

Commitment made by Bangladesh under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

A Status Report (July 2009-July 2011)

Issue	Recommendation made by other states	Commitment made by Bangladesh	Situation after two years (till July 2011)
<p>1. Ratification or accession of International Human Rights Treaties</p>	<p>Consider ratifying or acceding to: OP-ICCPR 2, (Chile), OP-CAT (France, The Netherlands, Chile, Czech Republic, Liechtenstein); ICRMW (Chile, Azerbaijan, Mexico); CED(Chile, Mexico); other individual complaints procedures under the treaties to which it is a party(Norway); OP-ICCPR 1(Chile); other core international treaties to which it is not a party(Slovenia).</p>	<p>Bangladesh is party to almost all core human rights treaties. Other Human Rights treaties and Optional Protocols are regularly reviewed for possible accession/ ratification. This is an on-going process, needing careful consideration, as it entails specific responsibilities, including multiple reporting obligations, on the part of the State party. While undertaking such considerations, Bangladesh remains fully sensitive to the basic objectives of the HR treaties/OPs, including those mentioned in this recommendation. Nonetheless, Bangladesh respects these treaty provisions and is making efforts to comply with their objectives.</p>	<p>Bangladesh has ratified the Rome Statute (International Criminal Court) on 22 March 2010.</p> <p>Bangladesh signed the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW) in 1998 but no initiative has been taken to ratify this.</p> <p>During the interactive dialogue of the working group session, the head of Bangladesh delegation- the Hon'ble Foreign Minister confirmed that Bangladesh is considering accepting the OP-CAT. But no progress has been made. Reports have not been submitted to the UN committees on CAT, ICCPR, ICESCR</p>

<p>2. International treaties related with the Refugee and indigenous people</p>	<p>Consider ratifying or acceding to: 1951 Refugee Convention (Brazil, Chile, Czech Republic, Mexico), bearing in mind resolution 9/12 of the Human Rights Council entitled “Human rights goals”(Brazil); ILO No.169 Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (Mexico).</p>	<p>1951 Refugee Convention Although not a party to this Convention, Bangladesh has consistently upheld its principles and objectives. Despite being burdened with a protracted refugee situation originating from a neighbouring country, Bangladesh has not done a single refoulement of the three hundred thousand refugees who came from Myanmar, even in their early stay in Bangladesh, when there was no international presence or support. In a refugee situation where not a single repatriation has taken place for the past three years and with very little burden sharing on the part of the international community, Bangladesh continues to host the remaining refugees, provide improved facilities and upgrade protection measures. Bangladesh’s role in protecting the rights of refugees from Myanmar has been recognised by the UNHCR more than once. Accession to this Convention needs to be considered in light of the existing situation and in the overall regional context. This matter remains under regular review by the Government.</p> <p>ILO Convention No. 169 Bangladesh has ratified the ILO indigenous and tribal population convention, 1957 (No-107) in 1972, which covers a number of issues including fundamental rights, land rights, employment, vocational training, health etc of the indigenous</p>	<p>No initiative taken to accede to 1951 Refugee Convention, ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples</p> <p>The minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs at a seminar held on 8 June 2011 on ‘Ratification of ILO Convention 169 said Quoting 1 (b) of article 1 of the Convention said that there are no indigenous people in the country.</p> <p>Amendment to the Constitution stipulates that all residents of Bangladesh are Bangalees, which does not recognize the ethnic and cultural identity of the indigenous people.</p>
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		and tribal peoples. The Convention No 111 on discriminations (employment and occupation) was also ratified by Bangladesh in 1972. Though the Convention No. 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples is not yet ratified by Bangladesh, the tribal peoples of CHT are already enjoying most of provisions enshrined in the ILO convention No. 169 through the implementation of the CHT Accord. Most of the provisions of the Accord have already been implemented. The present government is continuing the process of implementation within the framework of the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.	
3. Withdrawal of reservation	Reconsider its position on reservations (Slovenia); and withdraw reservations to CEDAW (France) and to Articles 2 and 16 (1) (c) of CEDAW (Norway).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation of reconsidering its reservations. However, Bangladesh is a country of cultural and religious diversity, and a broad consensus among all communities, therefore, is essential for taking a decision in this regard.	Bangladesh attended the review conducted by the UN Committee on CEDAW on 25 January 2011, where the state party did not make any specific commitment to withdraw reservations from the art. 2 and 16 (1) (c) of the convention.
4. Compliance with International HR standards	Continue its efforts to protect and promote human rights in compliance with international standards (Sudan); Enhance the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights in accordance with the level of socio-economic development of the country in keeping with international human rights instruments (Lao PDR): Continue its efforts to ensure consistency between national laws and	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.	Some steps have been taken to ensure conformity of domestic laws in accordance with the international standards. For example, amendment of the children act is at stage, where it is being said from the government that the age of a child will be in conformity with the international standard.

