

Annexe-D

Indigenous Issues in 7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020)

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Strategy for Ethnic Population: The government is committed to ensuring socio-economic and political rights, fundamental human rights, and social security, while enabling tribal people to retain their social, cultural, and traditional identities. The ethnic communities of the CHT will be ensured access to education, health care, food and nutrition, employment, and overseas employment, and protection of rights to land and other resources. They will be ensured alternative farm and non-farm based livelihoods. They will be protected from hazards caused by climate change and other natural calamities. Additional finance will be allocated as a priority for the implementation of projects that contribute to the development of the people of the CHT and to bridging the development gap between the hills and the plains. A Perspective Plan will be formulated for the development of the CHT through a consultation process with key stakeholders. Special measures will be taken to preserve the characteristics of the tribal region and the cultural identity of the tribal groups.

Strategic Goal and Policy Direction: Recognizing the special socio-cultural and geographic situation of the CHT, the following strategic goals and policy direction will be pursued:

The CHT Peace Accord signed in 1997 provides the basis for the development plans and activities in the CHT. Most of the provisions of the CHT Accord of 1997 have been implemented. The provisions of the Accord ensure transfer of subjects/departments in letter and spirit to the Hill District Councils for the development of the CHT. The government is committed to implementing the remaining provisions; all measures will be taken to implement the Peace Accord within the period of the 7th Five Year Plan. Decentralization and devolution will be further strengthened. The Ministry of CHT Affairs, CHT Regional Council (CHTRC), and three HDCs will support the development of the CHT. The Land Commission Act 2001 will be amended to make it functional and acceptable. The Government will make every effort to expedite the process to resolve land disputes in the three districts of the CHT. Phased withdrawal of army camps will continue. A land survey will be carried out in consultation with the key stakeholders. The Government programmes will be tailored to meet the needs and concerns of the ethnic communities.

Areas of Future Action: The CHT has specific needs, requirements, and capabilities, and thus requires differentiated measures and approaches, and delivery mechanisms that are appropriate to the local cultural and social context.

- **UN Declaration:** The Government will consider implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007 and ratifying the ILO Convention 1969.
- **CHT Peace Accord:** The Government will ensure full implementation of the CHT Peace Accord signed in 1997. The Ministry of CHT Affairs, CHT Regional Council, and three Hill District Councils will be strengthened to support the development of the CHT. As per the provisions of the CHT Peace Accord, the remaining subjects/departments will be transferred to HDCs in terms of administration, finance, and development fund in letter and spirit and with allocation of finance.
- **Land rights:** The Land Commission will resolve the land disputes in the CHT following the amended Land Commission Dispute Resolution Act 2001 to ensure the

rights to land. Community ownership of land in the CHT will be honoured. A land survey will be carried out in consultation with the key stakeholders as per the provisions of the CHT Peace Accord. An appropriate land policy will be formulated which can deal with land disputes involving ethnic groups. A secure land tenure system will be introduced.

- **Empowering ethnic communities:** The Government will ensure participation of local people in development activities and management of natural resources and will recognize the traditional customs and knowledge of the various ethnic peoples. The Government will ensure community involvement in the adoption of technologies in line with the traditional food production system. The Government will provide appropriate training and support to people for development of their vocational skills and knowledge.
- **Access to Health, Nutrition and Population Services:** Steps will be taken to make Tribal Health, Nutrition and Population Plan (THNPP) more effective in order to ensure ethnic communities have access to the health, nutrition and population services in the ethnic sensitive way. The network of health services will be expanded so that people living in remote and inaccessible areas come under the coverage. Government will take measures to prevent malaria, diarrhoea and other diseases in hill tracts and provide sanitation facilities to the people.
- **Access to education, language, and culture:** A national language policy will be formulated to safeguard the languages of ethnic peoples. An action plan on mainstreaming the education of ethnic children will be implemented. Regular supervision and monitoring, especially for quality primary education, will be strengthened. The Government will ensure establishment of cluster-based residential primary and secondary schools for children of extremely poor parents in remote and inaccessible areas of the CHT. The Government will take action to expand multilingual education for tribal students at primary school level. The Government will take measures to preserve and promote the culture and heritage of ethnic communities.
- **Developing a Perspective Plan for CHT:** The Government will formulate a Perspective Plan for the development of CHT through a consultation process with key stakeholders. The basis of development planning and programmes in the CHT will be the CHT Peace Accord.
- **Accelerated development of CHT:** Additional finance will be allocated on priority basis for implementation of programmes/projects to reduce poverty and to attain middle income status by 2021. All funds of line Ministries for CHT development will be channelled through the Ministry of CHT Affairs. Representatives of the ethnic groups will be included in development projects undertaken in their areas.
- **Strengthening coordination of development work:** To avoid duplication and make any development sustainable, development work in the CHT needs to be well coordinated and integrated. Coordination of development works will be strengthened through the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs.
- **Special Programmes for Achieving the Strategic Goals:** Recognizing the distinctive characteristics and special requirements of the CHT, major areas of interventions and special programmes will include:
 - **Agriculture research and development centres:** Realizing the differences in agricultural practices in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and need for hill specific research and development, the Government will establish Agriculture Research and

