

# Effective Local Government National Convention 2021

Local Government for Sustainable Development  
টেকসই উন্নয়নে স্থানীয় সরকার



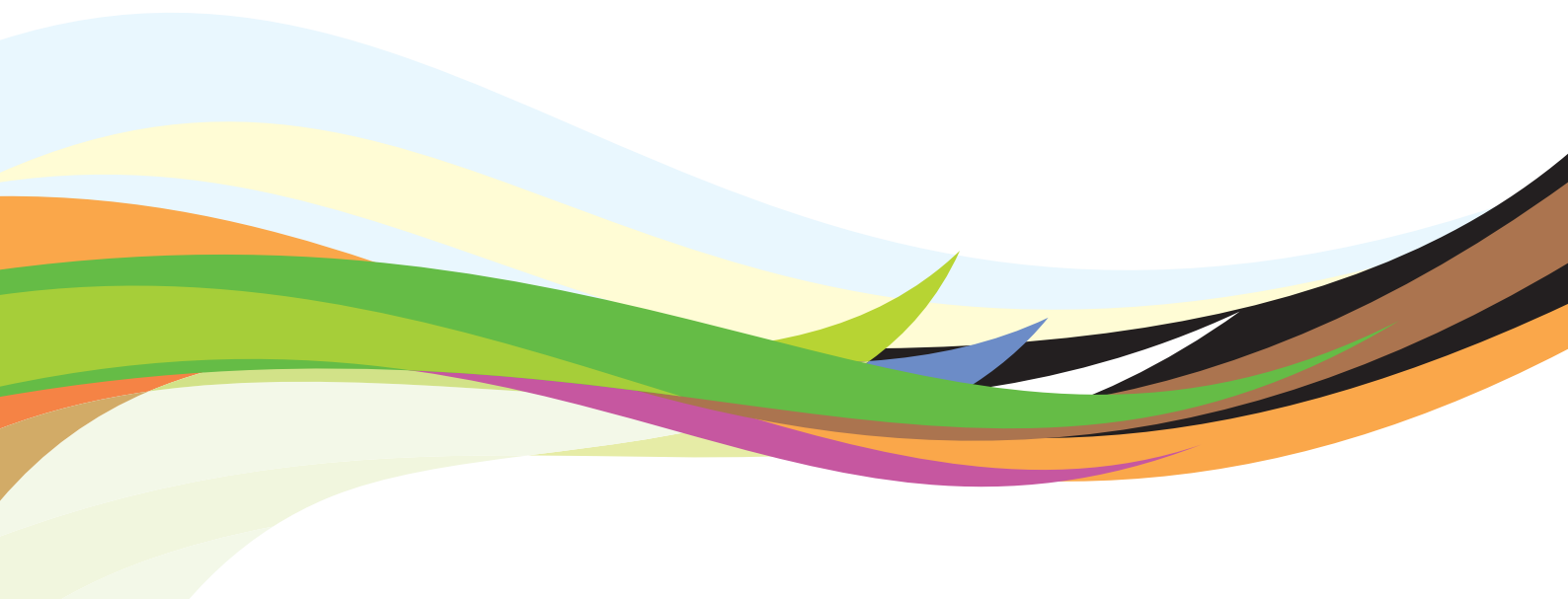
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# Effective Local Government National Convention 2021



## **A Report on**

Effective Local Government National Convention 2021

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## **Advisory Contribution**

Mohsin Ali

Coordinator, GAF & Executive Director, WAVE Foundation

## **Coordinated by**

Aniruddha Roy

Nazma Sultana Lily

Dithy Saha

Sayema Islam

## **Content, Photography, Design and Layout**

Artistic Communication

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### **Governance Advocacy Forum**

Secretariat:

WAVE Foundation

22/13 B, Block-B, Khilji Road, Mohammadpur

Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Phone: +880 2 5815 1620, +880 2 4811 0103

Email: [info@gafbd.org](mailto:info@gafbd.org)

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# Background



Recently, Bangladesh has experienced an impressive record of growth and development with its several development targets at hand, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 8th Five-Year Plan (8FYP). To achieve these goals and ensure quality government services for the mass people of the country, the role of Local Government Institutions (LGIs) is inevitable.