	international human rights conventions which it has ratified (Egypt).		
5. Institutional development for the protection and promotion of Human Rights	Continue its efforts to strengthen its national human rights mechanisms and continuously upgrade its laws, policies and institutions in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights (Egypt).	Bangladesh has accepted the recommendation, and has already initiated steps to strengthen the human rights mechanisms. The government has already established a National Human Rights Commission under National Human Rights Commission Ordinance, 2007. A bill titled "National Human Rights Commission Bill, 2009" has now been introduced before the Parliament, which is under scrutiny of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.	<p>On 9th July, 2009 the parliament passed the 'National Human Rights Commission Act of 2009' with retrospective effect to legalize the acts done by the Commission established under Ordinance in 2008. On 23 June 2010 the government reconstituted the commission with the appointment of Chairman and six new commissioners. The Chairman and only one member are full time, the other five are appointed on honorary basis and not full time.</p> <p>Much remains to be desired of the Government in terms of providing the necessary resources including staff and other logistics for the Commission to be able to function effectively and independently.</p> <p>The Government has not yet fulfilled its electoral commitment to establish Ombudsman. On the contrary the office of the Tax Ombudsman which could provide at least partial fulfillment of the Constitutional commitment has been abolished by an act of the Parliament under debatable grounds.</p>

<p>6. National Human Rights institution</p>	<p>Continue its efforts to develop the work of its national institution for human rights, as an effective human rights watchdog (Egypt); Give powers to the NHRC to effectively protect human rights in accordance with the Paris principles (United Kingdom).</p>	<p>Bangladesh accepts the recommendation, and has already initiated actions.</p>	<p>The Founding Act of the NHRC has given reasonable mandate to the NHRC, both in the area of protection and promotion of Human rights. But due to shortage in manpower the Commission is not able to exercise its mandate. The Commission has developed a five year strategic plan in consultation with different stakeholders and arranged some seminar and workshops on other issues but could not organize any fact finding and investigation. Also could not set up its mediation mechanism.</p> <p>On 22 December 2009 the Commission requested approval of an organogram of 62 personnel. After more than a year, the government gave approval for 28 staff members, most of which are support staffs. Hiring of staff members started in July 2011 because of the delay in approving procedures by the Government. Thus as a matter of fact, as of July 31, 2011 the NHRC has no staff of its own, except the secondees.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Commission has expressed concern over level of cooperation from the bureaucracy which has come in newspaper reports.</p> <p>The new staff recruitment rules approved by the Government made it mandatory that the Secretary of the Commission would be seconded from</p>
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			Government officials. Moreover the rules had been framed in such a way that, at least for next five years, all the Directorial positions would have to be filled up by the secondees.
7. Independence and effectiveness of national institutions	Take steps to further strengthen the National Human Rights Commission and the Anti-corruption Commission to ensure that they will be able to operate independently and effectively (Netherlands, Australia)	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation, and has already initiated actions.	<p>Though the enactment of the NHRC Act is a positive initiative, the act contains some flaws which are significant obstacles to the establishment of a truly independent human rights institution. For example, in respect of violation by law enforcement agencies (Sec.18), the Commission has limited jurisdiction and can only demand reports from government agencies. There is no specific consequence for the failure of government to provide such a statement. On the other hand, it is stated that, if a suit is within the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman Act, 1980 where the Ombudsperson is the concerned person and if it is under the authority of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1980, then the matter cannot be brought to the Commission.</p> <p>The NHRC Chairman has been visible in media and public events. But the commission is yet to prove its effectiveness. The government has appointed panel lawyers in Dhaka and</p>

outside Dhaka for the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) and finalized the process of recruiting 80 staff members for the ACC.

