



**PROCEEDINGS**  
**Hybrid Seminar on**

**Climate Diplomacy: Constraints and  
Choices for Bangladesh**

**04 October 2022**



**Organised by**  
**Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS)**





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# HYBRID SEMINAR

on

## Climate Diplomacy: Constraints and Choices for Bangladesh

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) organised a hybrid seminar titled **Climate Diplomacy: Constraints and Choices for Bangladesh** on Tuesday, 04 October 2022 at the BIISS auditorium. The seminar was divided into two sessions. **Ambassador Kazi Imtiaz Hossain, PAA**, Chairman, BIISS, chaired the inaugural session. **Colonel M A Saadi, afwc, psc**, Acting Director General, BIISS delivered the welcome address. **H E Dr Shamsul Alam**, Honourable Minister of State, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. **Professor Saleemul Huq**, Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), was the Special Guest. The Working Session was chaired by **Ambassador Shamsheer M Chowdhury, BB**, former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh. Four papers were presented during the Working Session. **Professor Mizan R Khan**, Deputy Director, ICCCAD, made a presentation on "Financing for Loss and Damage: Concerns for Bangladesh." **Arif M Faisal**, Programme Specialist (Nature, Climate and Energy), UNDP Bangladesh, presented "The Role of International Organisations in Climate Diplomacy." **Mirza Shawkat Ali**, Director, Climate Change and International Convention, Department of Environment, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, presented on "Major Outcomes of COP26 and Issues of COP27." **Dr Sufia Khanom**, Senior Research Fellow, BIISS, deliberated on "Bangladesh's Presidency in Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF): An Assessment of Climate Leadership in Perspective."



## **Hybrid Seminar on Climate Diplomacy: Constraints and Choices for Bangladesh**

An interactive session took place after the presentations. Senior officials from different ministries, ambassadors, high commissioners, former diplomats, senior military officials, media, academia, researchers, teachers and students, and representatives from diverse international organisations participated in the seminar and enriched it by presenting their valuable opinions, comments, suggestions, and observations.



# INAUGURAL SESSION

## WELCOME ADDRESS



### **Colonel M A Saadi, afwc, psc**

Acting Director General, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS)

At the outset, **Colonel M A Saadi, afwc, psc**, Acting Director General, BISS, welcomed the participants at the hybrid seminar on **Climate Diplomacy: Constraints and Choices for Bangladesh**, and expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards the honourable Chief Guest and the Special Guest for gracing the occasion. He paid his deepest homage to the memory of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Bangladesh's independence.

He highlighted the importance of climate change as it has emerged as an existential threat to humankind. This planetary crisis is the result of both human action and inaction. In this context, climate diplomacy has come forth as a tool to address this crisis as it helps to mobilise all the stakeholders for providing assistance to climate-vulnerable countries.



### **Hybrid Seminar on Climate Diplomacy: Constraints and Choices for Bangladesh**

Colonel Saadi mentioned that Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries as far as climate change is concerned. Thus, it proactively pursues environmental justice in multilateral platforms. During its presidency at the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), Bangladesh played a pivotal role in declaring the “Glasgow Declaration” in COP26. It is the first country to submit Nationally Determinant Contributors (NDCs) as a Paris Agreement precondition. Bangladesh’s “Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan” is a shining beacon for other CVF countries to take necessary actions for countering climate change.

The Acting Director General referred to the “Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP)” which is an initiative to bring forth experts at the negotiation table for climate diplomacy. According to him, a commendable achievement of Bangladesh is to develop the “National Adaptation Programme for Action (NAPA)” for addressing climate change issues. Furthermore, Bangladesh is a strong advocate for the idea of “Loss and Damage” to ensure economic compensation by Green House Gas (GHGs) contributing countries for the most vulnerable ones. He concluded by saying that at the upcoming COP27, Bangladesh should play a pivotal role and raise its voice regarding the implementation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for compensation for the losses and damages, ensuring sufficient financing for adaptation and resilience building.



## SPEECH BY THE SPECIAL GUEST



### **Professor Saleemul Huq**

Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)

**Professor Saleemul Huq**, Director, ICCCAD, thanked BIISS for organising the seminar on a very important topic. He referred to the title of the seminar, which was “Climate Diplomacy: Constraints and Choices for Bangladesh” and broke it down into three parts characterised as yesterday’s narrative, today’s narrative, and tomorrow’s narrative of climate change. According to him, yesterday’s narrative coincides with the word “constraints” of the seminar title. He mentioned that the climate change problem is now something that does not need to be explained. Twenty years ago, when he started working on this issue along with Dr Atik Rahman, he had to explain it. But now, people do not have to explain it anymore.

To highlight the increasing impact of disasters, he referred to the destruction Hurricane Ian has brought to the United States (US), first to Florida and then to South Carolina. The latest death toll is about 87, which is going to increase in the upcoming days.



### **Hybrid Seminar on Climate Diplomacy: Constraints and Choices for Bangladesh**

The damage estimated every single day goes up by roughly US\$10 billion. It has already reached about US\$60 to 70 billion and is going to get even bigger. Thus, the climate change problem is now a well-recognised one that does not need to be explained anymore.