However, the LGIs have faced a multifaceted crisis for the last few years. It is evident that there exists a conflict between the government officials and the elected local government representatives besides limitations in the responsibilities of elected women representatives, limitations in resource mobilisation for local government institutions, and lack of formulation and implementation of local level planning. Moreover, the lack of public participation, transparency, and accountability appear as an obstacle to the effective local government.

Governance Advocacy Forum (GAF), a national-level platform, was formed with several national and international organisations in 2007 with a vision to promote an effective local government system in Bangladesh. With secretariat support from WAVE Foundation, GAF has continually been undertaking different initiatives such as the ‘Democratic Decentralization & Strong Local Government Campaign.’ From its experience in promoting local government reform, the forum realises that there is no alternative to strengthening the Local Government Institutions (LGIs) and ensuring proper implementation of development activities as well as public participation, transparency & accountability in all sectors. In line with that realisation, the GAF organised the “Effective Local Government National Convention 2021” in collaboration with Manusher Jonno Foundation, UKAID and The Asia Foundation, at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh, Dhaka, on December 19, 2021.



The convention was organised with the following objectives:

1. Increase awareness on localisation of SDGs implementation along with 8th Five Year Plan and role of local government institutions.
2. Analyze the role of elected representatives of local government and explore empowerment process of elected women representatives in the light of LGI Acts 2009 and to recommend on the policies.
3. Identify the areas of resource mobilisation, scope of people's participation and increase accountability of local government institutions.

The convention was graced with the presence of Mr. Md. Tajul Islam MP, Minister, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives (LGRD&C) as the Chief Guest and Chaired by Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairperson, GAF, and Chairman, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). The convention was a success with the active participation of local government representatives, policy-makers, researchers, social activists, different organisations, and male-female-transgender-youth representatives. The convention provided an opportunity to overview the existing provisions of the local government and offer the necessary recommendations for policy reformation.

As an outcome of the convention, the recommendations were presented to the Minister, Ministry of LGRD&C, with the expectation of necessary policy reformation to maintain proper synchronicity between the national and local governments as well as to ensure the localisation of SDGs, accountability, participation, and resource mobilisation. This will ultimately lead to establishing a more robust and effective local government.





‘The Effective Local Government National Convention 2021’ commenced with a warm welcome by the Moderator of the session, Ms. Kaniz Fatima on behalf of the Government Advocacy Forum to all the guests, speakers and participants. The eminent economist Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairperson, GAF & Chairman, PKSF, was present as the Chair and Mr. Md. Tajul Islam MP, Minister, Ministry of LGRD&C, graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Mr. Md. Ziaul Karim, Senior Coordinator, Manusher Jonno Foundation, offered a consolidated presentation from the dialogue sessions while Dr. Mobasser Monem, Professor, Department of Public Administration, presented the research findings. Mr. Mohsin Ali, Coordinator, Government Advocacy Forum and Executive Director, WAVE Foundation, presented the 11-point recommendations of the convention. Ms. Shaheen Anam, Executive Director, Manusher Jonno Foundation, delivered her speech as Guest of Honour, whereas Mr. Md. Zakaria, Senior Program Manager represented on behalf of The Asia Foundation. Local government representatives, Mr. Akhtaruzzaman, Chairman, Gazipur Zilla Parishad, Mr. Harun-Or-Rashid Hawlader, President, Bangladesh Upazila Parishad Association, Mr. Md. Khalid Hossain, Secretary-General, Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB) and Mr. Sazzad Hossan Mukul, Senior Vice President, Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum, were present as discussants and Mr. Aniruddha Roy, Facilitator, Governance Advocacy Forum, delivered the welcome note to the audience of ‘Effective Local Government National Convention 2021.’





**Mr. Md. Tajul Islam MP**

Minister, Ministry of Local Government,  
Rural Development & Co-operatives

***I assure you that the recommendations that have been extracted from this convention will be considered seriously and will be materialised depending on their significance.***

The findings of the study show that many weaknesses prevail in the structure of the local government, and there are scopes for reformation and development.

The necessity of the coexistence of the people's representatives and the bureaucrats is undeniable. The people's representatives should be respectful to all the stakeholders and committed to their responsibilities. I have already taken some initiatives for amending the inconsistencies of the local government acts, which are under process.

The Acts related to the city corporations, Zilla Parishad, Upazila Parishad, and Union Parishad, are being updated. It has been proved worldwide that such amendments to the acts will strengthen the institutions.



**Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad**

Chairperson,  
Governance Advocacy Forum & Chairman, PKSF

***The present local government system is top-down, which needs to rotate...Unless we empower the local people, this discrimination will continue increasing.***

Our goal is to contribute to the development of our country from our respective positions. As we work together for a better future for our country, the provisions and interactive relationships need to be defined.

In London, the boroughs have their own planning commission. Some borough councils assess their responsibilities through research from the planning commission. If it is passed by their council, the local government finances as much as possible, and the national government cannot interfere there. That is an ideal example of a local government. However, the present local government system in our country is top-down, which needs to rotate. When we can do this, I think we will be able to achieve what we want to achieve.

Bangladesh is our country. Only we can make the best possible change for the development of our country. Local government institutions can make more profit if it is properly synced with national government as well as if the national government provides necessary support to local government it can contribute in greater development.



**Ms. Shaheen Anam**

Executive Director  
Manusher Jonno Foundation

***We will keep working and demanding to strengthen the local government in Bangladesh. Now it is necessary to formulate a taskforce for taking further initiatives.***

An effective local government can bring about development, especially for the marginalised people, and the demand for an effective local government has been desirable for years. I would like to request the Minister to consider the recommendations of the previous speakers and work on them based on priority.

I want to prioritise women empowerment, resource mobilisation, formation of a local service commission, similar to the public service commission. I hope that some concrete steps will be taken after this convention.



**Mr. Mohsin Ali**

Coordinator, Governance Advocacy Forum and  
Executive Director, WAVE Foundation

### The 11-Point Recommendations

**1.**

Precisely identifying the obscurity and overlapping existing in the rules and regulations of Union Parishad, Pourashava, Upazilla Parishad, Zilla Parishad and City Corporations Acts.

**2.**

Documenting the balanced and specific responsibilities, duties and powers in the act as well as implementing them based on the present development context, goals of the government and decentralization along with reviewing the role of honourable Member of Parliament (MP) and the role of Upazila Chairman and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) defined in the Upazila Parishad Act 2009.

**3.**

Reserving one-third of seats in all levels of local government for women representatives and introducing direct election in a rotational system.

**4.**

Increasing the financial allocation of the local government institutions while keeping their responsibilities in mind and directly transferring 7% of the land transfer tax to the respective local government.

**5.**

Expanding the number of taxation areas for all local government institutions and specifying the role of local governments in tax collection and its effective implementation.

**6.**

Creating specific provisions within the acts for people's participation in the planning and implementation processes in all local government institutions.

**7.**

Organizing necessary training programs for all levels of local government bodies in order to improve their capacity and skills for properly carrying out their roles and responsibilities.

**8.**

Taking special initiatives by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD&C) for implementing the reasonable recommendations after reviewing the demands provided by the platforms of the local government institutions respectively 8 points of Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum (BUPF), 33 points of Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB) and implementing the judgment of the Supreme Court case filed on behalf of Bangladesh Upazila Parishad Association.

**9.**

Initiating necessary amendment in Zila Parishad Act considering the mutual relationship together with other local government institutions within the district in order to achieve the government's national development goals and by reviewing the work-experiences of elected Chairman and Members of Zila Parishad so far.

**10.**

Monitoring the activities of all local government institutions regularly on behalf of the Ministry of LGRD&C and activating legal provisions of transparency and accountability in performing respective duties of the concerned elected representatives and government employees.

**11.**

Above mentioned points are made keeping an inter connection with all Acts of local government institutions as well as the current status of its implementation. Hence, without considering these separately, it is necessary to formulate recommendations by comprising a 'Task Force' in association with honourable MPs, representatives from all the local government institutions, government officials, civil society representatives and local government experts to renovate the local government institutions with a vision to ensure the development goals of the country and decentralization with the aim of meeting the needs of the present context and taking special initiatives by the Ministry of LGRD&C to implement these.

## Speech by the Representative of The Asia Foundation

### Mr. Md. Zakaria

Senior Program Manager  
The Asia Foundation

The Asia Foundation has been working on local and national government since 1954 and currently working on SDGs and local forums. We hope to work with you on the recommendations presented through this convention.



## Discussion by the Local Government Representatives



### Mr. Akhtaruzzaman

Chairman, Gazipur Zila Parishad

We should allocate at least 20% of the local revenue to the villages as a trial to give villages the status of towns. Arranging opportunities for IT training at the Union Parishad level to generate new sources of income can contribute to the budget.

### Mr. Harun-Or-Rashid Howlader

President, Bangladesh Upazila Parishad Association

As there are various departments in Upazila Parishads and Union Parishads, assigning elected representatives to work individually for the departments in Upazila may help resolve all the problems.



### Mr. Md. Khalid Hossain

Secretary-General, Municipal Association of Bangladesh

As the services to the people from local government institutions are increasing progressively due to rapid urbanisation, providing the expected quality of service is getting more difficult. It is time to formulate an exclusive development unit for the municipalities.

### Mr. Sazzad Hossan Mukul

Senior Vice President, Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum

The honorary allowance of the local government representatives must be increased. ADP must be implemented, and the Union Parishads must be given 7% of the national budget allocations.





**Mr. Md. Ziaul Karim**

Senior Coordinator, Manusher Jonno Foundation

- The public representatives' honorarium is insufficient; hence, it should be increased.
- The percentage of land registration fees that the LGIs receive should at least be increased from 1% to 2%.
- Training and workshops must be organised for men to change their perception of and attitude towards women in the workplace.
- A strong institutional framework is essential for localising and implementing SDGs and the 8th Five-Year Plan; a proper implementation plan and sufficient funding are also necessary.
- Involving local government in activities like disaster management and climate adaptation is necessary; it strengthens their capability.
- Creating local employment, exporting human resources, and employing the youth using the local government platforms are vital.
- The political commitment and administrative responsibility for organising free and fair local elections must be implemented.
- The system of monitoring the election process by journalists and civil society needs to be revived.
- The term "reserved seat" should be eliminated since it is disrespectful for women representations.
- Building up the elected women representatives' capabilities through training and instructions is necessary to develop their expertise, confidence, and leadership skills.
- Ensuring the presence of women in one-third of positions (including higher-order posts) of political parties is essential.
- The local governments need to fulfill the current lack of transparency and accountability in utilising the funds.
- A combined management system must be created to eliminate the overlap in the local tax systems of the LGIs.
- It is necessary to transfer one-third of the locally collected taxes to the local government from the national government to facilitate the local development projects.
- A provision should be made that 20% budget of all the development projects would be spent on ensuring transparency of local government institutions.
- All the information on the government websites should immediately be updated upon specific instructions from the government.
- The cooperation should be enhanced among the civil societies, local NGOs, and development organisations working with the local government to ensure public participation in development projects.
- Implementing Grievance Redress System (GRS) to redress the complaints of the mass people is necessary.
- The cost of issuing a birth certificate has to be determined, and 7% of the budget should be allocated for Union Parishads.





