I’m Md Abdul Jolil from Bangladesh. Bangladesh is a beautiful country of South Asia – with a glorious history and cultural diversity.

I’m working on Dhrubotara Youth Development Foundation. Dhrubotara Youth Development Foundation (DYDF) is the best youth organization – of the Bangladesh, recognized by Ministry of Youth & Sports, Bangladesh. DYDF is working last seventeen years for youth empowerment and a positive change in society relate with SDGs. DYDF is also largest youth organization of the Bangladesh, it’s working in all over the Bangladesh.

UNCCD COP13- Youth Forum is a great platform. It is gratifying to note that the agenda of conference covers a wide range of very important items such as- SDG 15.3 as well as sustainable land management & many more.

Let’s come to the point. We all are aware that, the goal 15 targeted on managing forests sustainably, restoring degraded lands and successfully combating desertification, reducing degraded natural habitats and ending biodiversity loss.

To fulfill those targets, first of all, the people should be sincere because behind the scene of every disaster or calamity people are liable directly or indirectly. Bangladesh is a victim country of climate change, 43 lac people under water- by historical flood, everyday our land are going under sea/ river water. Our pure water resources are losing, sea-level increasing, soil became more dry day by day- my organization DYDF continue working for livelihood development of victim people, but fund is big challenge and we need global support. Specially to achieving SDG 15.3 – investment in Bangladesh as well as other developing country is required. Land and water is a big issue now.

If we talk about desertification we can see that, the soil becomes dry, groundwater is decreasing day by day as well as cultivation & wildlife are hampered.

Moreover, desertification is a burning problem in Asia. Comparing recent attitudes, Desertification is going to be the greatest challenge for Bangladesh. It is predicted that, about 43 percent of the total geographical area is affected by various forms & degrees of degradation. One statistics shows that, between 1960 and 1991, drought occurred nineteen times in Bangladesh. Overexploitation of its natural resources has gradually been converting this beautiful green land into an arid and environmentally
catastrophic country. Besides, Bangladesh is one of the 10 countries worldwide with the highest percentage of population living in low-lying coastal zones.

UNDP’s 1995 Report on Human Development in Bangladesh - Environment identified that the growing population’s demands, along with other related demands for agriculture and industry, are seemingly devouring natural resources at an alarming rate without replenishment. Land issue is a big challenge for development plan of my country. Coastal areas have a lot of sufferings.

Frankly, climate change & over exploitation are the hot topic for the recent desertification. Incremental and rapid ecological change, resulting in decreased droughts, desertification, sea level rise and the more frequent occurrence of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, cyclones, fires, mass flooding and tornadoes are the reasons of such disasters. Mindless withdrawal of river water and unbridled extraction of groundwater have put the northern part of Bangladesh at a risk of desertification. Naturally, 54 major rivers have entered into Bangladesh, an almost horizontal floodplain, from mountains & hills of upper riparian countries.

To get out of this, people should plant trees more and more. But what is happening in reality? People engaged themselves in deforestation for fuel or wood as well as cutting down trees randomly for their livelihoods. I think, controlling birth is also a major issue. If population became under control, there will be plenty of land for cultivate as well as to plant more & more trees which will definitely maintain the climate & it will also result in proper raining. Our Prime Minister, Champion of the Earth her Excellency Sheikh Hasina created climate change and adaptation fund, she strongly committed to do her best for SDGs and it’s our priority too.

I prefer inform that, “Focus on youth- invest on youth”. Because Youth are the future, change maker- as per youth policy 48.24 million of total population of Bangladesh are youth. Government have adopted “Digital Bangladesh” concept. My organization DYDF started a project “Youth Parliament” for strong youth advocacy for our targeted SDGs goals. We need to work together and strongly work on today’s coming action plan and resolution for a successful ending, also for a better world. I need support – Bangladesh needs your support. My organization DYDF strongly committed to work together and promote our same mandate, also for achieving our common goals- but we need support. 27000 youth are working in our organization. We are doing SDG campaign into grassroots level and going to organize first
“International Summit on SDGs” in coming December. We are working with land ministry and also environment ministry for supporting victims and also develop, contribute to make a better situation. We are also doing tree plantation, green economy base “Youth Bank” project to support youth entreprenuers.

Recently a huge number of Rohingya victim people came for violence at Myanmar and new challenge created on local land , environment – because all of you knew that, Bangladesh and South Asia still fighting with poverty, we are trying and we want a peaceful sustainable solution. Violence cannot be a solution of any problem. Sometime this land issue, social issue created threat of terrorism and extremism. So it’s high time to work together.

We should aware of the fact that, our planet is already started facing scarcity on natural sources such as clean water. Besides, improper agricultural methods hampering the land because most of the farmers do not have well knowledge about land fertility. Education initiative can help farmers understand the best way to use the land. In addition, regions which are arid, grass and other vegetation is necessary to keep the soil in place. We also should take protest like:

Number 1: Use of plastic bags, polythene bags should reduce. Misuse of plastics and polythene products are ruining soil quality continuously. Besides, burning of polythene also caused harm to climate.

Number 2: Giving local communities the capacity to prevent desertification and to manage dry land resources effectively.

Number 3: Make alternative livelihoods that do not depend on traditional land uses, such as dry land aquaculture, greenhouse agriculture and tourism-related activities. Create economic opportunities in dry land urban centers and in areas outside of dry lands.

Number 4: Halt deflation and deforestation. For livelihood many people deriving wood in unplanned way from forests. This brings bad effects for the environment and soil as well as wildlife became in danger.

Number 5: To keep soil live, industrial pollution is very important to avoid water and soil toxicity.
Last of all, people should be sincere & sincere people should spread positivity. Thank you.

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