



## Parallel Session A2



# Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Presented by

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**Citizens Conclave  
Four Years of SDGs in Bangladesh**

**Report on Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals**

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# Discussion Points

1. Background
2. Priority Targets for Bangladesh under Goal 17
4. State of Progress of SDG 17 in Bangladesh during the First Quarter
5. Engagement of CSOs in Implementing Goal 17 (Pre- and Post-2015)
6. Role of the Private Sector in Implementing SDGs
7. Challenges and Way Forward

# 1. Background

- Goal 17 entitled ‘strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development’
  - Finance (5 targets and 7 indicators)
  - Technology including ICT and South-South Cooperation (SSC) (3 targets and 4 indicators)
  - Trade including duty-free market access (3 targets and 3 indicators)
  - Capacity building (1 target and 1 indicator)
  - Systemic issue (7 targets and 10 indicators)
- Goal 17 is the only goal that was considered for voluntary national reviews in previous two HLPFs
  - Held in 2017 and 2018
- SDG regime (2016-2030) has been passing its first quarter (2016-2019)
- There is thrust for an independent review along with the official process – to be done by CSOs
  - CSOs and private sector work directly at the grassroots level
  - They examine incremental changes made to those who are leaving behind.
- Present study highlights the activities of the CSOs and the private sector in implementing goal 17
  - With a view to identify their specific engagements towards achieving different targets of the goal.

## 2. Priority Targets for Bangladesh under Goal 17

- The five indicators are found to be at the top
  - 17.1:** Strengthen domestic resource mobilization),
  - 17.18:** Enhance capacity-building support to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data),
  - 17.3:** Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources),
  - 17.6:** Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing) and
  - 17.17:** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships).
- Identified targets have covered three areas
  - Goal 17 such as finance (17.1 and 17.3), technology (17.6) and systemic issues (17.17 and 17.18).
- Interestingly no targets from the areas of trade and capacity building have been considered as most priority targets for Bangladesh.

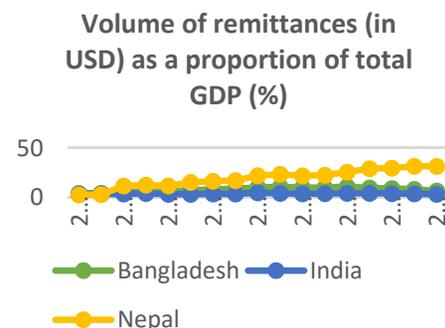
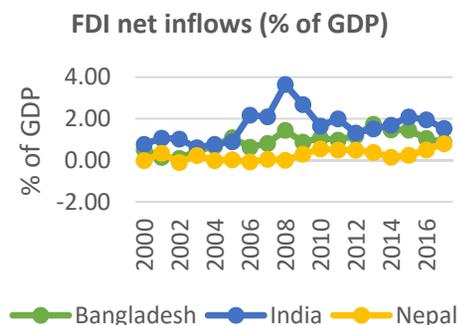
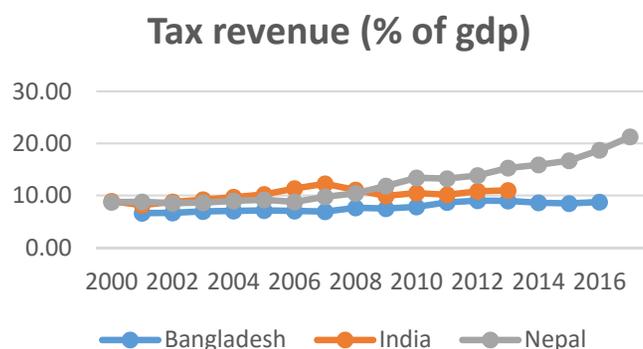
**Priority Targets for Bangladesh**

