

JOINT STATEMENT ON COOPERATION IN ENERGY

The United States Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson and the Secretary of Energy for the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, met in Washington D.C., on December 15, 1998, and discussed the mutual interest and desire of their two countries to cooperate on energy development.

Secretary Chowdhury and Secretary Richardson agreed on the importance of accelerating sustainable economic development based upon adequate, reasonably priced and secure energy supplies. They stressed the importance of environmental protection on a local, national, regional and global basis to improving health and quality of life standards, and noted both countries' commitments to environmentally responsible and efficient energy development and use. They also stressed the importance of bringing the benefits of electrification and energy services to the people of Bangladesh.

Secretary Chowdhury and Secretary Richardson agreed to initiate bilateral cooperation on sustainable development in order to promote significant investment in the sector to help fuel the future economic growth of Bangladesh. Both countries share an interest in strengthening cooperation in the areas of sustainable commercial production, marketing, and use of fossil fuels, energy efficiency and renewable energy, and policy, legal, and regulatory reforms to facilitate energy investment and economic development in Bangladesh. They recognized the importance of the development of the energy sector and of regulatory and legal regimes to support such developments, the dissemination of energy technology information, and the development of energy information systems.

In the spirit of enhanced cooperation, Secretary Chowdhury and Secretary Richardson agreed to establish an energy consultative mechanism to identify and develop areas of cooperation in the energy sector, and the exchange of information to the extent permitted by the respective laws in both countries.

Signed on this Fifteenth Day of December, 1998, in Washington, D.C.



WILLIAM B. RICHARDSON
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA



TAWFIQ-E-ELAHI CHOWDHURY
FOR THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND
MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH