**Excellences,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

A very good morning to all of you. Welcoming all of you in our prestigious Mother-tongue Bangla – “শুভ সকাল, বাংলাদেশে আপনাদের স্বাগতম”.

First of all, on behalf of all of us from Bangladesh, may I extend a warm welcome to our overseas participants and I thank you all for supporting this very meaningful event.

Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC) is grateful and exited to be hosting this 8th ITU-BTRC Asia-Pacific Regulators’ Roundtable alongside International Telecommunication Union (ITU) with the support of ‘Department of Communication and the Arts’ of the Australian Government.

It is with equal pleasure that I note the attendance of the delegates from our colleagues and partners of the Regulatory Authorities and policy makers of the Asia-Pacific region. This shows the significance attached to the Regulators’ roundtable by member countries and demonstrates the importance attached by BTRC in supporting its activities regularly.

**Excellences & Distinguished Guests,**

Bangladesh, the largest least developed country (LDC) in terms of skilled human resource and economic size, is a nation in South Asia who is in unison with ITUs, MDGs & SDGs goals and a very proud council member of Region E (Asia and Australasia) along with other 12 nations wishes to continue its devout strive towards national development and global capacity building.

You will be impressed to know that we have one of the fastest growth rate in the world in recent years maintaining an economic growth rate of more than 6% for the seven consecutive years. It is likely to be the first LDC ever to graduate on the basis of all three criteria i.e. Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, Human Assets Index (HAI) and Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI). Undoubtedly, telecommunication and ICT sector is one of the salient component for the high growth rates that helped and participated effectively in boosting the country’s economy.

**Distinguished Delegates,**

Driven by growth in the digital economy and changing consumer demands, the telecommunication and ICT industry is relishing unparalleled demand for network services. The economics of running a network remain complex and increased traffic does not necessarily convert into increased profits. Effective regulation is must in order to protect consumers and facilitate a properly functioning market.

I do feel, finding a proper framework which will introduce stability and balance in achieving these important, yet sometimes conflicting objectives is necessity.

In this fast paced digital world, it is imperative to know the role of regulators as facilitators in a cross-sectoral digital ecosystem which enables us addressing the barriers for development of Digital Connectivity. You must know, many countries have adopted access to broadband as an enforceable right. Along with broadband access you have a never ending challenge to ensuring privacy-protection, trust and security of consumers. It is quite obvious that, all these factors will impact the level of innovation and execution of new products and services, so, it is our duty and responsibility to be ready enough not be perplexed and puzzled by this rather daunting ask of regulating telecom and ICT industry.

**Dear August Gathering,**

Understanding the necessity and toil behind new Regulatory Frontiers to support Digital Economy we feel, regular dialogue, continual consultation and knowledge sharing amongst telecommunications/Information and Communications Technology (ICT) regulators and policy-makers is very essential. It is definitely a need of this time. With the same tone as ITU, I want to repeat that, this Regulators’ Roundtable is the 8th edition of the Asia-Pacific Region Initiative to organize an annual Roundtable to provide telecommunication/ICT regulators in the region with a platform that fosters dynamic and strategic discussions, as well as sharing of information, relevant experiences and practices and to conclusively debate on possible solutions and opportunities for potential collaboration to address emerging regulatory issues and challenges.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Relying mostly in multinational diplomacy, since independence in 1971, Bangladesh has stressed its principle of "**Friendship towards all, malice towards none**". Inspired by the vision of the father of the nation Bangabondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, all the organ of the country is putting a consorted effort to establish Bangladesh as a regional hub in Asia. Bangladesh looks forward to enhancing greater cooperation among the member states of different regional and international multilateral organizations.

With all its unique undertaking and toil behind the success stories, Bangladesh hopes to enrich from and contribute to ITU in global and regional fora at the same time. Ensuring accessibility through affordable & ubiquitous broadband with the challenge of adopting newer technologies and ensuring end to end cyber-security toward green economy we seek your support as a Committed Prospect for the ITU Council 2019-2022.

Before leaving the podium, I wish that we will have a very productive and successful sessions onward. And to everybody, I would like to welcome you again to beautiful Bangladesh. I hope that this your brief visit here will be eventful and pleasant.

**Thank you.**