Press Release

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**BUILD presents a National Logistics Development Policy Framework at Prime Minister’s Office**

Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) presented the National Logistics Development Policy (NLDP) Framework on 31 August 2022 at the third meeting of the Logistics Infrastructure Development Working Committee co-chaired by Md. Tofazzel Hossain Miah, Senior Secretary of Prime Minister’s Office, and Abul Kasem Khan, Former Chairperson of BUILD. Ms Zakia Sultana, Secretary, Ministry of Industries, was also present.

Welcoming the stakeholders from the public and private sectors, Md. Tofazzel Hossain Miah appreciated the role of the Ministry of Industries for including logistics as the thrust sector, which was approved in the cabinet recently and is holistically a new component following the recommendations of the committee secretarial services of which is being given by BUILD. The benefits of including logistics as a Thrust Sector will theoretically work out, and this would be a paradigm shift for the country in the future.

We would like to draft the logistics policy as the next step, and once the policy is in place, we will go for implementation, boosting the growth, said he.

Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD, in her keynote presentation, informed that there is no alternative to the development of a synchronised multimodal logistics management system to reach USD 2.5 trillion economy size and USD 1.02 trillion in investment by 2041 as logistics has been treated as the key factor to take investment decisions. Besides, implementing the National Logistics Development Policy could be a way to ensure sustainable growth of the logistics sub-sectors.

Md Jashimuddin, President, FBCCI, informed that once the draft is shared with them, they will work to gather their comments on the policy and will be ready to extend all supports.

Underscoring more enagement from both public and private sectors, Abul Kasem Khan, Co-Chair of the committee, extended thanks to everybody for working together on the policy, which is very much required as logistics is the number one issue for supporting business.

Mahbubul Alam, President, CCCI, suggested establishing a Truck Terminal in each and every port so that transportation and communication are easier.

Chairperson, BUILD Nihad Kabir viewed that we need to be more ambitious in fixing the target of logistics cost reduction so we can challenege ourselves. She suggested bringing NBR on board from the beginning and taking care of WTO-related issues as we will graduate by 2026.

Rizwan Rahman, President of DCCI, said there would be a need to organise sub-sectoral FGDs, and responsibilities can be shared in that respect. Bonded ware facilities are different for different sectors which can be linked with the policy.

Dr Masrur Reaz, Chairman, Policy Exchange, thanked BUILD for developing a policy and suggested an integrated angle for each subsector.

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce suggested including land ports along with seaports for planning strategies.

Naquib Khan, President, Supply Chain Management, suggested including the lead time issue along with the cost calculation.

Nusrat Baby, Transport specialist World Bank emphasised bringing convergence in all sectoral logistics issues and expressed their desire to extend all support for research and development in having a good logistics sector.

Mohammad Lutfullah, Senior Private Sector Specialist of IFC told that formal inclusion of logistics sector by the Cabinet in the industrial policy is much appreciated recognition from the Government. For this, we from the LIDWC would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the Government and Prime Minister's Office in particular.

A number government officials from the Ministry of Industries, civil aviation, planning, railways, shipping, PPP authority, BIDA, and Bridge Division, among others, were present. While private sector representatives from the Shipper Council of Bangladesh, Freight Forwarder Association, etc., committee members, were present and interacted in the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

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