

# Bangladesh Denmark

JOINT ACTION PLAN  
(2023 - 2028)

Sustainable and  
Green Framework  
Engagement

2023  
2028



# Bangladesh-Denmark Joint Action Plan (2023-2028)

## Sustainable and Green Framework Engagement

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## Introduction

Celebrating 50 years of partnership between Bangladesh and Denmark, on 25 April 2022, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh H.E. Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen and the Minister of Development Cooperation of Denmark, H.E. Flemming Møller Mortensen signed a “Sustainable and Green Framework Engagement” with the aim to explore ways to expand and strengthen the bilateral relations and cooperation underpinned by mutual interests, common values and a commitment to upholding the rules-based international system needed for prosperity and peaceful co-existence.

The Bangladesh-Denmark Sustainable and Green Framework Engagement is a mutually beneficial partnership that will help advance political cooperation, expand economic relations and green growth, create jobs, strengthen cooperation on global challenges, and contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Changes and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Framework Engagement builds on the involvement of a wide range of public and private stakeholders.

This Action Plan has been drawn up as stipulated in the Framework Engagement, section 2.i. It aims to cover the main focus and mechanisms for operationalizing the Framework Engagement, reflecting the width and depth of the partnership between Bangladesh and Denmark. Monitoring, stock-taking of progress as well as updating the Joint Action Plan will take place as envisaged in the Framework Engagement.

The Joint Action Plan was approved by Bangladeshi and Danish authorities at the Foreign Secretary/State Secretary-level Bilateral Political Consultations held on 9 June 2023 in Copenhagen. The Joint Action Plan was launched by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of Bangladesh, H.E. Md. Shahab Uddin, MP and the Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy of Denmark, H.E. Dan Jørgensen on 13 June 2023 in Dhaka.

## 1. Green Political Cooperation

At a time when the liberal international order, free and fair trade, and global institutions are being changed and challenged, strengthening bilateral and multilateral political cooperation is of increasing importance. Bangladesh and Denmark are both democracies committed to sustainable and rules-based global development, and there is a potential for even closer political and economic cooperation in the international arena. Similarly, Bangladesh and Denmark share concerns for the global climate and biodiversity in accordance with the Paris Climate Agreement.

As maritime nations, Bangladesh and Denmark share maritime interests and priorities, including clean and safe shipping. Bangladesh and Denmark will continue to explore opportunities for working closer together, both bilaterally and in relevant organisations such as the IMO, and for launching joint initiatives to promote bilateral trade, innovation and a green transformation of the global maritime industry.

#	Task	Action	Framework and main partners
1.	Ensure oversight of the present Joint Action Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct annual meetings of Joint Committee to oversee implementation of the Joint Action Plan.</li> <li>• Conduct regular political consultations to take stock and revise the status of the present Joint Action Plan. Presently, the meetings shall be held bi-annually at the level of Foreign Secretary/State Secretary.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Denmark</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka</p> <p><b>Bangladesh</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Copenhagen</p>
2.	Strengthen political relations by promoting regular high-level exchanges and dialogue including through meetings in the margins of international and regional fora.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold regular bilateral meetings in the margins of UNGA, COP, and other multilateral fora whenever possible.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Denmark</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka</p> <p><b>Bangladesh</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Copenhagen</p>
3.	Promote Climate and green transition in multilateral fora.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take joint initiatives on the climate agenda, as relevant, e.g. in the margins of COPs and other international and regional climate fora, incl. engage in dialogue on Green Climate Fund, Loss &amp; Damage,</li> </ul>	<p><b>Denmark</b> Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities</p> <p><b>Bangladesh</b></p>

		and other forms of climate financing, underpinned by a strong local dialogue.	<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Economic Relations Division</b>
4.	Work together for strong and comprehensive green relations between Bangladesh and EU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active involvement, especially on climate-related issues, from both sides at the Bangladesh-EU Dialogue, as well as in future Bangladesh-EU Summits or similar occasions.</li> </ul>	<b>Denmark</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka  <b>Bangladesh</b> <b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Embassy in Brussels</b>
5.	Strengthen informal cooperation in the International Maritime Organisation on climate and environmental issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ad hoc informal dialogue and cooperation on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, unlawful bilge dumping from ships and on related International Maritime Organisation regulation.</li> <li>Explore other cooperation in IMO</li> </ul>	<b>Denmark</b> Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, including Danish Maritime Authority  <b>Bangladesh</b> <b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Shipping</b>
6.	Promote partnerships, cooperation and investments in green shipping, maritime connectivity and port development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore commercial opportunities between Danish and Bangladeshi companies in the maritime sector.</li> </ul>	<b>Denmark</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka  <b>Bangladesh</b> Ministry of Shipping Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)
7.	Promote partnership on Blue Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore collaboration in the field of Blue Economy</li> </ul>	<b>Denmark</b> <b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka</b>  <b>Bangladesh</b> <b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b>

## 2. Circular Economy - Environment, Water, and Energy

Water scarcity and pollution call for taking a circular economy approach to managing water, energy and resources sustainably. Sustainable water resource management, water efficiency and minimizing water loss are key to ensure that the required water resources are available for delivery of safe and adequate drinking water to every household. Furthermore, decoupling of economic growth from water and energy consumption and other environmental pressures will be an increasingly important element in sustainable development in a world of population growth, urbanisation and climate change.