Goal Target Indicator	Valid Percent (out of 100)			Average Weighted Frequency
	Most Important	Moderately Important	Somewhat Important	(AWF)
17.1	93.8	6.3		2.94
17.18	93.8	6.3		2.94
17.3	78.6	21.4		2.79
17.6	81.3	12.5	6.3	2.75
17.17	81.3	12.5	6.3	2.75
17.10	75.0	18.8	6.3	2.69
17.11	75.0	18.8	6.3	2.69
17.12	75.0	12.5	12.5	2.63
17.14	68.8	25.0	6.3	2.63
17.16	56.3	43.8		2.56
17.2	56.3	37.5	6.3	2.5
17.19	50.0	50.0		2.5
17.7	43.8	56.3		2.44
17.9	56.3	31.3	12.5	2.44
17.15	50.0	43.8	6.3	2.44
17.5	50.0	37.5	12.5	2.38
17.13	40.0	46.7	13.3	2.27
17.8	43.8	37.5	18.8	2.25
17.4	26.7	60.0	13.3	2.13

# 3. State of Progress of SDG 17 in Bangladesh during the First Quarter

## 3.1 Analysis of Year wise Performance of Selected Priority Targets and Their Indicators

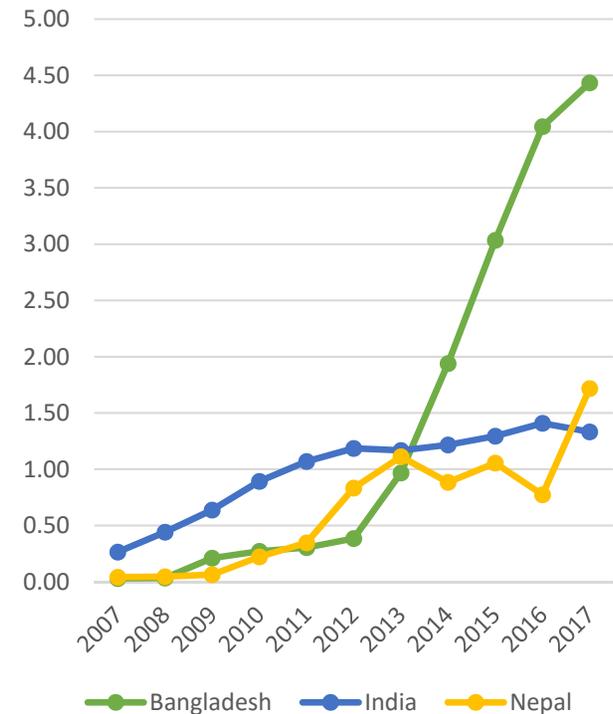
- In case of 17.1.1, revenue-GDP ratio is only 10.16% in 2017 while the milestone set for 2020 is at 16%.
  - Bangladesh was behind those of other selected South Asian countries (such as Nepal and India)
  - Lack of proper enforcement of the enacted laws and rules, poor infrastructure for collection of taxes, and limited capacity to expand tax network- are the reasons behind poor revenue generation
- FDI-GDP ratio was only 7.4 per cent of GDP – only about half of the milestone level.
  - Further initiatives are required for creating enabling business environment
  - A sharp decline in the flow of remittances since 2013 observed mainly because of lower labour demand in the oil-rich Middle East countries
- Government, CSOs and private sector need to collaborate
  - To ensure better performance in generating more domestic resources from tax and non-tax sources
  - To identify new markets with new demands for workers



