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Parallel Session B2

**Reducing Inequality in South Asia: Critical Issues and Policy Choices:
*Moving Toward Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)***

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B A N G L A D E S H
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A. Six Broad Categories of SDGs:

The 17 goals of SDG rely on guiding toward achieving major sustainable development goals and on reducing the inequalities/closing gaps in 6 broad categories starting with E:

1. E- Economic Development

- a) Poverty alleviation, End poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG-1);
- b) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, (SDG-2);
- c) Economic growth, Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG-8);
- d) Industrialization, Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (SDG-9);
- e) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns(SDG-12);

2. E-Essential Services Provision to All

- a) Access to drinking water and sanitation , ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG-6);
- b) Electricity, Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG-7);
- c) Transport infrastructure (SDG-9);

3. E-Education & Health Coverage

- a) Education and vocational training opportunity to all, ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG-4);
- b) Universal health coverage, Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (SDG-3);

4. E-Eradication/Closing, Extinction, Exterminations and Elimination of Gaps

- a) End hunger, Achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG-2);
- b) Gender inequality (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) (SDG-5);
- c) Reduce inequality within & among countries (SDG-10);

5. E-Endorsement & Encouragement of Peace & Global Partnership

- a) Endorse global partnership, Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (SDG-17);
- b) Encourage peaceful and inclusive societies, Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (SDG-16);

6. E-Environmental Protection & Development

- a) Climate change Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts(SDG-13);
- b) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG-11);
- c) Proper usage of natural resources, Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (SDG-14);
- d) Manage Ecosystem, Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (SDG-15);

B. Possible Implémentation Modalités & Ressources

1) Levels of Implementation:

- a) At National level via following an inclusive national development strategy with viable action plan with a designated coordination agency addressing outcome based and inclusive based approaches;
- b) Regional level via complemented and coordinated regional economic cooperation institutions such as UNESCAP, SAARC, CAREC, ECO, etc.
- c) International level via UNDP, World Bank, IMF, ADB, IDB, UNCTAD, WTO, WIPO, WCO, ICC and selected NGOs;

2) Resources & Means of Implementation:

- a) Funding from various agencies and donors;
- b) Human resources with talented, competent and uncorrupt individuals;
- c) Relevant, modern and reliable technologies;
- d) Watchdogs and audit based monitoring and evaluation techniques;
- e) Political will and prioritization of SDGs reflected in a plan of action

C. Challenges in Implementing SDG Goals in S. Asia:

- 1) Lack of designing effective, viable, practical and efficient poverty reducing and service delivery strategies as well as the hiccups of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), documents required by the (IMF) and World Bank before a country can be considered for debt relief within the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative and before low-income countries can receive aid from most major donors and lenders;
- 2) Increasing food prices and weak food security policies where agriculture sector had not performed well enough to ensure food security, income generation, creation of employment opportunities and reduction in poverty levels;
- 3) Unsatisfied level of performance in achieving many of the 8 MDGs;

C. Challenges in Implementing SDG Goals in S. Asia: *Continued*

- 4) Weak governance and institutions in many activities and in regional actors;
- 5) Continued conflict and instability, including security threats;
- 6) Excessive people remain caught in extreme poverty, increasing number of people remain hungry and sick, too many mothers die in childbirth, and too many children still do not go to school;
- 7) Lack of political wills and political rivalry by some regional players slow down the spirits of regional cooperation such as SAARC;
- 8) Disappointed environmental degradation and lack of proper ecosystem management;