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Statement at the Launch of Preparations
for the International Year of Forests 2011

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"Honorable Chairman Director, UNFF Honorable Ministers Distinguished Guests Activists, friends from around the globe Good morning

Thanks to UNFF, the key body to promote sustainable forestry worldwide, for its very timely actions for this sick planet.

I arrived here from Bangladesh with golden sunlight on 14 April, but on the following morning's sudden stormy rainfall remind me that mother earth is sick.

Today's environmental challenge is largely beyond the capacity of any individual country.

The voice from Nairobi regarding the UNEP's "The Billion Tree Campaign", Prof. Wangari Maathai, founder of the Green Belt Movement & 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and the UNFF traveled to Bangladesh with strong message and finally it brought me here. Thanks to Mexico's President, Felipe Calderon, for his boundless enthusiasm, courage and leadership through pledging 250 million trees for the Billion Tree Campaign that inspired me a lot to go for "The Million Tree Campaign" in my country.

Recently I have initiated along with my friends and some earth lovers "The Million Tree Campaign" with a vehicle we call it "Child Forest Campaign or Movement". We targeted to plant 1 million trees by 1 million children.

For future needs should we have to develop a whole generation of environmentalists?

In past decade 130 millions hectares of forest, which is 9 times equal to Bangladesh was lost and unfortunately it happens after Rio Declaration in 1992. Now it requires 14 billions of trees per year for consecutive 10 years to recover the loss. But how many to replenish the earth is yet to be calculated.

I urge the global communities to quicken the process as we some low lying countries are on the verge of submergence. Once I could sense 6 seasons, but now it is chaotic and hardly I can taste 4 bad seasons. Rests of the 2 seasons have been lost to the ferocity of nature. "Child Forest Campaign (CFC)" in Bangladesh is intended to develop sustainable leadership. In Bangladesh as well as in developing countries each child had born indebted. Want to remind you the extraordinary deal between France and Cameroon that would reduce the debt burden of Cameroon. Under that agreement Cameroon will invest at least \$25 Million of its debt to France instead of having to pay it back. We even think that may happen to any developing and indebted countries like Bangladesh.

My thinking with child and youth leadership for environment is now the demand of this sick planet. If we really want to avoid the sorrowful event of human race extinction we have to behave like ecologist. We must not forget that we are born ecologists.

Environmental governance is needed now to rule the politics. Politics should not rule the environment any more. It is the demand of the ailing planet. Let's realize it by heart. Earth can't afford to wait for further degradation.

My career of voluntarism started with the young people through participating and organizing people for environmental causes. Gradually it had gone through different stages. My BanChashi Nursery

first thought about the "Child Forest Campaign (CFC)" and only few organizations came forward like Organization of Art for Children (OACH). Later on a number of organizations as well as different social entities like "Pangaea", Dedication for Integrated Development (DID), "Ganwala" a folk cultural organization, "Geonics Production" a media organizations, some environmental activists and journalists came to coalesce together to form a common platform called "Green Bangla Coalition (GBC)" under the parental care from the "Centre for Agri-research and Sustainable Environment & Entrepreneurship Development (CASEED)". Now this seedling has already grown to a sapling.

Dear Friends,

I must not forget to agree that this forum gave me the inspiration through inviting me here and that is the real turning point for my future large scale venture. My friends, and fellow activists from around the globe have already shown their keen interest to the million child forest campaign.

Today I am honored to the highest level in my entire life of voluntarism and it would remain as a milestone inspiration for me to stick strongly to my vision that I am carrying and doing things at local level for the global reasons.

I would also like to remind few grassroots level farmers who are doing things for the conservation development and those they realized by their own heart. One of them transformed 5 villages into the medicinal villages and another one planted numerous trees over the last 4 decades picking the wildings and uncared seedlings from around the villages where he lives. They are my real inspiration. Also not want to miss to thank to some great professors in my country who have tried to shape my enthusiasm in a very positive direction. Our Million Tree Campaign is planned to be done on 3 vehicles mainly; "Child Forest Campaign (CFC)", "Neem Health Ring (NHR)" and "Village to Village Campaign (VVC)". You must be aware that Neem is one of the most wonderful tree species on earth and remedy for the global problems. Surrounding the cities by this species could heal the climate change impacts on the cities. Village to village campaign would disseminate the proper information to the people. We have targeted to visit 1,000 villages across the country and would stay their for 1 day in each one. Hope it would help people to create buffer forestry. It would take us 1,000 days and that would coincide the time 2011, the "International Year of the Forest". At last want to urge the global communities through UNFF that let's be more careful about forests. Let's stop cutting trees, let's create buffer forestry in the villages to really make it meaningful. Lets do necessary to stop melting the icecap of Kilimanjaro, Himalaya, Andes and Rocky, because they are the nerve of the whole planetary ecosystem.

I would like to finish with the words of Greatest Kenyan Maathai, "When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and seeds of hope".

So, let's hold the peace tight for our existence. Let's leave a healthy planet for our upcoming generation.

Match Children's Watch.....Let's look through the eyes of the children that can heal the wound of this planet.

Thanks you all.""