*Effective Local Government System: Localisation & Achievement of SDGs and the Goals of the 8th Five Year Plan: Policy, Local Resource Mobilisation, Women, Participation and Accountability Perspectives*

**Dr. Mobasser Monem**

Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of Dhaka

Bangladesh has many development targets, and it is expected that elected representatives and the bureaucracy at different levels will collaborate and work hand in hand in order to achieve the development milestones.

In Bangladesh, collaborations between bureaucrats and the political representatives at different levels of local governments have been problematic and often conflicting. Though both the government officials and the representatives of Upazila, Union Parishad (UP), Mayors of City Corporations, and Municipalities are the people of our country, prevailing tensions among them demonstrates the weakness of the institutions. If the institutions are weak and do not work together, the development goals will not be achieved.

### Objectives of the Study

1. Identifying the constraints and opportunities in the existing local government legislations and practices on the ground;
2. Understanding the challenges of localisation and implementation of SDGs and the goals of the 8FYP of Bangladesh in achieving the development milestones set forth;
3. Examining the current status of local resource mobilisation by LGIs and suggesting some way forward on this front;
4. Exploring the accountability system that is in place at the local level at the moment and providing recommendations as to how the system can be made effective; and
5. Assessing the current status of people's participation, including the participation of women in the affairs of the local government institutions.

### Local Government Institutions: Major Challenges

#### Policy Related Challenges

- There is a significant gap between legal provisions and their practices on the ground. Enforcement of legal provisions is weak.
- There is a lack of clarity and overlap of responsibilities between LGIs and Local Administration.
- The power and authority of elected representatives of LGIs are minimal compared to field administrative units.

## Challenges of Localisation of SDGs and Goals of 8FYP

- The elected representatives were largely unfamiliar with the localisation of the SDG.
- Training on the localisation of SDGs has been few and far between.
- A minimal number of projects which align with the SDGs and goals of 8FYP have been undertaken by the LGIs.

## Challenges of Own Source Revenue Mobilisation

- The tax rates are not updated. Weak match between the provisions of UP Model Tax Schedule, 2013 with those of the Local Government (UP) Act, 2009
- There is no UZP Model Tax Schedule (9 sources, but there are no guidelines)
- Lack of regularity and fairness in tax assessment and lack of transparency in tax management, and lack of proper monitoring in tax collection;
- There is apathy among the citizens to pay tax and among the representatives of LGIs to collect tax (an example of conflict of interest)

## Challenges of Stakeholder's Accountability

- Lack of Clarity in the Distribution of Power often helps the field administration officials practice superiority over the local elected representatives.
- The elected representatives are apathetic towards the relevant laws and frustrated for not enforcing the existing legal provisions that adversely affect accountability.
- The role of MPs as an adviser to some LGIs and Partisan political practices have added further complexity to the accountability matrix.

## Challenges of Civic Participation

- The absence or lack of legal provisions hold back people's participation;
- Neither the Zilla Parishads (ZP), Upazila Parishads (UZP), nor the Paurashavas have any mechanism for ensuring citizen participation. In contrast, UPs have Ward Shava and Open budget meetings, although its effectiveness is questionable.

## Challenges of Engagement of Elected Women Representatives

- Women elected representatives are not given their due share and cannot play their roles as envisaged in the law.
- At the UZP level, the involvement of women in the implementation of 25% of the projects and the 3% Annual Development Programme (ADP) allotment for Women Development Forum (WDF) are not being ensured.

## Recommendations

- Clarify Functional Assignments for LG Tiers.
- Clarify the Roles of different Stakeholders to Ensure Balance of Power.
- Enhance the Revenue Discretion and Fiscal Transfer (IGFT) from National Government to LGIs.
- Enhance the Opportunities for Citizen's Participation as well as Engagement of Women Elected Representatives.
- Address the Manpower Rationalisation aspects in UPs, UZPs ZPs, and Paurashavas.
- Ensure More Efficient and Effective Resource Mobilisation at the Local Level.
- Make the LG Office-Holders Familiar with SDGs and the Goals of the 8FYP.
- Ensure Regular Monitoring to Oversee the Implementation of the Existing Legal Provisions for LGIs.

# Dialogue Sessions

In alignment with its objectives, the Effective Local Government National Convention 2021 was preceded by four dialogue sessions held parallelly on the convention day. The dialogue sessions aimed at presenting an interactive discussion among the participants, presenters, and the guest speakers and extracting constructive opinions and suggestions focusing on the specific topics pertaining to the convention. These suggestions were presented to the convention guests and audience in the form of recommendations. Each dialogue session was designed with two speakers to address the topic and a moderator to conduct the session.



## Progress as a Developing Country and Policy Support for Establishing Effective Local Government to implementation the SDGs

Presentation of Keynote: **Mr. Mozammel Haque**, Program Analyst, Democratic Governance Portfolio, UNDP

Honourable Speaker: **Mr. Mohammad Asaduzzaman Sarker**, Deputy Chief, Revenue and Monetary Policy Division, Planning Commission

Moderator: **Mr. Abdul Awal**, Executive Director, NRDS



If Bangladesh has to achieve the SDGs within the remaining nine years, we must make our youths more skillful, said the keynote presenter Mr. Mozammel Haque. He presented the basic structure of the local government along with the laws and policies and identified some drawbacks in the coordination of national and local government planning. He also identified some underlying challenges in empowering local governments, including:

- Lack of proper policy guidelines;
- Lack of administrative competency;
- Lack of resources and dependency on the national allocation;
- Lack of skilled human resources;
- Lack of monitoring and technical support in implementing the policies;
- Lack of coordination within different levels or among various institutions of the same level of the local government; and
- Lack of sincerity and coordination among government officials or bureaucrats.

Though the fundamentals of SDG demand to keep no one behind, the majority of the mass people lack access to the facilities they deserve, and 44% of the total wealth is possessed by 10% of the people of the country. Neither national development nor achieving SDGs is possible without the support and improvement of local government since local government is responsible for ensuring public health services, safe water supply, sanitation, employment, tax collection, and national law enforcement. Hence the national government must coordinate with the local government and respond to their needs to achieve national development and SDGs. He suggested a few field-level action plans for the implementation of SDGs as follows:

- Localising the SDG action plans in light of the national planning based on feasibility and priority;
- Dividing the national planning in the District, Upazila, and Union Parishad level; and
- Including local non-government institutions, professional organisations, NGOs, women organisations, and the populace from all levels of the society in the process.

The government is working its best to increase women's empowerment. Local government is vital in achieving national development, and you (local leaders) should work on increasing local revenue rather than only depending on the national allocation, said the honourable speaker. Any step taken for the advancement of the local community is consequently a supplement to the achievement process of the SDGs.

#### **Comments & Opinions from the Participants:**

- There is a lack of coordination and communication between government officials and elected political leaders.
- The meagreness of power and capacity of the local government and the inadequacy of women's participation are the main challenges to effective local government.
- As the government officials remain superior to the local leaders, they underestimate the local government and do not organise meetings regularly.

## Resource Mobilisation of Local Government Institutions

Presentation of Keynote: **Dr. Mahfuz Kabir**, Research Director, BISS

Honourable Speaker: **Ms. Saila Farzana**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration

Moderator: **Mr. Amanur Rahman**, Director, CARE Bangladesh



The local government institutions should be self-reliant in terms of their funds, said the keynote presenter Dr. Mahfuz Kabir. The current laws regarding the local government system of Bangladesh are very friendly and helpful for effective LGIs, and implementing the existing laws will adequately help the LGIs be financially solvent. There should be transparency in the financial information as per its mandatory provision in the Right to Information Act- 2009. He suggested that the LGIs should not focus on their problems instead of solutions.

