



Statement from Ms Ameerah Haq, Chair, BRAC Global Board

I am deeply saddened to share that Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Founder of BRAC has passed away.

Sir Fazle breathed his last at 8.28 pm Bangladesh time on 20 December 2019 while undergoing treatment at the Apollo Hospitals in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He was battling a malignant tumour of the brain. He was 83 years old.

He prepared us for this day. Being the ever-mindful visionary pragmatist, he prepared for his transition with elegance, thoughtfulness and elaborate attention to detail. At every step of the way, his first consideration was always the people of BRAC and the continuity of our work.

He did not want his personal ailment to disrupt BRAC's vital work on the ground. He chose to carry on with his normal life, as much as possible, for as long as possible.

Even under such challenging health conditions, he came to the office whenever he could. He dedicated time to finalising BRAC's global strategy and planned with the leadership how BRAC can thrive in future as One BRAC. He also took the time to lay the foundation stone of BRAC University's new campus.

Unflinching dedication, focus and work ethic is what we have always experienced in Sir Fazle, or *Abed Bhai*, as the BRAC family calls him lovingly. He always put others before himself and let his work speak for itself. Even when BRAC attained its global stature, his concern and focus was always on those who were less fortunate within society and whose potential needed nurturing. He embodied the highest level of integrity, humility and humanity, which continues to be the essential guiding spirit of BRAC.

Sir Fazle built BRAC in such a way that the organisation was never about him alone. BRAC is built on our collective strengths. He has always placed immense trust in the BRAC team to carry forward his vision of building a world that gives every human being an equal opportunity to fulfil their potential. The values he imparted to us endure and remain constant.

Sir Fazle's decision to found BRAC at the age of 36 was a turning point in his life, just as he helped to create turning points in the lives of millions around the world. Working to create such



turning points in the lives of untold millions to come is the mission he has bequeathed to all of us. Even as we are engulfed in feelings of profound loss and sadness, it is this mission we have to heed and embrace with renewed vigour. He would want us to carry on, with the same dignity, courage and compassion that he has demonstrated till the very last hours of his life.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his loving family. To them we owe a debt of gratitude, for sharing his life and his precious time with us.

It is now up to each and every one of us to fulfil Sir Fazle's vision. We, the BRAC family, promise to work tirelessly to be worthy of his legacy.