### 3. State of Progress of SDG 17 in Bangladesh during the First Quarter

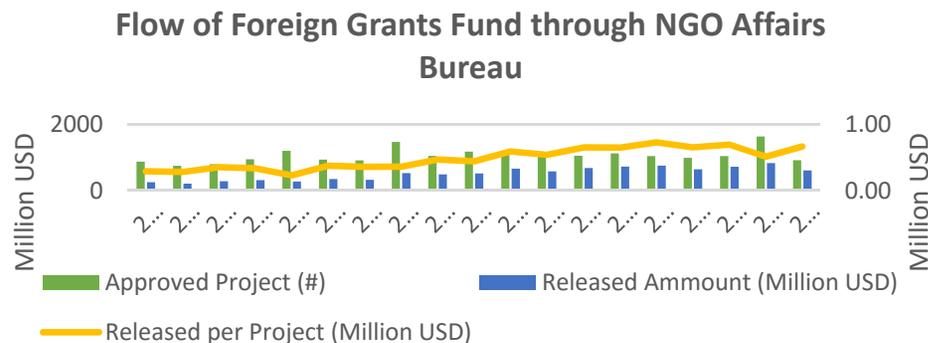
- Bangladesh has made considerable progress in case of fixed broadband subscription – it has reached 4.43 per 100 inhabitants
  - This appears to be well in track to reach the milestone by 2020 (8 per 100 in 2020).
  - Although India’s overall subscription is higher than Bangladesh, considering the subscription in term of 100 inhabitants Bangladesh is well-ahead of India and Nepal.
  - Government’s IT enabling policies and support as well as active participation of the private sector as well as CSOs make the progress on track.
- In case of 17.18.3 (National Statistical Plan under implementation), Bangladesh is one of the few countries in South Asia which has statistical plan currently under implementation
  - A number of countries do not have such plan including Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
  - However, Bangladesh does not have national statistical legislation (17.18.2) unlike those of Maldives and Pakistan.

Fixed-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants



### 3. State of Progress of SDG 17 in Bangladesh during the First Quarter

- According to the data of the NGOAB, the flow of fund to the NGOs in Bangladesh has seen either slow rise (in case of overall flow) or decline (in case of release per projects) since 2015 (Figure).
  - A large part of recent rise in the flow of fund is particularly attributed to support Rohingya people. This Rohingya population needs about US\$ 1 bil. per year to maintain their livelihood (CPD, 2017)
- There is a deceleration of fund for CSOs targeting the activities related to Bangladeshi people.
  - Anecdotally, the deceleration of fund for NGOs (targeting for Bangladeshis) is being explained by Bangladesh’s recent economic success by achieving the dual graduation.
- Given the demand for increasing allocation of fund in implementing SDGs, such decelerating trend in the flow of fund for CSOs would shrunk CSOs’ involvement in SDG related activities.
- Taking this into consideration, government should consider creating a trust fund which may be called “SDG Trust Fund’ for CSOs for undertaking projects related to various SDG related activities.



## 4. Engagement of CSOs in Implementing Goal 17 (Pre- and Post-2015)

- The engagement of the CSOs and the private sector is largely in the form of policy activism, policy awareness and capacity building.
  - Engagement of the private sector and the CSOs needs to be viewed from a qualitative point of view

### 4.1 Role of the CSOs at the global level during Pre-2015

- Major engagements of the CSOs at global level during the pre-2015 period was related to tax justice, initiatives against avoidance of taxes by individual and corporate sector and revenue losses, initiatives for financial transparency of the corporate sector and aid effectiveness.
  - A number of regional CSO networks were found effective in tax, trade and aid related issues (APRCCEM)
  - *Case Study 1*: CSO Engagement in Aid Effectiveness: Pre-2015

### 4.2 Role of the CSOs at the Global Level during Post-2015

- During post-2015, CSOs are engaged not only in activities related to traditional issues such as tax justice and financial transparency issues, they are engaged in emerging issues by building new forms of partnership with other organizations.
  - For example, Tax Justice Network's activities have been focusing on issues related to financial disclosure, scale of tax injustice, tax justice and human rights issues.
  - New forms of partnerships between CSOs and private sector have been reported.
    - For example, Oxfam has undertaken an initiative with global leading brands called 'Behind the Brands Scorecard'
- *Case Study 2*: CSO-Private Sector Collaboration on 'Behind the Brands Scorecard': Post-2015

