Mr. President,

I take this opportunity to extend to you my warm felicitations on your election as the President of the 2016 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities.

Mr. President,

United Nations Operational Activities for Development continue to play a crucial role in supporting the developing countries in their development efforts. This support of the UN is particularly significant now when we all have embarked upon the journey of implementing the ground-breaking 2030 Agenda and SDGs along with Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The 2030 agenda and SDGs are much more comprehensive than MDGs. The new agendas are highly interconnected, cross-cutting and multi-sectoral in nature. A robust global support mechanism must be put in place as a means of implementation of these agendas. In this context, this year’s pledging event bears enormous importance.

Mr. President,

Availability of resources remains key to the implementation of the development programmes. This is particularly so for the least developed countries. Along with poverty, hunger, diseases, illiteracy, new and emerging natural and man-made challenges such as climate change, disasters, epidemics, conflicts, refugee crisis compound the situation in many LDCs. They are forced to divert their scarce resources towards combating these challenges. While LDCs have made significant progress at mobilizing domestic resources, greater involvement of the
international community is still required. However, we are witnessing with concern that programmable resources are declining and so the share of expenditure of the UN Development System in the LDCs.

Mr. President,

The ongoing discussions on the QCPR are focusing on increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of resources and building synergy and coherence between the normative and operational functions of the UN System. These are welcome initiatives. However, for LDCs the most imminent issue is the enhanced normative and operational support including financial and technical support to realize SDGs and the IPoA.

The 2030 agendas and other agendas accorded special attention to the least developed countries and reflected their concerns and aspirations. The QCPR must translate this attention into dedicated support to LDCs from the UN development system in the implementation of IPoA and the Agenda 2030. The comprehensive Mid Term Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action held this year also suggested that the LDCs would need more comprehensive, yet tailor-made, support.

Eradicating poverty and hunger, access to public health, education and other social services, addressing the impacts of climate change and building productive capacity should remain at the centre of the United Nations development cooperation efforts. The system also needs to support LDCs in data, statistics, knowledge platforms and support for the national implementation of the Goals through monitoring and reporting.

Mr. President,

We, therefore, recommend strongly that greater predictability of resources for the UNDS that would contribute to the more effective and efficient delivery of the operational activities of the UN for development is ensured. We urge the donor countries to be forthcoming in their contributions accordingly.

Mr. President,

UN has played a very constructive role in the development of Bangladesh. We would like to thank all our development partners for their continued support. Bangladesh attaches special
importance to multilateral assistance as a trusted source enabling us to plan our development priorities accordingly. Just last week we signed UNDAF for the period 2017-2020 which would facilitate 1.2 billion dollars assistance for Bangladesh. It is a matter of pride to us that from now on our Government would be contributing to the core funding of the UN Agencies. Almost 10% of the budget of the UNDP in Bangladesh this year comes from the Government of Bangladesh.

We consider it as a remarkable achievement of Bangladesh.

Mr. President,

The Government of Bangladesh is pleased to announce its pledges for 2016 which is substantially higher than that of the previous years.

The Pledges for 2016 are as follows:

1. UNDP Headquarters (HQ)  
   US$ 5,00,000.00
2. UNDP Local Office  
   (BD Tk 13,75,000.00)  
   BD Tk. 1.375 million
3. UNICEF  
   US$ 43,200.00
4. UNFPA  
   US$ 31,300.00
   (HQ:US $ 31,300.00 + Local Office Tk. equivalent of US $ 3,800.00)
5. UN Women  
   US$ 13,200.00
6. United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)  
   US$ 900.00
7. United Nations Volunteers (UNV)  
   US$ 1,300.00
8. United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control Programme (former UNDCP and now UNODC)  
   US$ 1,300.00
9. United Nations Fund for South-South Co-operation  
   US$ 1,300.00

My delegation will remain constructively engaged throughout the conference as well as in all the relevant processes.

I thank you, Mr. President.