Statement of Mr. Mustafizur Rahman, Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh on agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty, women in development and human resource development at the Second Committee Plenary of the General Assembly
October 17, 2013

Mr. Chair,

The three issues under consideration: eradication of poverty, women in development; and human resource development— are complementary to each other and mutually reinforcing. Progress in these areas would strengthen our common endeavor in achieving MDGs and meeting other development objectives. While my delegation aligns itself with the statement of the G-77 and China, I would like to highlight some points. In this connection, we thank the Secretary General for presenting comprehensive reports on various sub-items under the agenda. progress

I would like to start with the women in development. We are convinced that advancement of women is critical for socio-economic development of a country. Women's contribution to the economy, especially in eradicating poverty and inequalities through remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and workplace, significantly shapes overall development. We note that Secretary General's report has emphasized on the issues of decent work, unpaid care work and social protection for women.

Mr. Chair,

Many of the world's poorest are women and they live mostly in rural areas. Poverty eradication is, therefore, a key challenge for rural women. To help rural women escape poverty we need to empower rural women through
ensuring their rights, offering opportunities and choices and including their views in shaping laws, policies and programmes.

Bangladesh has made commendable success in empowerment of women through mainstreaming gender in political, social and economic arena. The government has undertaken various programs and projects for the development of women which are contributing towards the achievement of the development targets. In this regard, I may mention the achievement of MDGs particularly attainment of MDG 3 and MDG 5 well ahead of time. There is always room for further improvement. And we are committed to do that.

Since women are important movers of development, we must focus on the employment opportunities for women — both high-skilled and "unskilled". Women constitute an increasing proportion of cross-border labour flows. We must strive for protecting and promoting their rights, ensuring social protection and services, reliable information on safe and legal migration, low-cost remittance transfer mechanisms and savings and investment schemes.

Mr. Chairman,

Human resources development is a critical factor in reducing poverty. Increased investment in education and training, particularly vocational education and training, is important in human resources development. Science, technological knowledge and innovation have led to positive transformations in people’s lives in developed world. However, least developed countries will be able to harness the full potential of science, technology and innovation only when they are equipped with institutional and infrastructural capacity. The capacity for innovation in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Small Island developing States is not sufficient to contribute to industrial promotion, job creation and economic development. Financial challenges also constrain the ability of these countries to reorient their innovation strategies. More attention needs to be paid to these countries in the creation, application and diffusion of knowledge, human capital and technology.
Mr. Chair,

Finally, a few words on eradication of poverty. It is said that poverty is an affront to human dignity. Eradication of poverty, therefore, continues to be the common endeavor of the global community. It has been the principle thrust of the Millennium Development Goal and hopefully, be the overarching objective of the post 2015 development agenda. Although considerable progress has been achieved in halving poverty in a global scale as stipulated in the MDGs, there remains a lot to fulfill. The report of the SG reflects that the targets for eradication of poverty have not been achieved in an even manner, and even the gains are not evenly distributed among or within regions. It has been observed that although South Asia, one of the two most poor regions of the world, has taken significant steps forward in this effort, Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, is yet to make desired progress. Same trend is prevalent in the target of providing productive and decent employment. On the other hand, in achieving the goal of reducing the number of hungry population, there has been progress in both of the two regions, but not significant enough to fulfill the target. Even today, one-eighth of the global population is chronically hungry. It would be critical to support the countries that are lagging behind in implementing the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) which seeks to achieve this goal through "Full employment and decent work for all", as the theme reads. We have crossed the halfway mark of the second decade, and it is imperative that we strengthen our efforts to reach the ambitious target.

I thank you.