He then moved to “today’s narrative” of climate change, which emphasises that climate change is a global problem that has just started to hit various countries. It is happening now and is no longer something that is going to happen in the future. People around the world are experiencing its impact every day, which means the future world is going to be a very different place from the past world. Referring to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, he said that the impact of climate change would be much worse compared to these two events put together. He stressed that people need to prepare for it, not only the people of Bangladesh but every single country in the world, individually and collectively. Unfortunately, people are not ready for that yet and need to do much better.

Professor Huq highlighted Bangladesh’s role in tackling climate change. He said that Bangladesh is taking a very proactive role in developing its own national climate change strategy and action plan. It has also formulated the “Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (BDP 2100)” and “Perspective Plan 2041.” It is also working on the “Mujib Climate

Prosperity Plan” that has been done under the leadership of Bangladesh’s chairmanship of the CVF. In the diplomatic sphere, Bangladesh has been a very active member of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group in the negotiations inside the UNFCCC process. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh chaired the CVF for the last two years, including representing the group in Glasgow at the COP26. She recently handed over the chairmanship to the president of Ghana, who is leading it now and will lead it in Sharm El-Sheikh in COP27. Ghana’s chairmanship does not mean Bangladesh no longer has a role to play. The CVF governance is based on a Troika system that incorporates the current and two previous chairs; the term period of the chair is two years. Therefore, Ghana will be the chair of CVF for two years and Bangladesh will remain a member of the Troika during Ghana’s presidency; when Ghana will hand over the chairmanship to its successor for another two years, Bangladesh still will remain in the Troika. Hence, its role as a leader of the CVF has not come to an end; the country is still part of the leadership and can speak on behalf of the forum.

Afterwards, Professor Huq discussed the challenges for Bangladesh. But instead of challenges, he said he would like to call them choices and opportunities. There is no doubt the challenges in future would be much more intense and Bangladesh is not ready for those. The country has already laid the foundation for becoming a global leader in climate change, especially adaptation to climate change and locally-led adaptation. He believes that, despite being one of the most vulnerable countries in the world in the face of climate change, vulnerability is no longer Bangladesh’s selling point. Rather, resilience should be. Bangladesh is becoming a resilient country and wants to become one of the most resilient countries in the world. He said, “So, instead of calling ourselves one of the most vulnerable countries, which we used to do for a long time, we need to call ourselves one of the most resilient countries going forward and prove it by showing our resilience.”

In the last part of his speech, Professor Huq talked about the role of diplomacy, especially the role of Bangladeshi diplomats. He believes they have a very important role to play in taking Bangladesh’s leadership on climate change forward. It is no longer confined to just asking for money or demanding money; Bangladesh now has to go beyond. It now can share its experience and knowledge of tackling climate change with the rest of the world. Referring to the role of his centre, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at the Independent University, he mentioned they are regularly organising training courses for people from LDCs to learn how to adapt to the impacts of climate change. He argued that Bangladeshi diplomats need to do more than just go to the annual COP summits. He expressed dissatisfaction regarding the outcome of the COP. Bangladesh needs to build on its leadership role from its chairmanship in CVF. It still has



four more years of CVF leadership position and needs to utilise that strategically. At the same time, the role of Bangladeshi diplomats is also critical. They have to pursue climate diplomacy, whether or not there is a climate meeting that they are attending. Every single day when they talk to their counterparts, the host countries, they need to talk to them about climate change and tell them what Bangladesh is doing about climate change. The diplomats need to be well aware of what Bangladesh is doing regarding climate change and engage with their counterparts. Professor Huq expressed hope that Bangladesh will become a knowledge sharer and a knowledge broker. The country will support others in tackling climate change. The Germans have already acknowledged that they need to learn from Bangladesh. But Bangladesh needs to invest in building its capacities to contribute in this regard which includes the country's scientists, NGOs, government, and diplomats along with everyone. Taking the message at the global level in five to ten years time, Bangladesh can be recognised globally as a genuine leader in tackling this global problem that is going to get worse everywhere in the coming days. He also stressed on the importance of research and knowledge generation in tackling climate change and thanked BIISS for taking the initiative to organise the seminar. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also taken such initiatives in the last two years. ICCCAD is running courses on climate diplomacy for young diplomats. But Bangladesh needs to do more than that. He showed interest in developing the capacity of Bangladeshi diplomats on climate diplomacy, which he believes is a new and emerging subject in its own right.

