**Press Release**

BUILD/03/2021/133 Date: March 9, 2021

**Committee for Green Growth & Recycling to be formed for Achieving Industrial Sustainability**

The 3rd Sustainability and Green Growth Working Committee (SGGWC) took place on March 9, 2021 virtually to discuss different tools and Policies for Extended Producers Responsibilities(EPR) for the plastic sector. The meeting was presided over by Ziaul Hasan ndc, Secretary of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of Bangladesh while Wasim Zakariah, Chairman of Standing Committee on Research & Development, BGMEA was present.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) will work closely with BUILD as well as other relevant stakeholders to ensure an effective policy on Extended Producer Responsibility for the plastic sector, said the Environment Secretary.

He added that we will form two new sub-committees on recycling and green growth under the existing Sustainability and Green Growth Working Committee (SGGWC). The two new platforms should hold regular discussions and deliberations on critical issues on sustainable development in the private sector.

We are seriously concerned over the issue of pollution control, in that respect in 2018 there was a SRO on EPR but it could not play proper role, he said.

BUILD Chairperson Abul Kasem Khan said that in addition to recycling and management of waste, we also need to promote green growth through diversification and wider adoption of environment-friendly models and solutions such as jute-based pulp, bamboo-based fiber, bio-fuel from waste, and so on. Citing the example of neighboring countries that are coming up with innovative and sustainable business solutions, he underscored the importance of close and regular cooperation among public and private sector through the SGGWC and its two proposed sub-committees.

At the beginning of the meeting, BUILD CEO Ferdaus Ara Begum updated the meeting with the progress achieved in implementation of decisions of the Sustainability and Green Growth Working Committee. She mentioned that the Bangladesh Bank has revised the provisions and design of the Green Transformation Fund to make it more accessible for all manufacturers-exporters for importing environment-friendly machinery. The Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has issued a SRO to get the battery-run electric vehicles registered.

Md. Tahmid Zami, Additional Research Director of BUILD made a presentation on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in the Plastic Sector of Bangladesh. Citing the growth of per capita use of plastic waste in urban areas of Bangladesh, he mentioned that the country should follow the footsteps of more than sixty countries around the world that have adopted some model of EPR to combat the growing menace of mismanaged plastic waste. The government’s EPR policy should address how to upgrade the waste collection efficiency, expand plastic recycling capacity, and ensure regular stakeholder cooperation on the multi-faceted problem. The plastic industry is a high-priority sector for export diversification and it needs proper incentives, finance and technology to ensure its export competitiveness as well as proper waste management.

Wasim Zakariah, Chairman of Standing Committee on Research & Development, BGMEA endorsed the formation of two committees so that comprehensive policies in these two important areas can be framed. He also added that rather sectoral incentives it should be based on the contribution of recycle of the sector/business have been able to do. The government may come up with policy incentives for RMG factories in order to promote waste management of plastic. Besides, we do not have any kind of chemical safety management policy in place that resulting in accidents around our industry. He also urged the Government to form a platform that will be responsible for recycling of all kinds of wastes.

Arif Faisal, Programme Specialist at UNDP Bangladesh said that the Government can make a action plan for next 10 years on the SDG-12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production. For control of single-use plastic, market-based solutions should be adopted in the coming days.

Muhammad Rashed from BSCIC mentioned that the government has taken all necessary measures for establishment of the plastic industrial park which should be complete within the next one and a half year.

Nazmul Hassan, President of Bangladesh Pet Flakes Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BPFMEA) suggested that PET bottles should have some engraving or traceable mark that would enable recyclers to understand whether those are made from virgin plastic or from recycled material.

Syeda Masarrat Quader, Regional Sustainability Manager of H&M mentioned that on top of plastic recycling, we should also take immediate measures to ensure recycling of other materials such as pre- and post-consumer waste in the textile sector. Bangladesh should quickly take steps to expand its recycling capacity for textile like other countries like China, India, Vietnam, Turkey, etc.

Shamim Ahmed, former President of Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BPGMEA) mentioned that banning plastic solutions without alternatives won’t be feasible while financial tools like imposing levy on single-use plastic could be more effective. Mr. Narayan Dey, Secretary of BPGMEA urged on speedy completion of the plastic industrial park.

Prof. Engineer Abu Bakr Siddique, Dean at BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology mentioned that he has developed solutions for producing various usable material from recycled plastic. Swapan Kumer Ray, Principal Scientist of BCSIR said that he has already developed solutions for aggregate modification of various waste including plastic for producing construction material.

Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha, Executive Director of Waste Concern urged on speedy approval of the Urban Waste Management and Handling Rule that would provide a legal basis to implement EPR. Upstream management would be the only sustainable solution for plastic waste.

Shamim Alrazi, Additional Secretary of the Environment Ministry mentioned that the BEST project supported by the World Bank will include a component to implement required measures for waste recycling.

Mr Nazmul Hasan, Director of Department of DOE put emphasis on Green Budget and requested BUILD to support in that respect. He further suggested that there is a Technical Committee in DOE on EPR where BUILD can be a member. Refering proposals of BUILD in the earlier meeting he informed that Battery recycling policy has been updated.

The meeting was also attended by representatives from BSTI, BIDA, Ministry of Water Resources, Finance Division, Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Unilever, and so on.



Sincerely yours,

**Ferdaus Ara Begum**∣ CEO ∣ BUILD ∣ Mob: 01714102994, ∣Email: ceo@buildbd.org∣ [www.buildbd.org](http://www.buildbd.org)