## 4. Engagement of CSOs in Implementing Goal 17 (Pre- and Post-2015)

### 4.3 Role of CSOs at the National Level: Pre-2015

- CSOs at the national level had been involved in trade, tax and aid related issues.
  - In most cases, their engagements were in the form of providing support to the grassroots organizations to build their capacities and to raise awareness and to build alliance with local and global level organizations.
- *Case Study 3:* Multi-stakeholder Consultation on the Joint Cooperation Strategy (JCS) in the context of Aid and Development Effectiveness: Pre-2015
- *Case Study 4:* International Civil Society Forum on Advancing the LDCs (Least Developed Countries) Interests in the Sixth WTO Ministerial: Pre-2015

### 4.4 Role of CSOs in Implementing Goal 17: Post-2015

- CSOs have been continuously engaged in different areas related to goal 17 at the national level in the post-2015 period.
  - Their engagements are observed both in traditional issues such as tax, trade and aid effectiveness issues.
  - A new set of CSOs emerged who worked on various non-traditional areas such as technology and communication, partly in partnership with different private sector organizations.
- *Case Study 5:* Citizen's Tax Tribunal: Post-2015

## 4. Engagement of CSOs in Implementing Goal 17 (Pre- and Post-2015)

- In recent years, CSOs have been extensively working with youth population to address their concerns.
- A large part of their engagements were related with goals 3, 4, 8,9, 10 and 16 (Table).
  - Because of the cross-cutting nature, these activities are related with goal 17 particularly those of target 17.8 (i.e. technology related cooperation).
  - Engagement of CSOs in such non-conventional areas have further widen the scope their works and helped to implement goal 17.
- Bangladesh has been confronting a new reality in case of shrinking flow of fund for the CSOs in view of its dual graduation as mentioned earlier.
  - Different grass-roots organizations such as GBSS has raised the issue of squeezed flow fund at different platforms.

**Engagement of Youth Related Organizations in SDG Activities and Their relation with Goal 17**

Organizations	Major Focus	SDGs	Related to
Avijan	Empower Dalit People	8	17.8
Save the Children	Quality education and Training	4	17.8
VSO	Youth leadership and engagement with society	10	17.8
YPSA	Capacity development of youth through technology	8	17.8
ADD International	Inclusive education	4	17.8
Kapaeeng Foundation	Equal education access and training for the indigenous peoples	4.5	17.8
CAMPE	Quality education for all	4	17.8
Dnet	Quality Education for skilled manpower	4	17.8
HEKS/EPER	Quality education for ethnic people on land	4	17.8
JAAGO	Quality education (Online School)	4	17.8
BRAC	App based Job Search and Training for Youth	8	17.8
British Council	Digital tools for quality education and skilled manpower	4	17.8
	Training and Cultural Centre for inclusiveness	8	17.8
BYLC	Education and Skill Gap	4	17.8
MAYA Apa	Good Mental Health (App based health services)	3	17.8
The Tech Academy	Quality Education (ICT)	4	17.8
	Industry Innovations and Infrastructure (Robotics)	9	17.8
MRDI	Access to information, protect and ensure fundamental freedoms of life	16.10	17.8

# 5. Role of the Private Sector in Implementing SDGs

- Private sector has been recognized as a major player for implementing SDGs
  - This was absent in case of MDG led initiatives.
- Analysis of engagement of the private sector at the global level reveals that their activities have far-reaching impact in achieving different targets of goal 17

## 5.1 Role of the Private Sector at the Global Level

- CPD has carried out a web-based data analysis of the engagement of the private sector at the global level (Fig.)
  - Based on the web-based info of the ‘Sustainable Development Partnership Platform’
  - A total of 702 different initiatives mostly led by private sector, CSOs and other organisations (10 March, 2019).
- The largest number of activities which are reported as goal 17 are linked with goal 14 (life economy) followed by goal 13 (climate action), goal 8 (decent employment), goal 12 (responsible consumption and production) and goal 4 (quality education) and goal 1 (no poverty).

