

## PRESS RELEASE

### Bangladesh prioritized development of women

New York, 13 October 2005:

Foreign Secretary Mr. Hemayetuddin said, "The present government in Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has prioritized development of women and reduction of gender gap". He was addressing the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York on Thursday. The Committee met to discuss "Advancement of Women".

He further mentioned that the national budget was 'gender-sensitive' and it had the largest percentage allocated to education, particularly to expand women education. He also said that gender dimension had been adequately reflected in Bangladesh's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

"We are adopting appropriate legislations at national level to protect women from violence. Some examples are: the Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act 2000 which was amended in 2003, Acid Crimes Control Act 2002 and Speedy Trial Tribunal Act 2002. We also have One stop Crisis Centers and Safe Custody Homes for Women, Children and Adolescents to protect them from sexual abuse and harassments", he said while elaborating on the Government's actions taken to ensure and protect women's rights.

The Foreign Secretary also highlighted the economic and social advancements of women achieved in recent years in the country.

While citing Bangladesh's commitment in the international arena, for advancement of women, he mentioned that Bangladesh had always been in the forefront of all debates on the rights and empowerment of women, it is a State Party to almost all the major international instruments including CEDAW and Optional Protocol thereto, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, International Convention for the Suppression of the Trafficking in Persons and signatory to the Convention on Violence against Women Migrant Workers and also SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children.

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