Development Centres, hubs of knowledge and extension , in the three Hill Districts to introduce advanced varieties of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and medicinal plants that are suitable for growing in hilly terrain and also commercially profitable in local and international markets. The Government will introduce a special programme among farmers to popularize growing these fruits, vegetables, flowers, and medicinal plants, and will arrange micro-finance for farmers to create horticulture/vegetable gardens and home gardens. Development approaches will be designed based on area specific agro ecological potential and access to markets and other services.

- **Rural development and non-farm economic activities:** Income generating activities through small and cottage industries, trading, poultry and livestock rearing, beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, and others will be expanded. The income of poor people will be enhanced through social forestry in hill areas, cultivation of fruits and medicinal plants, and expanding non-farm employment opportunities. Equal emphasis will be given to the farm and non-farm sectors including internal and external labour mobility to expand employment opportunities for the youth.
- **Livelihood of jhum cultivators:** Special programmes/projects will be undertaken to promote alternative livelihoods options and reduce dependency on traditional livelihoods like jhum cultivation at a level that is sustainable and socially acceptable. Promotion of additional farm and non-farm economic activities for income generation towards attaining improved lifestyles will be ensured.
- **Marketing facilities:** Proper market infrastructure and rural road and market facilities will be developed so that farmers/producers can achieve a better price from selling their products. Measures will be taken to eliminate barriers so that agricultural and other local products have easy access to national and international markets. A special programme will be developed to strengthen post-harvest management, value chain development, processing, packaging, and market access, and to engage private sector market linkages. Private investment in processing, packaging, and marketing CHT products and services will be encouraged.
- **Human resource development programmes:** Existing human resource development programmes will be augmented to address the special needs of ethnic people and strengthen their vocational and social skills. Necessary training and support will be provided to the youth. Monitoring and supervision will be strengthened so that education, health and maternal child health services, social safety nets, and nutrition and housing facilities reach the ethnic people.
- **Labour mobility:** The Government will make special arrangements targeting ethnic communities to prepare them to take up the opportunities provided by national and global labour markets, including overseas employment, and thus enable them to increase their income. Appropriate skill development training and support will be provided to the youth of CHT, to provide vocational and social skills and networks.
- **Internet facility and ICT training:** The Government will provide effective internet facilities throughout the CHT region and will arrange ICT training for the youth of CHT to prepare them for better education and employment.
- **Electrification and telecommunication:** The national power grid and distribution system for electricity supply in the different upazilas of the hill districts will be expanded. The Government will expand electrification in rural and remote areas of CHT and will set up solar-based electric power stations in remote and inaccessible areas of the CHT.

- **Preferential access to social protection programmes:** Social protection assistance will be provided in hill districts to strengthen people's capacity to cope with any sudden decrease in income due to damage to jhum crops caused by floods and drought.
- **Expansion of micro-finance:** Micro-finance activities for poor people and farmers will be expanded (in place of micro-credit) and vocational training provided to the poor.
- **Development of tourism:** Tourism, especially ecotourism and community-based tourism will be encouraged as a means of income generation for the local people. Private local investment will be encouraged to develop sustainable tourist spots and facilities in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari by engaging tribal people. Care and caution will be taken so that tourism does not adversely affect the local culture and environment.
- **Adaptation to climate change:** Innovative and sustainable adaptation strategies and methods will be ensured to protect people and the environment from hazards caused by climate change. A fund will be provided for adaptation to climate change and disaster mitigation.
- **Village/mouza community forest:** Village/mouza community forest will be created and expanded in the CHT to conserve biodiversity and the watersheds and ensure that people have access to water.
- **Afforestation:** A massive effort will be undertaken involving the local communities for afforestation over the region. Measures will be taken to protect wildlife and biodiversity.
- **Creeks, falls and water bodies:** Special initiatives will be undertaken to ensure the flow of water in creeks, water bodies and waterfalls by preserving the natural sources and integrated watershed management.