



Seminar on

## **Bangladesh's Graduation from LDCs: Opportunities, Challenges and Imperatives**

**21 March 2018**

### PRESS RELEASE

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) organised a Seminar titled **Bangladesh's Graduation from LDCs: Opportunities, Challenges and Imperatives** on 21 March 2018 at BISS auditorium. The Seminar was divided into two sessions. **H. E. Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, MP**, Honourable Foreign Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, graced the Seminar as the Chief Guest. **Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa Utoikamanu**, Under-Secretary General of the UN and the High Representative, UN-OHRLLS was present as the Special Guest. **Ms. Christa Rader**, WFP Country Director and UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh also delivered her remarks in the inaugural session. **Major General A K M Abdur Rahman**, ndc, psc, Director General, BISS, delivered the address of welcome. **Ambassador Munshi Faiz Ahmad**, Chairman, Board of Governors, BISS, chaired the Inaugural Session. **Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque**, Foreign Secretary, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, chaired and summed up the Working Session.

Foreign Minister **H. E. Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, MP**, noted that the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) of the United Nations has already announced Bangladesh's graduation from the LDCs which is a phenomenal achievement for Bangladesh.

In the Working Session **Professor Dr. Mustafizur Rahman**, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), delivered the Keynote Speech. Designated speakers of the Working Session were **Dr. Ahsan H Mansur**, Executive Director, Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI), and **Dr. Mahfuz Kabir**, Acting Research Director, BISS, **Md. Shafiul Islam**, President, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), and **H. E. Ms. Rensje Teerink**, Head, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh.

Foreign Secretary **Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque**, stated that graduation from LDCs was a testimony to the hard work and commitment of Bangladeshi people constantly improving their own lives facing innumerable challenges and moving forward assisted by enabling and conducive policies by the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Senior officials from different ministries of Bangladesh, representatives from different organisations, ambassadors, business personalities, media, academia, researchers, teachers and students from various universities participated in the open discussion and expressed their valuable opinions, observations, and questions on the topic.