

# **Bangladesh: International donors and NGOs marginalise national actors in Rohingya response effort**

Demanding positive facilitation from Government, UN agencies and INGOs in establishing leading role of local NGO

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## **Bangladeshi NGO CSOs Announce their Own Charter of Accountability and Charter of Expectations**



National Press Club □ □□□□ □□□□□ □□□□□.

Dhaka, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2019. Today Bangladesh NGO CSO Coordination Process (BD CSO Coordination) in cooperation with COAST Trust organized a press conference in the national press club titled “There is no alternative of localization of development and humanitarian aid: Greater unity of CSO NGOs are needed”.

Mr. Barkat Ullah Maruf described the background of the two year’s process or mobilizing CSO NGOs across the country and its final culmination through a national convention on 6<sup>th</sup> July in Dhaka participated by 700 NGO leaders from across the country and 20 international guests. He spoke about development effectiveness and localization, which are the base of international agreements like Grand Bargain and Charter for Change signed by all UN agencies and almost all INGOs, though that is being hardly implemented by them. Importance and leading role of local NGOs CSOs have been accepted on those agreements, he added. During the conference CSO NGO’s charter of accountability and charter of expectations have had adopted and announced which are prepared through a bottom up process.

Ms. Masuda Faruque Ratna explained the Self-Accountability Charter of the NGOs with its 8 points. The Accountability Charter is titled “We are accountable to our values and to the affected population”.

Mr. Nayeem Gowhar Wahra of Disaster Forum introduced the Charter of Expectations titled “Dignity in our space, Inclusiveness and complementarity.” The expectations from the government, donors, UN agencies and INGOs include use of Bangla among all UN agencies and INGOs having interventions in Bangladesh, Complaint Response Mechanism, Official recognition of NGO-CSO work, technical assistance for the leadership of local NGOs, establishing capacity convergence and investment for accountability and transparency.

Mr Rafiqul Islam of FNB said that, it is pity that UN agencies and INGOs are leading the Rohingya response keeping Bangladeshi NGOs CSO aside who have proven track record of disaster management.

Mr. Rafiqul Islam of ADAB and ED of DUS said that Bangladeshi local NGOs CSOs who also participated in liberation war have sufficient capacity to lead any disaster and development initiatives, but some of UN agencies and INGOs are ignoring it.

Mr. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury urged media to spread the charters to promote critical mass on the issues and supporting NGOs CSOs to grow as sustainable organizations with localization instead of corporatization.

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## **P.S.**

The press conference was moderated by Mr. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of COAST and BD CSO Coordination secretariat while other speakers were Mr. Rafiqul Islam of FNB (Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh), Mr Rafiqul Islam of ADAB (Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh) and DUS (Dwip Unnayan Sangsta), Mr Nayeem Gowhar Wahra of Disaster Forum, Ms. Masuda Faruque Ratna Convener of Dhaka division of BD CSO Coordination and GBSS, and Mr. Badrul Alam of Bangladesh Krishok Federation. Mr. Barkat Ullah Maruf of BD CSO Coordination secretariat read out the position paper, while Mr Mostafa Kamal Akanda of COAST gave the welcome speech.

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