But the proposed bill for the amendment of the ACC Act of 2004 tabled in the parliament has posed serious doubts about the Government's commitment to create conditions for an independent and effective Commission. The proposed amendments will establish political and administrative control on the Commission. Moreover the withdrawal of thousands of corruption cases on partisan political consideration has seriously undermined the prospect of strengthening institutional capacity to fight corruption.

The Parliament has failed to function effectively because of the continued boycott by the opposition. Parliamentary Committees started off relatively well, but barring a few exceptions have not delivered much in most cases because Committees are often dominated by members with conflict of interest.

Parliament members have been allocated increased power and resources to themselves eg MPs in school committees, tax exemption, etc.

			<p>Public service has been subjected to political influence particularly in some cases, promotion, posting and transfer. A large number of senior officials have been made "Officer on Special Duty" upon partisan political consideration.</p> <p>The government has also weakened the public procurement policy by withdrawing the requirement of expertise and experience upto a threshold which will increase political influence and conflict of interest in public procurement.</p> <p>Another recent legal amendment has disempowered the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and empowered the Government Ministry, which is likely to promote political influence in the flourishing private sector.</p> <p>By another Act of Parliament the Government has granted immunity to any decision taken in connection with production, sale and distribution of electricity, which is likely to jeopardize transparency and accountability in the sector.</p>
8. Advancement of women and	Continue to improve its policies and programmes towards	Bangladesh has accepted the recommendation, and has already taken	The government has adopted National Women Development

children	advancing the status of women, girls, children, including those with disabilities and the overall human rights situation, both in the enjoyment of civil and political rights as well as social, economic and cultural rights (Nigeria).	steps to improve some programmes. Government has recently constituted “The National Council For Women and Children Development” (NCWCD) chaired by the Honourable Prime Minister to recommend amendment to present laws, rules for protection of women and children.	<p>Policy in 2011. The policy has introduced some positive measures like decentralization of One stop Crisis Centers (OCC), developing Gender Responsive Budget & Gender Disaggregated Database, six months maternity leave etc. But the policy remained silent on women’s equal share to the inheritance.</p> <p>The Sixth Five Year Plan (SFYP)2011-15 has been introduced in 2011, which incorporates specific gender goals and targets under different sectors and strategies</p> <p>Gender Budget Reports of 20 ministries have been published in the FY2011-12 national budget</p>
9. Human Rights awareness	Take further measures aimed at raising awareness about human rights among the population at large (Azerbaijan).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.	
10. Developing a national human rights programme	Develop a national human rights programme to give a new impetus to its commitment and determination to tackle national problems, such as a culture of impunity, arbitrary and extrajudicial executions and a practice of torture and degrading treatment. (Mexico).	The Government is committed to address these concerns. However, they will have to be addressed in the overall context of steps taken to further promote and protect human rights in the country. The newly established National Human Rights Commission is mandated to oversee compliance and make recommendations for specific steps to be undertaken to improve Human Rights situation in the	No significant step has been taken to develop a national human rights programme. Hardly any recommendation of the NHRC has been addressed. It is difficult to acknowledge that training given to Law enforcing agencies had been instrumental to bring a little change to their behavior and service.

		<p>country, including in areas mentioned in the recommendation.</p> <p>Law enforcement agencies are under instructions to maintain human rights standards in the discharge of their duties. Human rights issues are also incorporated into training curricula of the members of law enforcement agencies. UNDP, ICRC and some development partners are currently engaged in a series of training courses to sensitize members of law enforcement agencies to human rights issues. The Police Reform Programme is also expected to bring encouraging results in this regard.</p>	<p>Police Reform program has stalled. There are instances that GoB has created hindrances in some programs.</p>
11. National strategy for delivering Justice	<p>Take steps to devise a national strategy for delivering justice, to include the police, the judiciary, civil society and government (United Kingdom).</p>	<p>Bangladesh accepts the recommendations. The government has already separated judiciary from the executive and has taken necessary steps for effective and prompt justice delivery system. The government has also initiated programmes to include the police and civil society in framing a national strategy for efficient delivery of justice.</p>	
12. Cooperation with UN Special Procedure	<p>Issue and implement a standing invitation to all special procedures (Czech Republic); Extend a standing invitation to human rights mechanisms to visit the country and to support national efforts in these areas (Mexico); Positively consider the visit requested by the special rapporteur on summary</p>	<p>Bangladesh has been fully cooperating with the special procedure mechanisms. Some special rapporteurs have visited in recent years. A few requests are pending. We are in the process of finalizing their requests and we expect the visits to begin very soon. We do not consider that the issuance of a standing invitation is the only way to ensure full cooperation.</p>	<p>Bangladesh ranks as one of the top countries having highest number of pending requests from the Special procedure.</p> <p>The UN Independent Expert (IE) on Human Rights & Extreme Poverty and the IE on access to safe drinking water and sanitation had a joint mission on December</p>