Goal 17 linkage with other Goals of Sustainable Development (Based on 702 Initiatives of CSOs/International Private sector Organisation)



## 5. Role of the Private Sector in Implementing SDGs

- A review of the type of activity and nature of engagement of the private sector reveals that private sector has contributed in different ways in achieving goal 17 and other goals.
  - Key areas of their engagement include activities for knowledge sharing on climate change, gender equality, community development, media services, livelihood development, E-schools, ICT capability development, training, improving organisational capacity, public-private partnership, promotion of marketing products, green growth by reduced chemical use and ideas for app development. Instead of engaging directly with the corporate entity, private sector has formed different entities such as foundation, CSR fund and providing financial support to universities, research organizations, school and banks to implement different activities.
  - Such engagements are found in different forms between different organisations such as Foundation-university collaboration, Foundation-CSO collaboration, University-Foundation collaboration and UN agencies-Foundations-private companies' collaboration etc.
- There are some regional initiatives under which the private sector is making their contribution in implementing SDGs.
  - One of the important bodies involved with business issues at the Asia region is Asia Pacific Business Forum (APBF).

## 5. Role of the Private Sector in Implementing SDGs

- In addition, companies are integrating SDG agenda in various ways.
  - They include alignment of corporate strategy with the sustainability agenda, raising awareness among the employees, internal diagnosis regarding capacity and challenges and maintenance of legislation and international standards (Universality and SDGs: A Business Perspective).
  - In line with another initiative known as SDG Fund, a Private Sector Advisory Group has been formed with the intent to help SDG Fund to prepare a roadmap for exploring the potentials as to how public-private alliance can provide large-scale solutions for achieving the SDGs (SDGF).
- *Case Study 6:* Private Sector Engagement at the GPEDC: Post 2015

# 5. Role of the Private Sector in Implementing SDGs

## 5.2 Role of the Private Sector at the National Level

- The engagement of the private sector in addressing different concerns related to SDG goals has been following by and large a ‘business as usual’ approach.
- Business associations have been working on different issues which are related to goals 3, 5, 8, 9, 12, 14 and 17 (Table)
  - Very few of focused and targeted initiatives have been identified which are related to goal 17.
- Few have been reported which are related to goal 17
  - MCCI’s initiative on partnership building with different stakeholders
  - BGMEA’s initiative on trade facilitation and trade promotion
  - BTMA’s initiative on promotion and protection of trade and commerce, bridging the communication gap with different stakeholders
  - CCCI’s initiative on partnership building with different stakeholders, distribution of data and information with other stakeholders
  - FICCI’s initiative on bridging the communication gap digitally

Activities of the Private Sector

Chamber	Activity	Period	Relevance with SDGs
DCCI	Investment for strengthening infrastructure	2016	9
	Training program for women entrepreneurship	2016	8
	Training on rules and procedure of VAT and Income Tax	2017	
	Seminar on Potential Blue Economy	2017	14
	DCCI’s call to use foreign exchange reserve for infrastructure development	2017	9
MCCI	Economic and Market Research		
	Partnership with different stakeholders		17
FBCCI	Emphasized on Industrialization at the greater Chattogram region	2019	9
	Trade and Finance: Preparing suggestion for National Budget, Tax, Vat, SME and Price Monitoring Partnership with National and Foreign Delegation		8, 17
BGMEA	Workplace Safety		9, 8
	Environmental Sustainability		12
	Social Responsibility: Green & Clean Production; Healthcare for the workers		3, 5
	Trade Facilitation & Promotion		17
BTMA	Protect and promote trade, commerce and manufacture		17
	Bridging the communication gap with different stakeholders		17
CCCI	Promote and protect trade, commerce and manufactures of Bangladesh		9
	Partnership with different stakeholders		17
	Collect and circulate statistics and other information relating to trade commerce and industry		17
	Training courses on ICT		8
FICCI	Developing the key business sectors		
	Bridging the communication gap digitally		17
	Ensuring energy security for the nation		7
	Introducing international-standard financial services		
	Building the blocks for future		9
	Facilitating Exports		17

