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Minutes of the 2nd National Steering Board meeting of Bangladesh Water Multi-Stakeholder Partnership

Chair : Mr. Mohammad Shafiul Alam, Cabinet Secretary

Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka

Date : 25th of June 2016 at 10.30 am

The second meeting of the National Steering Board (NSB) of Bangladesh Water Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) was held on June 25, 2016 at 10.30 am at the Surma Hall of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka. Mr. Mohammad Shafiul Alam, Cabinet Secretary, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh chaired the meeting. The attendance list is attached ^{the} appendix-A.

2. Welcome Remarks were made by Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Member Secretary of the NSB and Senior Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, highlighting the importance of water security and need to identify effective solutions. Dr. Khan mentioned that proper management of water resources is of utmost importance for our national development. It is time that the traditional thinking of government or the public sector as the sole investor in water infrastructure needs to change. The role of private sector and civil society is increasingly being recognized globally and these stakeholders need to be brought on-board in Bangladesh as well. The Ministry of Water Resources welcomes 2030 WRG's initiative to form the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership for Water to adopt a long-term view towards water security, operationalized through a systematic approach of assessing the cost-effectiveness of solutions. Dr. Khan emphasized on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 as special priority for Bangladesh. He mentioned that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss and decide on the concept notes. After his welcome address, he requested the Cabinet Secretary, Government of Bangladesh to chair the 2nd National Steering Board (NSB) meeting.
3. The opening remarks were made by Mr. Mohammad Shafiul Alam, Cabinet Secretary and Chair of the NSB. In his opening remarks Mr. Alam stressed the importance of water resources in Bangladesh's development and thanked the three Work-Streams for their diligent efforts in preparing the concept notes. He endorsed the welcome remarks made by Dr. Khan and declared the meeting open. After that he requested Mr. Sayef Tanzeem Qayyum, Coordinator Bangladesh Program, 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG) to make his presentation.
4. Mr. Sayef Tanzeem Qayyum, Coordinator, 2030 WRG, Bangladesh made a presentation providing the updates on the progress of the three Work-Streams and proposed agenda for the 2nd NSB meeting. This was followed by presentation and discussion of the following concept notes and Terms of Reference (ToR) as below:
 - a. **Presentation of Concept Note on Strengthening of Institutional Framework for Water Resources Management (WRM)** by Mr. Peter Ravenscroft, Consultant, 2030 WRG. Discussion was moderated by Prof. Ainun Nishat and Mr. Christoph Jakob. Issues raised by the participants include-
 - i. There should be appropriate regulatory framework in groundwater utilization for irrigation and other uses.
 - ii. In strengthening the institutional framework of the water sector, participation of every stakeholder including the farmers and communities needs to be considered.
 - iii. Lessons need to be learned from past attempts to strengthen WRM and also, proper follow up of the recommendations need to be there for any new initiative.

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