

Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission

URGENT

April 6, 2014

To

The UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative
UN Offices 18th Floor, IDB Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka 1207

cc: Mr. Henrik Larsen, Director, CHTDF, UNDP

Subject: Re Nationalisation of UNDP-funded community-established schools in the CHT

Dear Mr. Neal Walker,

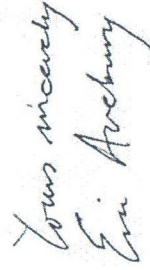
Greetings from the International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission (CHTC).

We learn from media reports that 228 primary schools in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) are in danger of being closed down because they have been failed to be brought under the nationalisation scheme in the face of technical difficulties with land registration.

On March 27, we sent out a letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with copies to the relevant ministries to immediately take the necessary measures to nationalise these schools. A copy of the letter is attached for your purview.

We understand that a joint committee comprising representatives from the Ministry Of CHT Affairs, Ministry Of Primary and Mass Education, the Directorate of Primary Education and UNDP-CHTDF agreed on certain waivers that would enable these schools to meet the nationalisation criteria under special circumstances but the work was not fully processed due to the national elections.

Considering the situation of the students and the schools we would also like to request UNDP to continue to support these schools through the Hill District Councils (HDC) for another period of at least three years until nationalisation becomes effective.
On behalf of the CHT Commission



Eric Avebury
Co-chair of the
CHT Commission



Sultana Kamal
Co-chair of the
CHT Commission



Elsa Stamatopoulou
Co-chair of the
CHT Commission