LGIs should encourage people more and more to pay taxes. However, they should not only rely on holding taxes; instead, they should generate funds from multiple sources as mentioned in the Model Tax Schedule-2012, the honourable speaker Ms. Saila Farzana suggested. Moreover, all the standing committees should be activated. If an LGI does not receive the fair share of the land registration fees, they should submit a written application to the development adjustment committee about it. There are many training opportunities for public representatives, and they should be careful and serious in their training programs and conferences.

#### **Comments & Opinions from the Participants:**

- Union Parishad's citizens are very reluctant to pay holding taxes compared to the municipalities' citizens. There should be a proper distribution of the national budget, and the LGIs should get their fair share of it.
- Public representatives think they will lose their vote bank if they involve themselves in tax collection. Government officials should work on this and make people aware.
- The current amount (1%) of the land registration fees should be doubled.

## Status of Elected Women Representatives in Local Government Institutions

Presentation of Keynote: **Ms. Farhana Afroz**, Program Manager, Christian Aid

Honourable Speaker: **Dr. Ferdous Arfina Osman**, Professor & Chairman, Department of Public Administration, University of Dhaka

Moderator: **Mr. Amit Dey**, Deputy Manager, ActionAid Bangladesh



According to the amendment of the Local Government Act 1997 of Bangladesh constitution, the local government opens the door for women's electoral system to ensure equal access of men and women to the political structure and women empowerment, keynote speaker Ms. Farhana Afroz stated. She stated some issues regarding the current situation of the elected women representatives in the local government as follows:



- The provision of three reserved seats for women to overlap the general constituency has become a serious structural issue that adversely affects women's empowerment, role, and function.
- Though the law allows each woman representative as a member of three standing committees, each of which has at least one female chairperson of the standing committees, the chairperson of the less significant committee is a woman.
- It is also a matter of considering how much resources the women representatives get in implementing the promises they made during the election.
- Women delegates experience discrimination, harassment, and isolation from their male colleagues in performing their responsibilities.
- Although women are vocal about the development and self-employment projects that come to the local government office for women, they have to face obstacles. To achieve allocation for the projects from the development budget, the women representatives have to go and seek attention at the Upazila Nirbahi Office and the Local [Government] Engineering Office.

To achieve the fifth goal of SDGs, women have to overcome political, economic, and cultural obstacles. Women should be provided with the opportunities to develop skills and knowledge and the same resources as men, rather than merely entitled to reserved seats, she claimed.

According to the Local Government Act 1997, three reserved seats are kept for elected women representatives, and at present, there are 25% women representatives in the Union Parishad, mentioned the honourable speaker Dr Ferdous Arfina Osman. It is visible that women are moving towards development and are working a lot in social development. She added that the negative social perspective, the dominance of the patriarchal society, lack of education among women are the main barriers that hinder women's equal participation and empowerment.

#### **Comments & Opinions from the Participants:**

- Women representatives never get the 3% of budget allocation. Remunerations should be increased.
- Men neglect women who are comparatively lagging behind in terms of education, knowledge, and skill. Male dominance should be eradicated to ensure flexibility for women. In the forum, the opinions of the women do not matter actually.

# People's Participation and Transparency and Accountability of Local Government Institutions

Presentation of Keynote: **Mr. Md. Ziaul Karim**, Senior Coordinator, Mannuser Jonno Foundation

Honourable Speaker: **Mr. Md. Jasim Uddin**, Joint Secretary, Law Branch, Local Government Department

Moderator: **Mr. Ataur Rahman Miton**, Country Director, Hunger Free World



Transparency and accountability are the two other dimensions of public participation, and these three dimensions altogether form good governance, said the keynote speaker Mr. Md. Ziaul Karim. The existing law of our local government institutions clarifies how the institutions will deliver information to the people so that transparency and accountability can be ensured by involving people.