	executions (Brazil).		<p>2009. The visit of the Special Rapporteur (SR) on adequate housing and SR on Freedom of Religion has agreed in principle but yet to confirm the date.</p> <p>But requests from several Special Procedures are pending for years. Like, SR on the right to freedom of opinion and expression (since 2003), from IE on minority issues (since 2006), SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (request made in 2006, reminder in 2008 and 2009), SR on independence of judges and lawyers (request made in 2007), SR on contemporary forms of slavery, SR on racism(request made in 2008) and SR on contemporary forms of slavery (request made in Aug 2008 and follow up request in Nov 2008),</p> <p>The GoB should offer standing invitation to show the openness.</p>
13. Legal reform to eliminate discrimination against women and children	Ensure the full and effective implementation of existing laws and policies relating to the rights of women and children, in order to protect these rights and eliminate all forms of discriminations (Thailand); Continue to place emphasis on poverty alleviation and eradication, on women's empowerment and children's rights (Singapore).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.	<p>Domestic Violence (prevention and protection) Act has been enacted in October 2010 and came to effect on 30th December 2010.</p> <p>Recognition of mother's identity has been ensured through a gazette notification in 2010 which requires that the name of mother be included in all official document related to the child.</p>

			<p>The Bangladesh High Court on 28 June 2009 has given a directive in 2010 to prevent forced veiling in educational institutions and workplaces</p> <p>On 14 May 2009, the High Court issued some specific directives banning sexual harassment, which has provided a legal basis to fight the crime.</p> <p>On 10 April 2011, the High Court issued a directive (through amendment of the Muslim Marriages and Divorces Registration Act, 1974) to ensure verifying of birth certificate and/or national ID card during marriage registration for preventing early marriage</p> <p>On the contrary, no initiative has been taken for the reform of related laws to ensure women's equal rights to property. Also no legal step has been taken to amend the Hindu family law that is heavily discriminatory to the Hindu women.</p>
<p>14. Positive efforts for the promotion and protection of the rights of women</p>	<p>Pursue its positive efforts for the promotion and protection of the rights of women (Cuba); Strengthen and continue sharing its experience and the promotion of the role of gender in the</p>	<p>Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.</p>	<p>Six months maternity leave introduced</p> <p>Number of reserved seats for women in the parliament has been</p>

	national leadership (Lao PDR).		<p>increased from 45 to 50 through the 15th Amendment of the Constitution on 30 June 2011. But no direct election from women's constituency.</p> <p>Education policy 2010 adopted with special emphasis on increasing female education, eliminate discrimination in literacy rate (including higher education), and vocational, science and technology training for girls</p>
15. Reform and implementation of laws for the protection of women rights, specially adoption of the Uniform Family code	Take measures to ensure women's rights are protected through implementing existing laws such as the Early Marriage Act and the Dowry Act(Australia); Continue combating discrimination and violence against women and girls by elaborating effective laws and implementing them effectively, and adopt without delay(Germany) a uniform Family Code that fully complies with the provisions of CEDAW(Norway); Ensure that women's rights are protected, through effective implementation of existing laws, the development of a comprehensive national action plan to combat violence against women and the adoption	<p>Bangladesh accepts the recommendations except for the recommendation on Uniform Family Code.</p> <p>Early marriage and dowry are prohibited and the practices of early marriage and dowry have been made punishable offence under Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 and Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980. The government has recently amended the citizenship law and removed the discrimination between man and woman. There is no wage inequalities between men and women and a woman can enjoy 4 months as maternity leave. Bangladesh being a country of diversified cultures and religions, we need to have a broad agreement on a Uniform Family Code that will be acceptable to all religious and ethnic</p>	<p>Though the Government pointed out that there are no wage inequalities between men and women, in reality there exists wage inequalities in the informal labor sector. Also still very few women are found in supervisory role in garments.</p> <p>On the issue of Uniform Family Code, the Government mentioned that it will consult with all concerned parties and members of various religious organizations to achieve a consensus on this issue, no concrete steps have been taken</p>

