

Policy Recommendations *for* Advancing Equitable and Sustainable Economic Development

Context

The anti-discrimination protests of July 2024 marked a transformative moment in Bangladesh's history, leading to a regime change and a focus on systemic reforms. The country is now in a transitional phase, with key stakeholders prioritizing equitable and sustainable development to address long-standing challenges.

For over a decade, the **Institute of Informatics and Development (IID)** and the **Youth for Policy (YfP) network** have worked tirelessly to highlight systemic challenges, including jobless growth, gender-based discrimination, the education-skill mismatch, and governance deficits. These critical issues, if addressed, hold the potential to unlock Bangladesh's economic and social progress.

Drawing on years of research, policy dialogues, and consultations with policymakers, public and private sector stakeholders, and youth, this document compiles a set of **actionable policy recommendations** aimed at driving reform. In addition to these recommendations, this document highlights **examples and good practices from other countries**, illustrating how similar challenges have been successfully addressed globally.

This compilation serves as a strategic guide and resource for policymakers, civil society, and development partners. It aims to inspire informed action and align Bangladesh's economic framework with the nation's aspirations for equity, sustainability, and resilience.

Recommendations

Key policy measures address systemic challenges to foster equity, sustainability, and resilience in Bangladesh's economy. **Each recommendation is paired with examples of successful global practices**, offering practical insights for impactful reform.



Policy Measures



Global Examples



Recognition for marginalized communities

Formally **recognize** Indigenous, Harijan, transgender, and other marginalized communities, ensuring their representation and rights.

Malaysia's SME Bank provides financial and advisory support to young business owners.



Future-Ready Workforce

Invest in reskilling, technology, and institutional development for **emerging job markets**.

Singapore's SkillsFuture initiative supports lifelong learning for adapting to future jobs.



Workplace Equity

Implement affirmative action to **ensure workplace equity** and merit-based opportunities across all sectors.

Rwanda's Gender Monitoring Office ensures employment equity through monitoring and policy advocacy.



Inclusion for Marginalized Groups

Offer targeted **social protection to marginalized groups** like tea workers Dalits, Hijras, and Adivasis.

South Africa's BBBEE framework promotes economic participation for marginalized groups.

Policy Measures

Global Examples



Migrant Worker Protection

Negotiate **bilateral agreements** ensuring legal protections and fair treatment for migrant workers.

The **Philippines' Migrant Workers Act** safeguards labor rights and provides legal recourse.



Sustainable Urban Development

Promote **circular economy policies**, engaging youth and fostering sustainable urban practices.

The **EU Circular Economy Action Plan** reduces environmental impact and ensures urban sustainability.



Climate-Aligned Strategies

Integrate **climate change measures** into economic strategies and industry development plans.

The **Paris Agreement** guides countries in aligning economic policies with climate action.



Community-Driven Policies

Establish regular **consultations with grassroots communities** to align policies with local priorities.

India's Panchayati Raj system engages communities in local development planning and decision-making.



Fair Market Practices

Enforce regulations to **dismantle market syndicates**, ensuring fair competition and equitable opportunities.

South Korea's Fair Trade Commission combats anti-competitive practices to maintain a fair market environment.



Program Evaluation

Create standardized frameworks to **monitor and evaluate** economic programs' impact.

The **World Bank's Results Framework** tracks progress in development programs.

About IID

IID (Institute of Informatics and Development) is a research organization that primarily works on public policy and emphasizes inclusive public participation in the policymaking process.


We are dedicated to building an 'IID Society'—informed, inclusive, and democratic—through evidence-based policy decisions and strengthened public participation.

 www.iid.dev

About YfP

The IID Youth for Policy (YfP) network was established in 2013 through a national forum to ensure active involvement of youth in public policy.

Currently, YfP works with over 12,000 youth across more than 40 districts. Through Policy Camps, Policy Hackathons, policy forums, and the Youth Manifesto initiative, YfP continues to enhance the skills and capacities of youths of Bangladesh.

 www.youthforpolicy.org