1, 2016. In about only one year, the Committee has accomplished an appreciable amount of basic work.

The Committee has been working on indicators to be used to measure progress against targets, specifying tasks to be carried out under different SDGs, and identifying which ministry or agency would perform certain responsibilities and tasks. It is also assessing the potentiality of domestic resource mobilisation for implement-

ing the 2030 Agenda. The flipside of this exercise obviously gives the estimates of resources to seek from external sources through global partnerships. The Committee's work will certainly facilitate an effective implementation of the Agenda.

In preparing the way forward, the challenge or possible setback in any respect must always be kept in perspective. In this context, a mechanism and an analytical framework need to be put in place for identifying such a possibility and putting in place, in response,

action programmes to prevent it from occurring if possible or reduce risks and impacts thereof in case of its occurrence and to take action to recoup the situation as quickly as possible. For example, some people who have moved above the poverty line may face the prospect of falling back to poverty as a result of an impending natural disaster. In this case, prevention by human action is not an option, but steps need to be taken to reduce risks in the first place and then, if and when it does happen,

undertake appropriate activities to enable the people concerned to recover as quickly as possible. Moreover, there should be ongoing action programmes to reduce disaster risks.

To maximise benefits from the available resources and human and institutional capabilities, importance-ordering of the SDGs and priority-ordering of the tasks to be undertaken in relation to the targets under different SDGs should be worked out. But once such a plan is prepared and is used to guide SDG implementation actions, it should be reviewed and revised periodically taking into account the experiences gathered and the available new knowledge and analyses of ground realities that may be changing.

In addition to the critical role of the central government, local governments can and should play a major role in mobilising local resources and facilitating and supporting local actions under various SDGs. But the government alone cannot implement the 2030 Agenda successfully. The participation of all other stakeholders such as the civil society, the private sector, education and skill development sectors, the financial sectors, and the people at large through community based organisations is essential.

For contributions from all these actors to be marshalled towards a successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, there needs to be effective coordination among government ministries and other agencies, between the central and local governments, and between the government and all other stakeholders and actors.

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