

**SAMPLE POSITION STATEMENT**  
**Delegation from the Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Position Paper for United Nations Development Programme**

The topics to be addressed before the United Nations Development Programme are Building a Sustainable and Resilient Blue Economy and COVID-19 Recovery: Building Back Better. The Republic of Bangladesh will be looking forward to discussing solutions pertaining to the topics at hand.

**I. Building a Sustainable and Resilient Blue Economy**

There is this idea that many people fail to understand: Interconnectivity. The idea that what one does will ultimately impact other things, creating this domino effect. In recent years, everyone has become a witness to the detrimental effects capitalism is having on our planet, primarily in our oceans. Major changes need to be incorporated in every aspect of our world. The blue economy deals with restructuring our markets around the resources available to everyone to then respond to basic human needs. The Blue Economy has the potential to be one of the most influential investments of all time. It is currently the world's seventh largest economy, generating approximately three trillion USD annually. It is important to address this topic now as everyone needs to be prepared to completely disinvest in fossil fuels and look for a "greener", or in this case bluer, way of living. The international community needs to show support in investing not only for economic growth, but as well as a way to ensure our survival on this planet while dealing with humanitarian issues.

Dating back to the late 1900s, international systems have spoken in support of a Blue Economy. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is one of the few legally binding agreements that requires member states to use and take care of the planet's oceans. Later, the committee brought forth the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (1992). The purpose was to hold whoever responsible for damages within the issues. This includes damages caused by oil spills. These mandates were the right stepping stones heading in a positive direction. However, this is not enough.

Bangladesh is home to over 150 million people and our main source of income is from agriculture. A little under 40% of our population work in this field. In addition, our people contribute about 20% to the fish industry. Therefore, a need to start the transformation of "cleaner" oceans is vital. We, Bangladesh, are in support of the Blue Economy and have already measures in place to support our statements. To begin, we have the Seventh- Five Year Plan of Bangladesh that began in the year of 2016. In this plan, we have outlined twelve sets of rules that will ensure the maintenance of a Blue Economy. Within these rules, they touch different aspects of the economy such as renewable resources, transshipment, climate change, as well as human resources. We, being a much smaller country, should expect that larger member states will follow in our footsteps and do more.

In order to support the fight against climate change, economical issues such as poverty, as well as disinvesting in fossil fuels, the country of Bangladesh is in favor of transitioning to a blue economy at a local, state, and international level. We, the country of Bangladesh, are asking others to try to reach the goals that are laid out in the Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development document. There are in total 17 goals, but those that primarily hit at targeting the blue economy are SDG 12, SDG 13, and SDG 14. They target activities relating to waste in our oceans, climate change, finding economic opportunities in today's changing carbon cycle, as well as the promotion of marine ecosystem restoration. Countries invest less in efficiency and more in resilience. Bangladesh recommends that member states begin the work of educating and promoting the Blue Economy. We ask member states to invest in cleaning up our oceans and take accountability for their part in destroying it. We ask member states to invest in both aquaculture and blue biotechnology. These are alternative resources that should be in place that will help both the economy and our environment

immensely. However, at the same time, we need to hold major fossil fuel corporations with the damages they have caused, especially to our waterways.

By asking for countries to slowly disinvest from these toxic billion dollar corporations, sends the message that a change is coming. That they will not get away with the irreversible harm done to our planet. There is an opportunity at this moment and we need to take advantage of it.

## **II. COVID-19 Recovery: Building Back Better**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, global development methods that were in place to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals were placed on hold. Because of this, nation-states have faced a societal regression especially in their economies and healthcare systems. With the Build Back Better approach, sustainable developmental efforts will mitigate future crises but will also create solutions to existing global issues. Climate change has been one of the many matters the international community has addressed, but with rampant rates of greenhouse gas emissions, the globe's natural defenses have weakened and have made the general population susceptible to diseases. In May 2020, super-cyclone Amphan hit regions of Bangladesh and India, with over 10 million Bangladeshis affected and over half a million homes destroyed. Over 12,000 cyclone shelters were put in place for over two million evacuees, distributing food packets, sanitation essentials that included personal protective equipment, to also combat the spread of the coronavirus. After effects such as flooding and small landslides have affected refugee sites, causing more damage to the region's infrastructure, and putting climate-vulnerable communities like women and children at risk. With 2020 being marked as the beginning for the Decade of Action, the climate crisis has been placed at the forefront to address and help navigate diseases like the coronavirus and the inter-societal reactions it can produce.

In 2020, The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released "Building Back Better: A Sustainable Recovery after COVID-19," which addressed the interconnectedness of social and economic harms brought by the coronavirus pandemic. Some of the key solutions include a shift to economic sustainable practices and to ensure bioethical practices that will create resilience in the supply chain. In 2020, the United Nations Development Program also released the Three by Three response for COVID-19's Health, Humanitarian and Development Crisis: to prepare and protect people from the pandemic and its impacts, responding during the outbreak, and how to recover from the social and economic impacts in the long-run. UNDP has been stationed in Bangladesh since 1972 and has assisted governmental institutions with environmental, political instability and tackling post-war conflict. Dating back to January 2020, there have been over 1,500,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with almost 30,000 reported deaths. However, over 55 million vaccination doses were administered to the region. Over 3 million people in Bangladesh have also benefited from the UNDP's COVID-19 response in rural and urban areas through national helplines, digitisation of bureaucratic services, and launching behavioral change campaigns.

The nation of Bangladesh will continue to collaborate with the UNDP and its Strategic Plan 2022-2025 approach to eradicate poverty and inequality, creating structural transformations, and building resilience. The environmental crisis has affected and pressured Bangladesh to implement policies in favor of clean, affordable energy and creating governmental programs specifically targeting disaster preparedness. Bangladesh will continue to commit to progressive development agendas like mitigating the poverty rate, which has been lowered by 50% thus far since the year 2000, with poverty rates currently at 24%. Bangladesh's supply of inexpensive labour has led to broad improvements in social welfare, while sanctioning policies that improve macroeconomic stability and growth. Furthermore, Bangladesh will continue to follow the 30 Sustainable Development Goals and to meet the 2030 Agenda of crisis prevention, increased resilience, gender equality, inclusive governance and providing technical and financial assistance to the Bangladeshi nation.