	<p>of a family code complying with the provisions of CEDAW (Netherlands); Intensify its efforts to protect children from early and forced marriages (Liechtenstein); Amend if necessary, the relevant discriminatory legal provision concerning the transfer of citizenship to children of women in mixed marriages(Czech Republic); Adopt a comprehensive action plan to address wage inequalities and make available maternity leave in all public and private employments (Norway).</p>	<p>minorities. The government will consult with all concerned parties and members of various religious organizations to achieve a consensus on this issue.</p>	
<p>16. Rights of the child</p>	<p>Taking into account the provisions of the CRC, take further measures to prohibit all forms of violence against children, including corporal punishment and to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility (Brazil): Review its domestic legislation and practice to bring them both in compliance with its international obligations in the area of the rights of the child, in particular regarding(i) protection against kidnapping and trafficking, and (ii) the juvenile justice system including through providing adequate facilities of corresponding capacity for juveniles in detention or prison and adopting specific measures for the protection of their human rights (Czech Republic): Continue its efforts to further the</p>	<p>Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.</p>	<p>The Child policy has been approved by the cabinet in February 2011 Initiative has been taken to amend the Children’s Act 1974. The higher judiciary has given directives to prohibit corporal punishment in educational institutions were followed by complementary administrative initiatives.</p> <p>Not much initiative taken to improve the juvenile justice system.</p>

	enforcement of child rights and laws(Indonesia); Intensify its efforts to implement without delay existing laws concerning the protection of the rights of the child, including the births and deaths registration Act of 2004 (Italy).		
17. Religious minorities	Investigate complaints concerning discrimination against members of minority religions, while developing educational and awareness programmes addressing these human rights violations (Holy See).	The Government does not condone discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, or any other status. Equality for all citizens is guaranteed in the constitution, legal provisions as well as State practice. Moreover, positive measures are in place to facilitate access to education, job and other areas for these groups. The present Government is particularly mindful of the welfare of religious minorities. Allegations of any discrimination are being dealt with seriously.	
18. Rights of the vulnerable groups	Take further steps to address discrimination against vulnerable groups (United Kingdom): Take measures to ensure the effective protection of the human rights of refugees (Mexico).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendations. Bangladesh has introduced gender based budgetary system. More than half of its budgetary resources are allocated for poverty reduction. National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction (NSAPR) focuses especially on poor women. A wide range of safety-net programmes are in place to address multidimensional challenges faced by the poor women and children. They include: (a) Allowance for Widow, Destitute and Deserted Women, (b)Vulnerable Group Development Programme, (c)	Government has made increased budgetary allocation for the social safety net. The number of beneficiaries has also increased.

		Vulnerable Group Development for Ultra poor and (d) Allowance for Pregnant and Lactating Mother.	
19. Abolishing death penalty	Strongly encouraged to abolish the death penalty, and while awaiting such decision, to adopt a moratorium on executions (France): Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/149, establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Brazil); Adopt a moratorium on the death penalty, as a primary step towards its abolition (Chile); As a first step, consider amending their legislation on the death penalty in order to restrict its scope and adjust it to the international minimum standards on the death penalty, and, in the light of the increasing awareness of the international community on the matter, as reflected in General Assembly resolutions approved in 2007 and 2008, consider the establishment of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolishing capital punishment in the national legislation (Italy).	<p>Bangladesh is not in a position to accept the recommendation at this stage.</p> <p>The provision of death penalty is maintained in Bangladesh only as an exemplary punishment for heinous crimes such as throwing of acid, acts of terrorism, planned murder, trafficking of drugs, rape, abduction of women and children. Both the judiciary and administration deal with these cases of capital punishment with extreme caution and compassion, and such punishment is extended only in ultimate cases that relates to gross violation of human rights of the victims. Bangladesh has an extremely low rate of implementation of such death penalties.</p> <p>The existing legal mechanism also provides several legal recourses against such punishment through the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, which confirms or rejects death sentence passed by a trial court; through the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, where a defendant can appeal against the death sentence; and through the President, who can pardon the person concerned.</p>	
20. Extra judicial killing	Address the problems of extrajudicial killings and torture by security forces and improve	The Government does not condone such incident. Sections 60, 61 and 167 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)	Extra judicial killing and torture are still rampant. Concern over continued disappearance and

