

**BIMSTEC Secretariat
Dhaka, Bangladesh**

PRESS RELEASE

**BIMSTEC Secretary-General Explores Opportunities for collaboration with
UN and International Organizations based in Geneva
(21 April 2025)**

BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, paid a fruitful visit to Geneva, Switzerland, during 15-17 April 2025, as a part of his endeavours to reach out to various UN and International Organizations, based in Geneva, aimed at fostering institutional partnerships with them.

During his visits, SG called on H.E. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), at ITU Headquarters, and explored various avenues for collaboration in fields of information and communication technologies, with particular focus on artificial intelligence and digital connectivity. It may be noted that BIMSTEC is already engaged with ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and ITU Area Office and Innovation Centre in New Delhi for forging collaboration.

SG also called on H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of World Health Organization (WHO). He congratulated Dr. Tedros on successful conclusion of the Pandemic Treaty and discussed opportunities for closer cooperation between WHO and BIMSTEC, particularly in strengthening health systems, enhancing pandemic preparedness and supporting public health initiatives of the BIMSTEC member States.

SG also called on H.E. Daren Tang, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and discussed with him and his Team, the possible areas of cooperation, including capacity building and technical assistance in promoting innovations and IPRs. BIMSTEC and WIPO Teams have been engaged in discussions and have already drawn up programs for future collaboration.

SG met with H.E. Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Geneva, at a Dinner and discussed with him the possible areas of collaboration to deal with the challenges posed by natural disasters in Bay of Bengal region. BIMSTEC has already been engaged with the UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

SG also met with Mr. Daniel Kull, Director (Development Partnerships), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), for identifying opportunities for collaboration in sectors of climate change and disaster management, including early warning for All. BIMSTEC is looking forward to working with the WMO Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific to identify specific projects.

SG also held a meeting over lunch with Permanent Representatives/Delegates to the United Nations in Geneva of the BIMSTEC member States. SG briefed them on the latest developments in BIMSTEC's regional cooperation efforts and sought their cooperation in fulfilling the Organization's commitment to promoting security and sustainable development in Bay of Bengal region.

As part of BIMSTEC Public Outreach initiatives, SG delivered a lecture titled "Promoting Regional Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal" at Geneva University. Addressing students of the Master of Advanced Studies in European and International Governance (MEIG) Programme, he highlighted BIMSTEC's growing role and salience in fostering regional cooperation in Bay of Bengal Region.

BIMSTEC comprises seven countries of the Bay of Bengal region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It pursues regional cooperation in 7 broad sectors: Agriculture & Food Security; Connectivity; Environment & Climate Change; People-to-People Contact; Science, Technology & Innovation; Security; and Trade, Investment & Development. The cooperation also covers 8 sub-sectors: Blue Economy, Mountain Economy, Energy, Disaster Management, Fisheries & Livestock, Poverty Alleviation, Health, and Human Resource Development.

Attachment: Photographs of Secretary General in Geneva
