Respected Co-chairs; Ambassadors KIM Sook and John Ashe,

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished delegates of Algeria and Nepal on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and LDCs respectively. I thank the Co-Chairs and the Bureau for producing a zero draft.

Co-chairs,

After the cold war, there was euphoria of hopes and dreams for the good of mankind and the global community organized one after another great conferences to help improve the lot of the people, for example, the Earth Summit in 1992 in Rio, the Population Summit in Cairo in 1994, the Beijing Women Conference in 1995, and the Millennium Summit in New York in 2000. In these conferences the global leadership committed themselves for the wellbeing of people.

In the process of achieving accelerated economic growth, unfortunately, we ended up in wider social and regional inequity, environmental disasters, and growth with joblessness and more importantly, it is a disgrace that over a billion people still remained below the poverty level and there are pockets of abject poverty even in developed countries. So it is a global issue and we all have to face this challenge of eradicating poverty and therefore, we expect an inclusive, holistic, result and action-oriented outcome document from the Rio+20 Conference. Our effort should, therefore, be built on Rio principles, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, with special emphasis on the socio-economic upliftment of the most poor and vulnerable section of humanity that mostly live in LDCs and help them to achieve their hopes and dreams.

Although the centrality of all the UN conferences was to uplift human being and to provide them a sense of hope and confidence, regrettably, we are still a long way and these are causing frustration, Arab Spring, Stock Market Take over, and the like. Therefore, in the upcoming Rio+20 Summit in June, 2012, should the global leaders and people on the street look forward to a holistic approach that can guarantee and achieve (1) economic sustainability, (2) environmental sustainability and the (3) social sustainability across nations?

Co-Chairs,

We believe, poverty eradication and people’s empowerment through full and productive employment of all should constitute the core of Rio+20 deliberations. The recent resolution of the 66th UNGA Session titled ‘People’s empowerment and development’ that interlinked generational issues such as poverty alleviation, right to vote, empowering people with skill, education and job, sustainable income, including the excluded people, youth employment, eliminating all sorts of discrimination and terrorism, could guide as to the framing of the specific agenda items in this regard. In line with the Principle 6 of the Rio Declaration, the
special situation and needs of the LDCs, as expressed in their Programme of Action, must also receive priority. Since the centrality of all development efforts pivot around human being, therefore, special focus must be directed towards 'the growing population' that recently exceeded 7 billion. Specific initiatives may be outlined for the wellbeing of population so that they can be productively, creatively and effectively be utilized for contribution to the society. In fact, special emphasis should be placed on economic and social pillars of sustainable development.

The zero draft focuses more on green economy, waters down on implementation, and provision of finance and transfer of technology. The Istanbul Program of Action (IPoA) could be a basic framework to address these issues, as indicated in the paragraph 81 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the concept of green economy should be pursued with a view to eradicate poverty, hunger and job creation and at the same time, to ensure energy and food security and efficiency.

We particularly register our call to address our especial needs and concerns in addition to reduction in poverty and deprivation, universal access to affordable and reliable energy and related technologies, universal access to education, appropriate investment in water infrastructure and its management and sanitation, empowerment of women, financial and technical support for ensuring food and nutritional security and provision of high-yielding and climate resilient seed varieties and fertilizers as well as helping to combat flood, desertification, land degradation, erratic climate behavior and consequent uprooting of millions of people from their homes, their profession and from their livelihood. We expect robust commitments as to the rehabilitation of the climatically displaced persons regionally and globally as called for by the Istanbul Program of Action. This must be included as a Sustainable Development Goal or SDG. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without adequate infrastructure development combined with 'state-of-the-art technology' in the developing and least developed countries.

We echo that effective implementation of the landmark conventions, UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD reinforce sustainable development as building blocks and therefore, these needs to be strengthened on the basis of agreed principles. We express concern over the slow pace of progress and non-fulfillment of many objectives set out in these conventions. This aspect should also be given due priority in the Rio+20 zero draft. In addition, Rio+20 cannot be conceived of in vacuum. It must also incorporate the MDG goals and address the post-MDG challenges.

Co-Chairs,
As per the Accra Agenda of Action, every country should have primary responsibility, leadership and ownership for its own development, but the effective international cooperation is essential for the full realization of all the internationally agreed goals relating to sustainable development. We, therefore, urge to include the sovereignty and country-ownership to customize the projects of sustainable development as a principle in Rio+20 in addition to the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
The outcome of the Conference should ensure providing additional, and predictable financial resources to support the sustainable development especially of LDCs, SIDs and LLDCs, along with sincere implementation of all ODA related commitments, including those contained in the IPoA. It is a fact that many countries are failing to achieve their MDG goals primarily due to resource constraints and therefore, special attention should be focused and institutional framework must be set up for continuous monitoring and evaluation of the financial needs and shortfalls against targets. The international community both the traditional development partners and the emerging economies should also take concrete steps and must come up with a roadmap to open up their markets for all LDC products.

Respected Co-Chairs,

In conclusion, Bangladesh takes this opportunity to look forward to the leadership of Co-chairs and the secretariat for an outcome document that would be action-oriented, achievable and would reflect the hopes and aspirations of people across the globe. We shall engage proactively with substantial, progressive and contributory comments towards enriching the documents when the negotiations will be starting in March. We believe, our discussions and exchange of views on part I and II of the zero draft of the Rio+20 outcome document would be given due attention to our legitimate concerns. We assure you of our full cooperation and positive engagements to the productive outcome in this process for the good of mankind. I thank you.