

**19th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South
Cooperation in Population and Development:
“South-South Cooperation and the ICPD@30: Accelerating the Move
Forward”**

By

**H.E. Mr. Zahid Maleque, PPD Board Member and Hon. Minister of
Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh**

Date & Time: Monday, 14 November 2022, 09.00 - 12.00

Venue: Pattaya 12 in Pattaya Exhibition and Convention Hall (PEACH),
Pattaya, Thailand

Excellencies, distinguished speakers, Ladies, and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be with you in this important PPD event that is organized here by PPD and UNFPA jointly. As the PPD Board Member I wish to thank the Government of Thailand for hosting this event.

Excellencies, Honorable PPD Board Members, UNFPA Representatives, and Ladies, and Gentlemen good morning.

As you are all aware ICPD Programme of Action acknowledges South-South Cooperation as a key strategy for achieving ICPD goals.

The Government of Bangladesh, particularly Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been supportive to promote SSC since ICPD at Cairo. Bangladesh has continued to extend the requisite technical, financial and logistic support to assist PPD. The PM of Bangladesh provided a piece of land, the value is more than 30 million USD. I must thank the member countries, particularly China, India, South Africa, Thailand, and Nigeria for their funding to construct a 6th storied PPD headquarter building on the given land.

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen

The contribution of PPD as the institute of SSC towards accelerating the achievement of ICPD and SDGs in PPD members countries through promoting SSC is significant which includes: national agenda for RH, population, and development, policy or strategy to address the ICPD and SDGs issues, national policy and strategy to realize the ICPD commitment.

Bangladesh has succeeded to decrease the annual population growth rate to 1.22% in 2022. The infant mortality rate showed a steady decline from 28 deaths per 1000 live births in 2009 to only 15 by 2020, while the under-five mortality rate declined from 50 per 1000 live births to 28 over the same period. The total Fertility Rate declined from 2.7 in 2009 to 2.04 in 2020. Sixty Four Percent of married women (15-49yrs) in Bangladesh used contraception in 2020. Maternal mortality declined rapidly from 259 in 2009 to 163 in 2020. For the achievement of ICPD and MDGs, our Honorable Prime Minister got the UN award 'UN MDG Awards 2010' and South-South Award 'Digital Health for Digital Development' in 2011 of which we are immensely proud of our achievement.

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen

The Covid-19 pandemic severely disrupted overall health services including the utilization of FP services, resources were diverted away from other essential health programs to deal with the outbreak in Bangladesh. A quick response, an early drive for vaccines, proper campaign management, and mass participation helped Bangladesh to control the spread and control the deaths from COVID-19. Our Prime Minister succeeded to manage quite well this COVID situation. Bangladesh is one of the 5th leading countries of the world that has ensured almost full vaccination of its total population, about 76% of the eligible population has been so far vaccinated. I must acknowledge the role of PPD in preventing COVID-19 in its member countries.

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen

Given the post-pandemic scenario, the political-economic crisis caused by the war in Ukraine, countries of the South are more vulnerable to national development, economic inflation, environment, unemployment, and access to reproductive healthcare for adolescents and youth, and women.

Today, many developing countries are at the greatest risk of climate change which is already impacting health in a myriad of ways, including by leading to death and illness from increasingly frequent extreme weather events.

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen

This is a pride opportunity for PPD to bring together the countries and they can share their experiences and help each other to address the post-COVID-19 challenges and Climate change risk.

And let us reaffirm our commitment to achieving the ICPD 2030 and SDGs 2030 Agendas – moving our world forward and leaving no one behind.

PPD should come up with a strategy to address the following:

1. Make more efforts in supporting the development of more effective Centers of Excellence on SSTC for population and development.
2. A south-south strategy to be made for addressing demographic diversity and harnessing fully the demographic dividend to drive continued, good, and inclusive economic growth in developing countries.
3. The member countries must regularize the contribution of their membership fees to PPD.
4. A south-south and triangular cooperation framework may be developed jointly by PPD-UNFPA for reducing and stabilizing the levels of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in mitigation and adapting to climate change and to stop the degradation of the environment and the use of greenhouse energy.

I must assure you my Prime Minister is committed to promoting SSC, and my colleagues are more committed than ever to ensuring a more productive PPD. Let us together move our world forward and leave no one behind.

Thank you.