

## Intervention of the Bangladesh Delegation

Mr. President,

My delegation thanks three Special Rapporteurs for their respective presentations. In this connection, I would align my statement with what has been said yesterday by the distinguished delegate of Pakistan on behalf of OIC.

Mr. President,

Right to food is a basic human rights as well as a basic human need. Most countries recognize it. For more than 150 State parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, it is a legally binding obligation to take steps to respect, protect, facilitate and fulfill the right to food. This right is also enshrined in several other international human rights and treaties. Yet, more than 840 million people throughout the world suffer from hunger, as the Special Rapporteur reports. Nearly 40,000 children die every day due to malnutrition and its disease.

Enjoyment of right to food can be affected due to two reasons, no food available or food is available but can not be accessed. It is extremely disappointing that the world produces more than enough food to feed every children, woman and man. It is frustrating that many countries destroy their excess food grains or use these as bio-fuel whereas, millions of people stay hungry just beyond theirs borders. So our challenge is not only to ensure availability of sufficient food but also to establish access to food as a matter of right and entitlement. Article 2 (1) of ICESR stipulates, "State parties are duty bound to take steps individually or through international assistance and cooperation" in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. International cooperation is particularly important for the realization of right to food.

Mr. President,

The importance of freedom of opinion and expression as important human right can not be over-emphasized. The International Covenant on Civil, Political and

Cultural Rights delineates the scope of freedom of opinion and expression. If we read article 19 and article 20 in conjunction, we would understand that freedom is not absolute or infinite as some of us want to emphasize. It has to be exercised with responsibility and respect to others. As all human rights are interrelated and interdependent, this right should also coexist with other rights. In the exercise of freedom of expression, particular attention should be paid so that it does not cause incitement to racial or religious hatred. As the Article 20 (2) reads, "Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law. When some one defames a religion or religious personalities or symbols, he hurts the believers of that faith and impinges on his exercise of right to religion or belief.

Secondly, as a result of globalization and information technology, the people of all opinion, faiths or beliefs are now in greater proximity than they were ever before. Actions at national level do not necessarily confine within its boundary. So, the argument that local law permits such and such aspersion as a matter of freedom of opinion or expression does not stand to logic.

If we try to look into the objectives, what do we want to achieve by universal enjoyment of all human rights. It is to have a world, where individuals, groups or communities of different faiths, cultures, or races can coexist in peace and harmony and with dignity. As such it is not justifiable to resort to a practice that divides and polarize communities, societies, an action that foment enmity and hatred. If there is a juridical gap perceived to have existed, that should be bridged at the earnest through a dialogue. We stand ready to be a party to such dialogue.