

Statement by the Bangladesh delegation under Agenda item 2, 15

September 2009

Mr. President,

Navy Pillay

My delegation appreciates Madam ~~High Commissioner~~ *High Commissioner* for her briefing. This is not merely an update, ~~rather projected priority of her office in the next biennium as she has said.~~ *by the High Commissioner as it is used to be.* ~~We thank her for shading light on a spectrum of human rights issues across the world. Madam High Commissioner has~~ *She has* endeavored to offer us a global picture of human rights situation. Obviously, this is not an exhaustive account, ~~and this can not be so.~~ However, we appreciate her for bringing to us human rights concerns from all corners in a fair and impartial manner. We may not agree to all what have been said, but we should give her due credence for this non-selective approach.

Madam High Commissioner's statement once again validates the notion that no country or region can claim perfection in human rights records. And there is always scope for improvement. ~~The High Commissioner did not have any~~ *Presence of domestic remedy is very crucial.* ~~intention to compare our situation with the other or bring countries in the~~ *However, violations do continue to occur in countries having proper legal measures* ~~same line.~~ The scale and severity of violations would certainly vary from situation to situation, from country to country. But the very fact that violations do occur in all countries in all regions should bolster our collective resolve to improve human rights *globally.* Discriminatory practices against Roma community and migrants in Europe, treatment of indigenous peoples in America, prejudices against women in Africa and Asia and elsewhere, and all other egregious violations *whenever concerned to the due.* should be our common concern and dealt with all seriousness. We should first look at our courtyards before pointing

fingers at others. That's what I believe the message of the High Commissioners statement *today*

~~We have to deal with the root causes of violations. Is it ignorance, lack of education or empowerment, poverty, marginalization or sheer hatred. We need to find out ^{the causes} for undertaking effective corrective measures.~~

This has been reiterated ~~today~~ again
All rights are equally important. Undue emphasis on one group of rights at the behest of others *is unhelpful and also such a right* must be avoided. For example, freedom of expression is undoubtedly paramount. But freedom from want is no less important. In fact, more important in certain context, especially, in the face of global financial and economic crisis, which has ~~made the situation worse for~~ *affected* millions of poor *very badly.* As we promote freedom of movement within a country, we should not

turn our eyes away from movements across the border. The problems of cross border movement can no longer remain at the back ~~door~~. Madam High Commissioner has mentioned of a tragic incident ~~of death of prospective migrants~~ in the Mediterranean. This is not an isolated incident. Indeed, as she has said, all too often migrants encounter rejection at land borders.

Traffickers benefit from the absence of regular and legal process of migration, though there is a ~~large~~ demand for workforce in the destination countries. *We should facilitate regular migration for good reasons.*

to stop exploitation by the criminals.
[Finally, Madam High Commissioner reminded us of an important undertaking, review of the Human Rights Council and its works and methods. As this is an inter-Governmental process, we should start the ~~process at the earliest to avoid last minute rush.~~]

Let me conclude by sharing with you two of my observations. The issue of climate change is missing in otherwise a rich presentation. This issue is getting prominence, very rightly, in global discourse. In view of the high

expectation of the international community from the big event in Copenhagen later this year, all relevant organizations are contributing from their respective positions. It would have been fitting for the High Commissioner to say a few words about this global concern, ^{and engagement of her office on the matter} particularly since climate change has direct implications on the enjoyment of a whole range of human rights.

Another important omission in the High Commissioners statement is the reflection on the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner. Our primary objective of having the High Commissioner spoke before us is to get an overview on her activities and to have a dialogue. We hope to see this aspect duly included in the future briefings.

I thank you.