

## **Statement by Ms. Fatima Yasmin**

Acting Governor of IsDB and Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh  
47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of IsDB Group Board of Governors

---

*All praise be to the Almighty Allah, the most Merciful.*

Hon'ble Governors  
President of the IsDB  
Excellencies and all present here

Good morning.

On behalf of the people and the Government of Bangladesh, I would like to convey profound regards and appreciation to the Government and the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting this 47th Annual Meeting. The last two years have been difficult for all of us as the ongoing pandemic not only severely restricted our physical movement but also crippled the global supply chains. And yet we are continuously finding ways to overcome the challenges and move ahead. I am happy that finally the pandemic seems to be in control at least in some parts of the world and it seems that world is gradually preparing to reopen to return to the pre-Covid normal state.

During the last two years, all of us had to endure both severe economic setback and psychological trauma as our physical movements had been restricted. The global supply chain was hit hard causing rise in poverty and unemployment across the globe. Many booming economies drastically came to a halt finding it very hard to maintain balance between life and livelihood. As the pandemic appears to be coming to an end gradually, it is now time for all of us to prepare to restart the global economic engine. Hence, I thank the IsDB for rightly choosing the theme- "Beyond Recovery: Resilience and Sustainability" .

You all are aware that before 2020, Bangladesh economy was performing quite well posting increasingly higher growth rates and we were poised to reach the double-digit growth rate by the year 2021. However, that journey has been disrupted and we are now working to determine the best strategies to make up for the time we lost during the pandemic. I am delighted to inform that under the bold and visionary leadership of our Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has been able to remain in the positive growth trajectory even during the peak of the pandemic. For that we had to ensure quick deployment of additional healthcare facilities, import vaccines and financial support to the poor when they did not have means to earn livelihood. Now as the global economy is reopening, we would like to bring back the pace of the economy and sustain it to realize our development objectives.

Bangladesh aspires to be developed country within the next two decades. Keeping that goal in mind, medium and long-term development plans have already been carefully drawn by our policymakers. Guided by the 8<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, the SGDs, the Perspective Plan 2014, and the Delta Plan 2100, we are working to build required physical and social infrastructure so that businesses can thrive, and external financing will play crucial role to successfully implement those initiatives. Therefore, in the following years Bangladesh will need renewed and strengthened commitment from and partnership with our friends like IsDB.

The world is now standing at a crossroad. On the one hand, unprecedented pace of innovation is taking the world to greater heights of development, and on the other hand, we are seeing rapid rise in risks emerging from geo-political tensions, disruptions in supply chains, diseases and climate change. However, history proves that humans have the power and will to overcome any challenges and hence I am sure that no matter how insurmountable the odds seem we shall prevail. Our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman envisioned a “Golden Bengal” – a prosperous and happy country that can effectively contribute to the global community. We earnestly believe in his philosophy and dreams and therefore we remain committed to dedicate ourselves to the cause of ensuring a better planet for our future generations. In that venture, we will look up to our friends and expect to firmly hold their hands.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu.

I thank you all.