Concept Note

Background

The human civilization is already stepping through the fourth year of adopting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a vow to transform the world. Along with other 192 countries, Bangladesh has also joined this journey of realising the SDGs by 2030. At this phase of implementing this complex development agenda, it is necessary to track the progress and identifying challenges and opportunities.

Keeping this in view, the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh will organise a day-long event titled *Citizens Conclave: Four Years of SDGs in Bangladesh* on <u>**Saturday 27 April 2019 in Dhaka**</u>.

The event will be organised before the meeting of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in 2019 which will be held during 9-18 July 2019 in New York. This year the theme of the HLPF meeting is "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality".

The set of the goals which will be reviewed are- **Goal 4**: Quality Education, **Goal 8**: Decent Work and Economic Growth, **Goal 10**: Reduced Inequality, **Goal 13**: Climate Action, **Goal 16**: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and **Goal 17**: Partnerships for the Goals. This year 51 countries have volunteered for presenting their national voluntary reviews to the HLPF. Unfortunately, Bangladesh is not one of them.

In this connection, the Citizen's Platform will design and organise the event in line with the HLPF theme and goal relevance. The event will yield an outcome by analysing the state of progress of the specific aforementioned goals with an underlying objective to present it at the HLPF through a side-event.

Objectives and expected outcomes

The conference will be organised with three major objectives-

  i.   Assessing the progress of the Goals in Bangladesh;
  ii. Capturing the lessons learnt – best practices and challenges;
  iii. Assessing the way forward for more effective delivery.

Design of the event

The event will be organised around the themes and specific goals of the HLPF 2019. Apart from an opening and closing sessions, there will be six parallel sessions on specific goals of SDGs which will be organised in two phases. These parallel sessions will extensively discuss and analyse the progress, challenges and opportunities of the specific goals, and then come up with a status report.

The six status reports from the six thematic sessions will be used to prepare an overview report titled *Four Years of SDGs in Bangladesh*. The event design is outlined below-

Sessions	Activity	Time
Registration during 8.00 – 9.15 am		
Opening Plenary	Curtain raising	9.15 – 10.30 am
Tea-break and formation of Parallel Sessions during 10.30 – 11.00 am		
Parallel Sessions	**Goal 4**: Quality Education	11.00 am – 12.30 pm
	Goal 13: Climate Action	
	Goal 10: Reduced Inequality	12.30 – 2.00 pm
	Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals	
	Lunch during 1.30 – 3.00 pm	
	Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	3.00 – 4.30 pm
	Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	
Refreshment break during 4.30 – 4.45 pm		
Closing Plenary	Way forward and wrap-up	4.45 – 5.45 pm

Organisation and participation

Thematically, the event will be organised in participation and collaboration of the following categories-

  i.   Government organisations
  ii.   Non-government and civil society organisations
  iii. International development partners
  iv.   Media

Operationally, the event will be organised by the Citizen's Platform, in consultation with the Core Group Members and under the guidance of the Advisory Body of the Platform. The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), as the Secretariat of the Platform, will be responsible for the execution of the planned Conference in cooperation, support and suggestion from the Platform Partners. The organisations which are not Partners of the Platform can also be engaged with this event in various capacities.

Budget and financing

The required cost for the Conference will be shared among the Partners. CPD, as the Secretariat of the Platform, will make an effort to raise funds from external sources as appropriate.