The acceleration of the global green transition to combat climate change and generate a sustainable economy and work force are amongst the greatest and imminent global challenges. Denmark and Bangladesh are both green frontrunners in different technical areas and can therefore benefit greatly from strong bilateral cooperation on green energy transition, renewable energy and energy efficiency, in accordance with the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

#	Task	Action	Framework and main partners
7.	Cooperation on sustainable and clean drinking water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Saidabad III Water Treatment Plant in accordance with established process and through close cooperation between Danish and Bangladeshi stakeholders to create world class access to safe water (DSIF funding)</li> <li>• Explore investment options to realize Padma Water Distribution project development while maintaining the minimal environmental impact</li> <li>• Support water, sanitation and hygiene interventions in host communities in Cox's Bazar (HYSAWA)</li> <li>• Explore cooperation on flood and low flow predictions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Denmark</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka</p> <p><b>Bangladesh</b> <b>Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives</b> <b>Ministry of Water Resources</b> <b>Economic Relations Division</b></p>
8.	Cooperation within environment, resource efficiency and circular economy, incl. promotion of innovation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support IFC Partnership for Cleaner Textiles to accelerate green industrial transition and prepare new phase.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Denmark</b> Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support a research project (incl. Ph.D, students) on circular economy in Bangladesh’s apparel Industry (CREATE) between Aalborg University, Ahsanullah University and BGMEA among other stakeholders</li> <li>• Support the research project (incl. Ph.D. students) on Climate Change and Global Value Chains in Bangladesh between Copenhagen Business School (CBS) and University of Dhaka (DU) and other stakeholders.</li> <li>• Strive for annual B2B promotion trips between DK and BD.</li> <li>• Exchange experiences on protection and enforcement of IPR with particular focus on green technologies.</li> <li>• Improve contact between Danish and Bangladeshi industry and authorities to share knowledge on market conditions and green technology including in the field of water from a perspective of resource efficiency and circular economy.</li> <li>• Dialogue between businesses and authorities on leveraging energy and resource efficiency technologies for improving industrial competitiveness in select industries.</li> <li>• Explore cooperation to promote circularity in the RMG sector as part of improved competitiveness and greening (P4-CFP)</li> <li>• Support development of BRAC-Grundfos hybrid water treatment for wastewater treatment project.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bangladesh</b>  Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Copenhagen  Ministry of Commerce  Ministry of Textiles and Jute  Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives  Ministry of Industries  Ministry of Water Resources  Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources  Economic Relations Division</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore utility to utility technical cooperation between DWASA and Danish water utility</li> <li>• Explore the possibility of a Strategic Sector Cooperation, eg. in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ waste to energy from wastewater treatment plant. sewerage treatment for sustainable waste management and recycling</li> <li>○ storm and wastewater handling plans</li> <li>○ wind energy</li> <li>○ solar irrigation pumps</li> <li>○ industrial energy efficiency</li> <li>○ restoration of the Meghna River</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
9.	Cooperation on social sustainability, research & development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue Strategic Sector Cooperation in Social Sustainability (Occupational Health and Safety)</li> <li>• Establish cooperation with ILO on implementing the Government of Bangladesh's EU National Action Plan (NAP) on the labour sector of Bangladesh (2021 -2026)</li> <li>• Research cooperation between University of Southern Denmark, Bangladesh University of Health Sciences (BUHS) and other stakeholders on Safety and Health and Audit Practices in Bangladesh.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Denmark</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka</p> <p><b>Bangladesh</b> <b>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</b> <b>Ministry of Labour and Employment</b></p>
10.	Mobilise Danish, Bangladeshi, and international financing sources to finance pilot, demonstration and proof of concept projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore options to finance pilot, demonstration and proof-of-concept projects in water sector, and match Danish funding sources with projects in a way that optimises allocation of expertise and resources.</li> <li>• Examples: 1) Suez+EKF Green Accelerator 2) Grundfos-BRAC+Climate Partnership</li> </ul>	<p><b>Denmark</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka</p> <p><b>Bangladesh</b> <b>Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change</b> <b>Ministry of Water Resources</b></p>



### 3. Green Food and Agriculture

During the sixth World Food Summit 2022 in Denmark, Bangladesh and Denmark, among others, committed to supporting the process of transforming the current food systems in an effort to combat the growing effects of climate change. Given the immense potential to collaborate in the agricultural sector, the Sustainable and Green Cooperation encourages deeper and closer cooperation between authorities, businesses, and research institutions in the sectors of food production and processing, food safety and reduction of food waste as well as animal husbandry and dairying.

