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General Debate 3 (a): Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels

3 (b): Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development

Statement submitted by Youth Foundation of Bangladesh, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council²

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

¹ E/CN.9/2020/1.

² The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Building living community: enhanced planning to save agricultural land

Food security exists when all people have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Food security is built on four pillars: availability, access, utilization and stability. The concept of food and nutrition security include that the available food meets the required level of energy, protein and nutrients needed for a healthy life. Food systems overlap with agricultural systems in the area of food production.

The population of Bangladesh is increasing rapidly and therefore the amount of agricultural land subsequently has been reduced to provide sufficient living space. The green landscape of riverine of Bangladesh with highly productive land full of crops is now changing. Where once the eye beheld a vast horizon of agricultural land, now often only human habitation is in view. The adverse effects of unplanned spread of human habitation are going to dominate our food security problem. A huge number of crop production processes have been invented in this era of technology. But due to lack of available land, these innovations will also be obstructed. Effective initiatives must be taken to ensure and protect our cultivated land. Otherwise addressing the food shortage will not be possible by any means. Effective awareness programs, trainings and largescale exchange of the knowledge and education with our youth and people of rural areas should be instigated to address this issue. Investment by the Government, civil society and private entrepreneurs in this sector and in community planning should be strongly encouraged. So, a strong social movement should be initiated for building living community.

Our programme for building living community proposes:

- National rules and regulations to be imposed
- One living community in one village
- High rise building methods
- Permission to build new homes should be received from the housing authority
- Encourage private real estate companies
- Low cost and subsidized housing through loan policy
- Help homeowners to maintain older housing stock

The benefits are:

- Will reduce unplanned human settlement
- Will save cultivated land
- Will support strong social structure
- Financial organizations will receive investment
- Will strengthen food security
- Will reduce unemployment rate