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STATEMENT

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**Free and Fair Elections in Bangladesh**

I urge the present government in Bangladesh to ensure a free, fair, transparent, participatory and inclusive election in Bangladesh. Elections are foundation for democracy and a true reflection of people's will.

The Yunus government assumed office with the promise of re-establishing the rule of law and ensure justice and fair play. However, despite promises and pledges, the progress on democratic reform and restoration of constitutional values and governance have not been on expected lines.

Dr Yunus is a respectable man of a very good repute, our expectations from him are very high at par with his stature. His administration must ensure that people of all political hues and colour get an opportunity to contribute in rebuilding Bangladesh.

A special mention may be made for the minorities, who had faced difficult situation in the aftermath of the July uprising, special effort is needed to make them an equal stakeholder in Bangladesh society and polity. Their concern for safety and security and yearning for due share in political space must be ensured.

I call upon all well wishers of Bangladesh that the country which struggled to establish independent identity for its people, culture and language must be given the support needed for restoration of political rights and for building a just and equitable society without any recrimination and discrimination.

Kind Regards,

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