	prison situations (Netherlands).	and Regulations 324, 327 and 328 of Police Regulations lay down modalities for dealing with persons under police custody. The Government is committed to bring an end to all extra-judicial activities by law enforcement agencies, and will bring any official found responsible for such actions to justice. Improving prison situations is an ongoing process which is also dependant on resource availability.	torture in custody, especially of young innocent victims has been compounded by a new type of human rights violation in the form of police-instigated mob beating, and "mistaken identity" etc. According to statistics prepared by ASK based on the newspaper reports, 394 persons have allegedly been killed extra judicially by the law enforcing agencies from January 2009 until June 2011.
21. Violence Against women	Redouble its efforts and allocate more resources to address the problem of violence against women and children in this area, in particular through increasing women's empowerment, public awareness, education and training as well as increase vigilance and monitoring by the relevant authorities (Malaysia); Adopt a comprehensive strategy to combat all forms of violence against women and girls (Liechtenstein); Adopt a comprehensive approach to address violence against women and girls and to take effective measures to protect them (Republic of Korea).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.	The government has taken some initiative including enacting the Domestic Violence Act and implementing some projects with the assistance of development partners to end Violence Against Women. Fatwa instigated violence against women has reduced in number after the High Court judgment, but GoB has been lax in disseminating info over print and electronic media and sending instructions to local govt. Stalking against girls has not been stopped in spite of several initiatives taken by the GoB
22. Eradicating child labour	Take steps to eradicate child labour such as finalizing the and implementing the plan of action to eliminate the worst forms of child labour (Australia); Ensure an effective monitoring	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.	Though, initiative taken to adopt a National Child Labour Policy Child labour is continuing in the absence of effective monitoring mechanism

	mechanism to oversee the implement the plan of action to eliminate the worst forms of child labour(Netherlands).		
23. National Plan of Action against Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children	Continue to take measures towards the effective implementation of the National Plan of Action against Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children including Trafficking (Turkey).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation, and is working for ensuring effective implementation of the national plan of action.	No National action plan on Child Sexual Abuse, Exploitation and Trafficking has been replaced after the previous five years action plan which expired in 2007
24. Combating corruption	Continue its efforts in combating corruption (Azerbaijan).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.	Although a few policy initiatives have been taken like the enactment of the Right to Information Act, setting up of the Information Commission and enactment of the Whistleblower protection Act, measures taken in opposite directions have undermined the institutional capacity to control corruption. Withdrawal of ACC thousands of corruption cases on partisan political consideration is not consistent with the commitment. Two and a half years after the election only a half-hearted step has been taken to submit wealth statement of Ministers to the Prime Minister, with no clear decision to disclose the same for the information of the public. Moreover, no action has been taken regarding such disclosure by Members of the Parliament.

<p>25. Independence of Judiciary</p>	<p>Continue its good work in further strengthening the judiciary in the country (Bhutan); Take measures to ensure the independence of the judiciary (Australia).</p>	<p>Bangladesh accepts the recommendation. To further strengthen the judiciary, the government has established separate Judicial Service Commission, Judicial Service Pay Commission and Judicial Administration Training Institute. Recently the Judicial Service Pay Commission recommended a new structure of pay scale for the judicial officers, which is under consideration of the government. For smooth functioning of the judiciary the government has recruited a number of staff in the subordinate judiciary.</p>	<p>The government has established judicial service commission to appoint judges for the lower judiciary, appointed number of judges both for the higher and lower judiciary. The higher judiciary has taken some initiative for rapid hearing of long pending cases. Submitting the wealth statement by 17 judges of the High Court including the former Chief justice is a welcome step. However, independence of judiciary is still not fully functional as no separate secretariat has been established for the judiciary and thus appointment; transfer etc. of the judges of lower judiciary is still administered by the Law ministry. Serious controversy arose in appointing judges for the High Court including the Chief Justice bypassing seniority. Controversy arose due to withdrawal of cases on political consideration, where in the process followed he claimed to be transparent. President's clemency to the convicted in murder cases due to political consideration also seriously undermined the rule of law.</p>
<p>26. Culture of impunity</p>	<p>Take steps to address the culture of impunity of human rights violations by law enforcement agencies (Australia): Adopt</p>	<p>The Government does not condone such practice, and will bring any official found responsible for such acts to justice.</p>	<p>Though the trial and conviction of the self declared murderers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman can be seen as a process</p>