# 5. Role of the Private Sector in Implementing SDGs

## 5.2 Role of the Private Sector at the National Level

- However, how much of those initiatives are purposefully built to address the targets of goal 17, is not out of question.
- A few private sector organizations have targeted initiatives on SDGs.
  - Dhaka Chamber of Commerce (DCCI) led initiative called 'Business Initiatives Leading to Development (BUILD)' has been undertaken various activities through its SDG wing set up in 2018 (see case study 7).
- Industry-academia collaboration in the pharmaceutical sector is a new emerging identity for private sector development and engagement.
  - However, the initiative of this new entity could not move further due a number of bottlenecks
- *Case Study 7: Business Initiatives Leading to Development (BUILD): Post-2015.* Its activities include:
  - Green Transfer Fund (GTF)
  - Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee
  - Build Bangladesh-UNDP SDGs Impact Fund
  - Cleaner Textile (PaCT) through a public-private dialogue platform called Textile Sustainability Platform (TSP)

# 6. Intergovernmental Partnership

## 6.1 Perspective of Development Partners on Partnership and Cooperation during Post-2015

- Development partners appear to be well-aware about their commitment
  - The commitment issue of financial support has its relevance for LDCs and developing countries, may not be equally important in case of Bangladesh.
- So far Bangladesh has been able to successfully utilize trade policy support provided to the LDCs.
  - Investment policy support and technological support could not make significant contribution
  - Bangladesh needs to liberalise its domestic market in order to attract foreign investment
  - ‘Technology bank’ would operate only when countries open-up their trade and investment regime
- Development partners welcome South-South Cooperation (SSC) as additional means of support for the developing countries
  - a number of areas of concerns have been raised: political motivation with limited priority on various social and environmental concerns
- Traditional development partners are reluctant to take the responsibility in case debt is borne for projects without proper justification and pre-assessment
- Development partners are well-aware about the shrinking space for CSOs in policy influencing activities
- Support for strengthening the national data system is limited

## 6. Intergovernmental Partnership

### 6.2 Bangladesh's Contribution to Global Partnership Building

- Bangladesh with its limited capacity has been striving to make an important contribution in global partnership building.
- The two most important contributions from Bangladesh side are –
  - a) its participation in UN-led peace keeping operations; and
  - b) its humanitarian support to Rohingya people who are temporarily displaced from their own homeland.
- While Bangladesh's involvement in UN peace keeping force is started long before the SDG period, its humanitarian support to the Rohingya has started after 2015.
- Given the limited support provided by the development partners, Bangladesh government needs to undertake higher responsibility of these Rohingya population in the coming years.

# 7. Challenges and Way Forward

- The study identified a number of issues and concerns with regard to implementation of goal 17 from the perspective of ‘whole society’ approach at national, regional and global levels.
- These concerns are largely of four categories including
  - a) framework related; b) data related; c) Performance related; and d) CSO and private sector engagements related.

## 7.1 National Framework does not specify the Role of CSOs and Private Sector

- The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for SDGs in Bangladesh does not recognize the role of the CSOs and the private sector as effective actors for implementation of SDGs.
- Often the reference of CSOs and the private sector has been ‘ornamental’ in nature and in some instances mentioned as a ‘beneficiary’ in the SDG implementation process.
- **Recommendations:** It is expected that the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will recognize the role of CSOs and private sector by adding responsibility under the separate head called ‘associate partners’.
  - Under the head of ‘associate partners’ a group of NGOs/their alliance/ leading NGO which specialized on specific goals could be mentioned.
  - This specific NGOs with the support of other CSOs will work closely with the lead/co-lead public agencies in implementing relevant targets of goal 17.

## 7. Challenges and Way Forward

### 7.2 Gap between activities related to Indicators and those of CSOs

- Most of the targets and indicators of goal 17 are by-default economic in nature which are to be attained through national government and inter-governmental process.
  - Given the nature of work of the private sector and CSOs which are largely in the field and at the grass root levels, creating direct link of their works with those indicators are difficult.
- *Recommendations:* A voluntary initiative at national and global levels needs to be undertaken with a view ensure proper recognition of the contribution made by the private sector and the CSOs in attaining goal 17.
  - Such initiative should identify a set of proxy indicators to be called 'associated indicators' customized with the activities and initiatives of CSOs and the private sector in implementing different targets and indicators of different goals including goal 17.

