

CLOSING REMARKS

Md. Ashraful Hassan : Chairman of Grameen Trust and Grameen Group

**Distinguished colleagues, respected partners, dear members of the Grameen family,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

As we come to the end of this historic Grameen Family Gathering, I want to begin with a simple and sincere word: thank you.

Over the past two days, Paris has become more than a meeting place. It has been a place to reflect, reconnect, and renew our commitment. This was not just a conference — it was an important moment for the global movement of Grameen Trust partner organizations, built on trust, courage, and belief in the work of Nobel Peace Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus.

We came from different countries, cultures, and institutions. Yet one thing remained clear: we are united by a shared philosophy and responsibility. The Grameen idea — born in a village in Bangladesh — truly belongs to the world. During these two days, we listened to each other carefully. We heard stories of innovation and strength from many different contexts. We learned how Grameen principles are helping refugees, empowering women entrepreneurs, supporting small farmers, creating dignified employment for youth, and building climate resilience.

One message stood out: the challenges we face today are complex and global — but so is the strength of the Grameen family.

Our discussions on zero poverty reminded us that financial inclusion is powerful, but not enough on its own. Poverty has many dimensions, and we must address it in a holistic way — combining finance with health, education, insurance, housing, and social protection.

Our discussions on zero unemployment showed that entrepreneurship can create dignity and independence when properly supported. Across continents, we saw inspiring examples of women-led businesses, youth innovation, and SME development creating livelihoods where formal employment opportunities are limited.

When discussing zero net carbon emissions, we faced one of today's greatest challenges. Climate change is already affecting the communities we serve. The solutions shared — green microfinance, climate insurance, and new technologies — show that Grameen institutions can lead climate action as innovators.

Ladies and gentlemen,

One of the most valuable outcomes of this gathering happened outside the formal sessions — in conversations over coffee, bilateral meetings, and moments of recognition when we realized we face similar challenges.

This gathering helped bridge distances between us.

We acknowledged that, despite our shared roots, we have often worked separately. Over these two days, we began building a stronger ecosystem — one that respects diversity and independence while encouraging collaboration, shared learning, and a collective voice.

Let me be clear:

Our goal is not to centralize or impose uniformity.

Our goal is to connect, support, and amplify one another.

Grameen Trust and the Grameen Group aim to facilitate this process by creating platforms and partnerships that encourage cooperation built on trust and shared purpose.

This gathering also reminded us that the world is watching the Grameen family. As inequality grows and trust in traditional economic systems weakens, the Grameen experience offers hope. But hope requires leadership.

A stronger and more connected network can influence global conversations on financial inclusion, social business, ethical finance, and sustainable development. Together, we can shape policy, attract responsible investment, and ensure the voices of communities we serve are heard.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Professor Muhammad Yunus reminds us that poverty is not created by the poor — it is created by systems. This insight gives us responsibility.

The vision of Three Zeros — zero poverty, zero unemployment, and zero net carbon emissions — is not a slogan.

It is a call to redesign our economic systems for people and the planet.

As we leave Paris, the real work begins.

Success will not be measured by discussion alone, but by action:

- the partnerships we build,
- the initiatives we create together,
- the knowledge we share,
- and the impact we achieve collectively.

Let us stay connected.

Let us learn from each other.

Let us turn shared values into shared action.

Before closing, I express sincere appreciation to the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation, especially Raphael Appert, Chairman; Veronique Faujour, Managing Director; and Philippe Guichandut, General Secretary, for their support in hosting this gathering. I thank all speakers, moderators, organizers, and participants who made these two days meaningful.

Special thanks to Tasmina and Matin of Grameen Trust for their dedication behind the scenes in partnership with the Foundation.

Dear friends, The Grameen journey has always followed a simple belief: when people are trusted, they rise to the occasion. The same applies to institutions.

Let us trust one another.

Let us act together.

Let us carry forward the spirit of Grameen — with humility, integrity, and courage.

This gathering is not an end, but a beginning —
the beginning of a more connected Grameen family,
a stronger collective voice,
and a renewed commitment to building a world of Three Zeros.

Thank you for your leadership.

Thank you for your partnership.

Thank you for your belief in the power of people and the Grameen philosophy.

Safe travels — and let us meet again not only in words, but in action.

Thank you.