He pointed out the necessity of standing committees to ensure transparency as the law allows the committees to review any decisions. Also, there is a Union Development Coordination Committee (UDCC) in all Unions, which consists of all the citizens and other stakeholders of those particular areas that act as a decision-making body.

The open budget is an excellent example of transparency and accountability, which did not exist previously. The basis for the budget is planning, the basis for planning is ward meetings, and the basis for ward meetings is public participation. For everybody in the local government, it is required to plan through discussion, sort out what kind of planning is made, assess how much budget is needed, and disclose this to the citizens. If the citizens oppose, their recommendation should also be considered and discussed in the standing committees to further review. In the end, he raised two questions:

- Despite having so many scopes for transparency and accountability in the laws, what are the issues hindering us from implementing those laws?
- Do you think there is still a scope to ensure transparency and accountability by making a policy change or forming laws?

The Local Government Division (LGD) and the Ministry have given the local government stakeholders enough power, said the honourable speaker Mr. Md. Jasim Uddin. However, in reality, local governments cannot exercise their power in the field because of many challenges. Representatives of local government always consider the UNO a competitor, but they never think of helping them send local people's demands to the national government. Also, 99% of UP Chairmen are not sincere about the village courts. Even they do not follow the format of the village court properly.

#### **Comments & Opinions from the Participants:**

- There is no point in enacting new laws if we are not changed. People manage jobs by giving a vast amount of money as a bribe. When they start working, they always think of regaining that money.
- UP does not have the power to conduct trials on anything worth more than BDT 75,000/= under village court. Conversely, we are told to conduct trials on cattle issues. You know that sometimes, the price of a cow is more than BDT 200,000/=. In that case, how can we conduct the trial? So, this law should be reconsidered.

# Webinars & Online Campaign

With a particular focus on the Effective Local Government National Convention 2021, Governance Advocacy Forum organised several issue-specific webinars during 5-12 December 2021. Many pressing issues came to light from the discussions, which required immediate attention. Based on the participants' opinions, several recommendations were made. News of all these events has adequately been published on social media, i.e., the Facebook page and the YouTube channel of GAF to create social awareness. Many people have engaged themselves in those posts with their comments and opinions. Title of the webinars are as following:

- Experience from the Current UP Elections and Subsequent Activities
- Status of Elected Women Representatives in Local Government Institutions
- Progress as a Developing Country and Policy support for Establishing Effective Local Government to implementation the SDGs
- Resource Mobilisation of Local Government Institutions





The role of Local Government Institutions in establishing an effective government system in Bangladesh is crucially inevitable. This role must be clearly defined in terms of individual representatives' responsibilities to reduce the existing conflicts, limitations, and challenges. Proper steps are necessary to ensure that the representatives are well aware of their roles and responsibilities. Moreover, some amendments to the legal provisions may also be required. Intending to strengthen the local government, representatives and stakeholders from every relevant sectors gathered at the "Effective Local Government National Convention 2021" and shared their views and opinions. The current status of the local government system, including limitations and challenges, and several recommendations extracted from the dialogues and discussions made by the participants were presented to the representative of the national government, the Minister of LGRD&C. The Minister admitted that there are many weaknesses in the structure of the local government where there are scopes for reformation or development. He also reassured that he had taken initiatives for amending the inconsistencies in the local government acts, which are under process.

# Photo Gallery















গভর্নেন্স এডভোকেসি ফোরাম  
GOVERNANCE ADVOCACY FORUM

**Secretariat:**

WAVE Foundation

22/13 B, Block-B, Khilji Road, Mohammadpur

Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Phone: +880 2 5815 1620, +880 2 4811 0103

Email: [info@gafbd.org](mailto:info@gafbd.org)