	<p>further measures to fight impunity for human right violations, including by law enforcement officials (Czech Republic); Fight impunity and hold all officers and persons acting on their behalf accountable for acts of torture and harassment of civilians (Germany).</p>		<p>to end the culture of impunity, in other cases of extra judicial killings and torture by the law enforcing agencies no independent investigation has been conducted, departmental investigation findings were not made public and there was no conviction.</p>
<p>27. Sexual orientation or gender identity</p>	<p>Provide human rights training to law enforcement and judicial officers, with a specific focus on the protection of the rights of women, children and persons of minority sexual orientation or gender identity and adopt further measures to ensure protection of these persons against violence and abuse (Czech Republic); Consider abolishing article 377 of the Penal Code, which criminalizes sexuality against the “order of nature”(Chile); Decriminalize same sex activity between consenting adults and adopt further measures to promote tolerance in this regard (Czech Republic).</p>	<p>Bangladesh accepts the recommendation concerning the human rights training of judicial officers. The judicial officers are being trained on the issue of rights of women, children and minorities. However, the specific recommendation on sexual orientation can not be accepted. Bangladesh is a society with strong traditional and cultural values. Same-sex activity is not an acceptable norm to any community in the country. Indeed, sexual orientation is not an issue in Bangladesh. There has been no concern expressed by any quarter in the country on this. Therefore, the recommendation is out of context.</p>	
<p>28. Rights of the Human Rights Defenders</p>	<p>Take measures to protect human rights defenders, including journalists (Australia, Netherlands);</p>	<p>Bangladesh accepts the recommendation and it is already taking necessary measures in this regard.</p>	<p>Human Rights Defenders in general did not enjoy a favourable condition. Police used violence to disrupt protests against approval of energy deal with foreign company. Local journalists in different places were threatened and tortured by influential local leaders of the ruling party.</p>

			Closure of a TV channel and temporary shut down of a national news daily; disallowing a photography exhibition titled 'Crossfire' by DRIK, banning 'face book' temporarily have seen as contrary to freedom of expression.
29. Freedom of religion	Consider enhancing the protection of religious freedom by adopting legislative measures and promoting awareness raising campaigns (Italy).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation. Necessary legislative safeguards are in place.	
30. Poverty alleviation	Continue its strategic plan adopted in 2005 for eliminating social and economic disparities in order to reduce poverty, in particular in isolated regions (Saudi Arabia): Spare no efforts to consolidate programmes for the transfer of food, development programmes on behalf of vulnerable groups, particularly women in poverty, and micro-credit programmes which have produced positive results for this segment of the population (Venezuela); Continue to implement identified measures, plans and policies focusing mainly on poverty eradication(Zimbabwe); Create job opportunities and provide social services to face development challenges and	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.	

	combat poverty (Bahrain).		
31. Right to food	Continue its efforts to ensure the right to food for the citizens (Vietnam).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation. In order to ensure food security for its citizens, Bangladesh has adopted programmes to increase food production through timely and affordable agricultural inputs to the farmers. The government has reduced prices of fertilizer and fuel for irrigation, and has been supplying quality seeds, among other farmer-friendly measures.	The government has taken some farmer-friendly measures, but the high food price and adulteration of food products seriously threatens food security and safety.
32. Right to health	Continue while working with concerned parties, its comprehensive national strategy to improve the health situation, in particular to promote women's health during pregnancy and post natal care (Saudi Arabia); Continue the efforts to draw up a national plan to provide health care to all without discrimination (Bahrain).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.	Despite spreading community clinic all over the country, national health policy is yet to be finalized. Several incidents of medical negligence have been reported. The NHRC chairman has visited several public criticized the poor health services.
33. Right to education	Pursue its positive efforts to promote and protect the right to education, including the education of girls (Cuba); Continue to promote non-formal education in order to make greater progress in advancing people's education level (China).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.	A secular education policy has been adopted. Several other steps have also been taken to ensure uniform education for all. Though continued grants to madrassah education contradicts support for secular education.
34. Implementation of CHT accord	Fully implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord as a matter of priority and develop a time frame for its full implementation (Norway, Australia).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation, and is in the process of full implementation of the Accord. Most of the provisions of the CHT Peace Accord have already been	Although some praiseworthy initiatives had been taken for implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) Accord at the early stage of the government,