# 7. Challenges and Way Forward

## 7.3 Lack of data and unavailability of real time data made it difficult to appreciate the progress

- Goal 17 is one of the goals under which data of large number of indicators are difficult to generate because of the nature of data which is either tier II or tier III types.
  - In number of cases of goal 17, only global level indicators are available but no national level indicator is mentioned.
  - The GED has included a number of national indicators in case of some of the indicators.
  - However, a number of indicators have yet to get any national indicator. Besides, some of the indicators are qualitative in nature and difficult to measure without appropriate measuring tool.
- **Recommendations:** In that perspective, a set of proxy indicators need to be included to cover related indicators of the targets.
  - The General Economic Division (GED) of the Planning Commission should take initiative in consultation with other public, private and CSOs to include a set of proxy indicators for all targets related to goal 17 with a view to properly review and monitor the progress of different targets and indicators of goal 17.
  - Formation and activation of National Data Commission in alignment with the spirit of "fundamental principles of official statistics" pursued by UN Data Commission.

# 7. Challenges and Way Forward

## 7.4 Misreporting of data may misguide about the progress in different indicators

- The national review report of 2018 reported progress status of different indicators based on the official data for different years.
  - Based on the milestones set for 2020, some of the indicators are found to be with the status of ‘target met’ and ‘progress on track’.
  - However, while comparing with the data of relevant indicators with the global database, significant data-gap is identified in number of indicators which would change the status of progress as officially announced.
  - Perhaps this is happened owing to misreporting or calculation problem (in one case), which need to be addressed. Besides, a number of indicators do not have milestones for different time periods (2020, 2025 and 2030) while in number of indicators milestones appear to less justifiable given the changing dynamics.
- **Recommendations:** In this backdrop, it is important to revisit the progress reported in the national review report of 2018 under different targets and indicators of goal 17 and to make necessary correction of the data and thereby the status of progress.
  - Also, the GED should set the milestones of the rest of the indicators (both quantitative and qualitative in nature) with a view to review the progress of all indicators.

# 7. Challenges and Way Forward

## 7.5 South Asia as a Region is behind in Implementing Goal 17 indicators

- South Asia as a region is a set of countries with diverse background and the progress in achieving different targets of goal 17 of the region is overwhelmed by the progress of India.
  - Unlike other regions, there is no regional initiative for achieving SDGs in the South Asia.
  - Several regional initiatives for implementing SDGs has been in operation in other regions such as Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goals in East and North-East Asia, Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.
- **Recommendations:** In this backdrop, South Asia needs to develop an intergovernmental regional forum with a view to facilitate implementation of SDGs particularly related to goal 17
  - This would highlight regional partnership and South-South Cooperation.

## 7. Challenges and Way Forward

### 7.6 Bangladesh Needs to put most emphasis on five out of 19 targets

- CPD perception survey found that five out of 19 targets are most important for Bangladesh
  - These are related to domestic resource mobilization (17.1), universal rule based trade (17.10), strengthening the role of CSOs and public-private partnership (17.17), strengthening the database for better monitoring of implementation of SDGs (17.18) and mobilization of additional resources from North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation (17.3).
  - In other words, Bangladesh needs to prioritise its SDG related activities on goal 17 by putting emphasis on above mentioned issues.
- **Recommendations:** Since better performance in the priority targets needs better coordination among the actors, it is expected that government will carry out a coordinate initiative along with the private sector and the CSOs in attaining maximum benefits.

