**UN Sustainable Development Summit 2015,**

**25-27 September, UNHQ, New York**

**Interactive Dialogue 1: Ending Poverty and Hunger**

**12.00 – 3.00PM, 25 September 2105**

**Speech of**

**Mosharraf Hossain, Director of Policy Influencing, ADD International**

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The sustainable development summit is a historic event, as now economic and social development promises to be inclusive of all.

The only way to end poverty and hunger is by ensuring participation of the most marginalised people in the implementation of the SDGs. I mean their participation in the decision-making process.

While the MDGs achieved a lot, they failed to reach the bottom 10% leaving the most marginalized excluded. Today, 8 in 10 people with disabilities in developing countries live in poverty. Only 10% of children with disabilities in the Asia and Africa go to school. This exclusion must stop.

As Mahatma Ghandi said, ***No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive***. It’s a milestone of human history that the overarching aim of the SDGs is ***Leave No-one Behind.***

Now we need local and global solidarity. We need

* partnership between people of north and south
* ownership by marginalized people at the grassroots level
* and participation of people with disabilities so that no groups are at risk of being left behind.

Working in partnership with marginalised people, we have to look at the barriers they face. Only they can tell us how to overcome these barriers. So we need to work in partnership with them to end poverty and hunger.

We need their participation from the grassroots to the global level:

**Firstly,** member states should engage people with disabilities to develop national and regional targets of the SDGs.

**Secondly,** at the grassroots level, the participation of marginalized people is imperative, as they know their community and what works for them. Member states must ensure they are included in the decisions that affect their lives.

The foundation of the disability movement is **“*Nothing about us, without us”.***

**Finally,** We must have representation in the global platform. The United Nations should ensure participation of women, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, children, youth, ethnic minorities and others in the **High Level Political Forum** to review progress of the SDGs based on data disaggregated by sex, age and disability.

The targets of SDGs will only be met if all segments of society - political, economic and social - reach an agreement to bring transformational change in the lives of every citizen.

This time we need the development goals to work for everybody and only by targeting the most marginalised can we succeed. Thank you.

**Bio of Mosharraf Hossain**

Mosharraf Hossain is one of the Civil Society global speakers for the UN Sustainable Development Summit 2105. He will speak on the participation of persons with disabilities and marginalized people for implementation of SDGs on Friday, 25th September. He leads ADD International policy influencing work globally. He worked 20 years as Country Director of ADD Bangladesh.

He was denied job in Bangladesh Civil Service for his physical disability, but he changed the discriminatory policies of the country, and promoted rights and dignity of persons with disabilities nationally and international. Born in Bangladesh, Mr Hossain is graduated in Public Administration from John F Kennedy School Government of Harvard University. He is a wheelchair user. He will be contacted at e-mail: [Mosharraf.hossain@add.org.uk](mailto:Mosharraf.hossain@add.org.uk), and mobile +447769338520.