		<p>implemented. The rest will be implemented within the shortest possible time within the framework of the Constitution of Bangladesh.</p>	<p>there has been no progress in resolving the land disputes. There was a controversy regarding the question as to what should be the order of task- land survey first or settlement of land dispute, as the land commission announced that it was going to start the cadastral survey in the CHT.</p> <p>In some cases violence raising questions of the role and affordability of the army and the government. Recent constitution amendment, denying the indigenous identity of these communities may undermine the smooth implementation of the CHT accord. This official position expressed in international forums and high level political statements contradicts earlier position of the government.</p>
35. Experience in the area of micro-credit	Share its experience and best practices in realization of the right to food and the fight against poverty, in particular in the area of micro-credit, with other developing countries (Malaysia).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.	
36. International cooperation	Pursue its efforts, despite constraints, with the assistance and cooperation of the international community, to combat poverty, particularly among women, including material and non material poverty (in terms of exclusion)(Algeria); Continue, with international support and cooperation, efforts	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.	

	<p>to ensure basic necessities of its people, particularly in terms of food, clothing, shelter and education (Bhutan); Continue to fight poverty with the active support of the international community (Cambodia); Seek the help of the international community to counter all challenges, mentioned in its national report and especially poverty alleviation and improvement of the living standards of its people and all environmental constraints that challenge human rights and development efforts(Sudan), seek the help of the international community through different programmes of capacity building and technical assistance (Sudan); Share, with Sudan and other least developing and developing countries its best practice of social safety nets and empowerment (Sudan).</p>		
37. Women's empowerment	<p>Pursue its efforts, with the assistance and cooperation of the international community, for the realization of the rights of women and women's empowerment as an important sector of society that can contribute significantly to the develop of the country (Algeria).</p>	<p>Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.</p>	
38. State initiatives	<p>Further continue its efforts to improve the human rights situation on the ground, with the technical and financial assistance</p>	<p>Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.</p>	

	of the international community (Azerbaijan).		
39. Technical assistance to Bangladesh	Call on the international community to respond favourably to Bangladesh's request for capacity building and technical assistance to overcome the difficulties and challenges facing the country (Vietnam).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.	
40. Reporting obligations to treaty bodies	Build with international support the national capacities to fulfill the reporting obligations to treaty bodies (Egypt).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.	Bangladesh has reported to the CEDAW committee, but did not make any specific commitment on withdrawal of reservations from the remaining articles. No mentionable step has been seen to incorporate CEDAW into national laws.
41. Climate change	Pursue its efforts within the Human Rights Council on the issue of climate change and human rights (Algeria); Continue and strengthen, with international support and cooperation, its efforts to mitigate the negative impact of climate change, as well as disaster management programmes (Bhutan); Pursue its efforts in incorporating sustainable environmental development into its policies, considering the impact of natural disaster and degradation of natural resources on human rights despite all existing challenges(Palestine).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.	In some cases political consideration and abuse of power have allegedly affected the disbursement of funds for adaptation supposed to benefit the most vulnerable, causing the Parliamentary Committee to review the selection of projects.
42. Involvement of civil society in the	The full involvement of civil society in the follow-up to this review (United Kingdom).	Bangladesh accepts the recommendation.	The government in cooperation with the Commonwealth Secretariat organized a follow up

follow-up			seminar on February 2011. Except one meeting of the Foreign Secretary with the HR-UPR Forum. No other concrete follow up measures have been taken to involve the civil society. No follow up measures have been taken by the GOB to implement UPR recommendations.
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