#	Task	Action	Framework and main partners
11.	Explore cooperation and investment in sustainable food and agriculture projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish Strategic Sector Cooperation (SSC) between Danish and Bangladeshi food authorities with a view to greening livestock production, focus on food safety and food waste and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>Explore developing a joint platform for planning and implementing a national cold chain network in Bangladesh</li> <li>Explore investment in 200 Paddy Food silos to reduce waste and CO2, increase economic output and higher incomes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Denmark</b> Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka</p> <p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka</p> <p><b>Bangladesh</b> Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Food Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock</p>
12.	Promote dialogue, research, information exchange, and cooperation in agricultural value chains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement development project aiming at connecting farmers to value chains in collaboration with IFAD. Support research project, incl. Ph.D. students, on Climate-Friendly and Climate-Resilient Prawn Farming in Bangladesh (Ecoprawn) between the University of Copenhagen (UCPH) and Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU),</li> </ul>	<p><b>Denmark</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka</p> <p><b>Bangladesh</b> Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Economic Relations Division</p>
13.	Explore the possibility of cooperation on antimicrobial resistance mitigation in the food sector based on collaboration with the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Danish support to ICARS dialogue with relevant BD authorities with potential for co-development of antimicrobial resistance mitigation intervention</li> </ul>	<p><b>Denmark</b> Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries</p>

	International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS) to avoid that AMR becomes the next pandemic.	and research projects in Bangladesh in partnership between BD and ICARS.	<b>Bangladesh</b> Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Ministry of Food
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#### 4. Climate Change Adaptation

Adaptation to climate change remains a crucial undertaking for Bangladesh. Denmark will together with other partners, continue to support interventions designed to protect local vulnerable communities against the consequences of climate change.

#	Task	Action	Framework and main partners
14.	Increase capacity of local and national stakeholders to plan and implement locally-led climate adaptation solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support UNDP to implement a locally led climate adaptation project (Logic) ensuring participation of community, local and national government agencies, leading to BD accessing the Green Climate Fund.</li> <li>Explore cooperation in conducting vulnerability assessment, coastal zone management, ecosystem-based adaptation, sustainable land and forest management, preservation of biodiversity hotspots and knowledge sharing and capacity building</li> </ul>	<b>Denmark</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka  <b>Bangladesh</b> <b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b> <b>Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change</b> Ministry of Local Government, rural Development and Cooperatives Economic Relations Division

## 5. Sustainable, Green and Smart Cities

The rapid urbanisation urgently calls for developing, testing and establishing best practices for sustainable and liveable cities. Denmark and Bangladesh will cooperate on sustainable and smart urban development with a view to promoting a circular economy, creating sustainable, smart and liveable cities. Case studies, pilot projects, and proof of concepts that are tested in the private sector and under city cooperation projects will be shared for up-scaling.

#	Task	Action	Framework and main partners
15.	Exchange information and best practices on how to create sustainable, green and liveable cities and on the smart solutions required to support this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce opportunities for Green Buildings with Danish solutions to address transition to sustainable and green construction and buildings</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to build partnerships on green and smart cities, including on knowledge and technology for preventing creation of urban heat islands and keeping cities cool</li> </ul>	<p><b>Denmark</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka</p> <p><b>Bangladesh</b> Ministry of Housing and Public Works Ministry of Local government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA)</p>

## 6. Green Business, Financing and Investment

Denmark and Bangladesh have a great potential for a green transformation while growing the respective economies, create green jobs and increase bilateral trade. Cooperation in the field of trade and business is relevant in a bilateral setting, but also multilaterally, working together for an open rule-based multilateral trading system.

#	Task	Action	Framework and main partners
16.	Improve conditions for the establishment and operation of Bangladeshi and Danish enterprises on the two markets, not least to promote green growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement MoU on PPP cooperation for promoting investments in sustainable and green infrastructure</li> <li>• In the framework of EU-BD dialogue engage in technical consultations on financial incentives, mechanisms and conducive framework conditions for ease of doing business, promoting green transition and innovation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Denmark</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka</p> <p><b>Bangladesh</b> <b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Copenhagen</b> <b>Ministry of Commerce</b> <b>Public Private Partnership Authority (PPPA)</b></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dialogue in relevant fora in order to solve specific issues and challenges that hold back trade and investment between the two countries.</li> </ul>	<b>Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)</b> <b>Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA)</b>
17.	Establish cooperation between the Government of Bangladesh and EKF (Denmark's Export Credit Agency) to explore and develop innovative government-to-government financing instruments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the potential for government-to-government financial instruments as Bangladesh transitions to a middle income country to accelerate realisation of Bangladeshi green infrastructure needs</li> </ul>	<b>Denmark</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Dhaka  <b>Bangladesh</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Copenhagen Finance Division