# 7. Challenges and Way Forward

## 7.7 Bangladesh could not come out from the 'Business as usual' trend in Implementing Goal 17

- There is no significant difference observed in the performance of top-priority targets as well as other targets of goal 17 between pre-2015 and post-2015 period.
  - Bangladesh is still following a 'business-as-usual approach' in implementing related targets under five areas of goal 17 – finance, technology and trade related issues.
  - Domestic resource mobilization which is considered to be most important means, has been far behind the target; similarly FDI flow is not up to the mark.
  - Better ODA flow could partly meet the requirement; but rising debt burden is a growing concern
  - Although Bangladesh made progress in IT related technology use but it is still behind the Asian standard. In case of trade related issues, Bangladesh's duty structure is still protective and the export basket is highly concentrated to limited number of products.
- **Recommendations:** Private sector and CSOs have a strong role to play in key issues related to DRM, trade and technology.
  - Private sector could put emphasis on broader tax base, less tax burden on SMEs, and raising concern over rationale behind over-concentration of fiscal incentives to RMG sector and demand for more balanced distribution of fiscal incentives between RMG and non-RMG sectors, strategic trade policy for sectoral development, enabling business environment for private investment including FDI, promoting bilateral FTAs and other trade agreements with potential countries.
  - Ensuring IT enable business environment as well as promoting IT in businesses needs to be catered by the private sector as well as by the CSOs.

# 7. Challenges and Way Forward

## 7.8 Engagement of CSOs have been widened and partly shifted in the post-2015 period

- The engagement of CSOs which were concentrated on trade and aid related activities during pre-2015 have been widened to various other areas such as technology, capacity building, partnership building etc.
  - In this process, the nature of partnership has changed by building partnership with private sector as well as building partnership at the cross-border levels.
  - Such changes in the activities of CSOs have been taken place with the changes in priority of development cooperation over time where SDG related issues are getting priority in supporting the CSOs.
- Bangladesh national priority has shifted over the years particularly after it has graduated from the lower income to lower middle income country and for fulfilling the criteria to be graduated from LDC group to developing country group.
  - As a result, some of the trade and aid related issues have been directed towards new aspects such as bilateral FTAs, debt stress and South –South Cooperation etc.
- A possible apprehension is- flow of fund directed to CSOs would shrunk after the graduation and would put pressure to CSOs to undertake their activities on SDG related issues and in extreme cases, some of the CSOs may exit.
  - Such a situation would be a blow for implementing SDGs.

## 7. Challenges and Way Forward

### 7.8 Engagement of CSOs have been widened and partly shifted in the post-2015 period

- In this backdrop, CSOs need to strategize its activities taking into account the changing perspective of flow of fund particularly those related to SDGs.
  - CSOs should take part in activities beyond their traditional areas such as technologies, IT, capacity building, green technology and climate change etc.
- **Recommendations:** Given the huge fund required for implementing SDGs, development partners should further enhance the flow of fund in Bangladesh.
  - Bangladesh's CSOs need support for working exclusively for Bangladeshis.
  - Support for the Rohingyas by the development partners should be allocated and reported separately.
  - At the national level, Bangladesh government should form a 'SDG Trust Fund' in implementing SDGs by the CSOs.

# 7. Challenges and Way Forward

## 7.9 Bangladesh's private sector is way behind compared to that of the engagement of the global private sector

- Bangladesh's private sector is yet to get prepared to set their strategies and activities in achieving SDGs particularly for goal 17.
  - Globally, private sector is found involved in diverse areas related to goal 17 through different entities and collaborative arrangements.
  - There are only few initiatives found which target different SDG goals.
  - This is happened particularly because of less awareness among the private sector about SDGs as well as limited presence of organized, formal businesses and corporate sector.
- **Recommendations:** The private sector should get aware about their role in implementing SDGs particularly that in goal 17.
  - Government should take measures in collaboration with the private sector in addressing SDG related targets.
  - Global good practices in case of private sector engagement would be test cases for the private sector of Bangladesh.
  - Strong follow up, monitoring of implementation of commitments under GPEDC initiative need to be ensured both nationally and globally.



Thank you.