## SPEECH BY THE CHIEF GUEST



### **H E Dr Shamsul Alam**

Honourable Minister of State, Ministry of Planning,  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**H E Dr Shamsul Alam**, Minister of State, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, said Bangladesh is one of the most climate-change-vulnerable nations in the world, although contributing less than 0.47 per cent of global emissions. The impacts of climate change will severely strain the country's small landmass and limited resources. Aside from that, sea level rise induced salinity and other disasters are already damaging the production of rice and other crops significantly. Sea level rise alone will be responsible for a 5.8-9.1 per cent decline in rice production in future. A merely 1° Celsius rise in global temperatures and further sea level rise will result in the inundation of a large area of Bangladesh. In recent times, intense climate-related calamities, e.g., floods, droughts, and others are increasing. Earlier this year, nearly three-fourths of Sylhet was inundated owing to the heaviest rainfall in the region's history of the last 100 years. This time, Kurigram district experienced the worst flooding as well as drought in the span of barely two weeks. It is alarming that almost 2 per cent of Bangladesh's GDP is lost regularly due to natural calamities and environmental degradation. Thus, climate change poses an



existential threat to over 165 million people of the country, albeit Bangladesh has hardly been liable for these crises. Besides, it is trying to address the challenges of climate change emanating from over 1.1 million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals or Rohingyas. This phenomenon is not only affecting the country's land and environment in a severe manner, but also development and adaptation efforts.



Dr Alam said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has been doing its best to shift vulnerability towards resilience. The government established the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) in 2009 for climate adaptation and allocated over US\$480 million from its own resources to implement over 800 mitigation and adaptation programmes; in the Annual Development Plan (ADP), the climate-relevant allocation had been doubled, which grew from US\$1.44 billion in FY 2015-16 to about US\$2.96 billion in FY 2021-22. For adaptation and resilience building, the government undertook a number of initiatives, e.g., the construction of sea dykes, cyclone shelters and coastal plantations; initiatives have also been taken to rehabilitate people displaced by climate change. Bangladesh is implementing the world's biggest housing project named “Khuruskul Ashrayan Prokolpo” for people displaced by the impacts of climate change in Cox's Bazar. 139 multi-storeyed buildings alongside ensuring

all amenities are constructed to shelter 4,409 climate change affected families. Under the “Ashrayan” project, a landmark initiative of the government for the homeless and landless, a total of 442,608 families had been provided with houses. The project also focuses on the mitigation of climate change impacts through implementing tree plantation, rainwater harvesting, solar home systems and improved cook stoves. With a view to commemorating the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s birth centenary, the government planted 10 million trees in 2020 which was viewed as an important step towards the mitigation goal. Another crucial endeavour of the government is the BDP 2100, a comprehensive 100-year strategic plan aimed at gradual sustainable development through an adaptive delta management process, which targets to achieve a safe, climate-change resilient and prosperous delta. Also, the new National Adaptation Plan (NAP) will be the main vehicle to address adaptation at the national level which intends to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience to new and existing policies and programmes. NAP will surely enable the country to implement long-term coordinated climate adaptation programmes.

Regarding mitigation, he said Bangladesh put a strong emphasis on renewable energy, its sufficiency and conservation. The country has one of the most extensive domestic solar energy programmes in the world. It made a clear commitment to stop using coal-based power plants and already cancelled 10 of such plants worth US\$12 billion of foreign investments.

According to Dr Alam, Bangladesh has become a significant player in international climate diplomacy. During its presidency of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), the country emerged as a legitimate voice in climate change negotiations under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s competent leadership. Bangladesh has launched the “Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan” with the aim to put the country on a journey from climate vulnerability to resilience to climate prosperity (VRP). It is indeed one of the landmark policy guidelines for climate vulnerable countries. Bangladesh is one of the pioneers in submitting Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as a prerequisite for the Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol. The country also urged the global community to submit their NDCs and in response to that, seventy countries have already submitted their respective NDC reports. Bangladesh created the CVF and V20 (Vulnerable 20) Joint Multi-Donor Fund for supporting climate action among members. It is ready to support other vulnerable nations in developing their own prosperity plans. Best practices and adaptation knowledge are being shared with other climate change vulnerable countries through the Global Centre on Adaptation’s South Asia regional office in Dhaka. The Bangladesh government attached the utmost priority to climate diplomacy. The country feels to continue enhanced



global climate cooperation through advocacy and outreach. It firmly believes that climate change is a security issue and must, therefore, be discussed at regular intervals in the UN Security Council. Strict implementation of the Paris Agreement is necessary to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change. This is high time the major emitters need to meet the mitigation target swiftly. Besides, the issue of loss and damage must be addressed with utmost importance. The international community must assist vulnerable developing countries with financial resources and appropriate technologies in support of their adaptation efforts. World leaders need to promote inclusive climate action on an urgent basis. Bangladesh is looking forward to the 27th session of the Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC, commonly known as COP27, to be held from 06 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, for having more focussed actions, particularly on climate finance and climate justice, which are essential for meeting the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

In his closing remarks, Dr Alam said the seminar provides ample opportunities for sharing ideas and experiences from scholars on the climate diplomacy of Bangladesh. It was his firm belief these exchanges would certainly help in generating a better understanding of contemporary constraints and choices for Bangladesh regarding climate change and climate diplomacy issues. He concluded with the hope that the seminar would be able to shed light on key concerns of the country for the upcoming COP27 and was looking forward to having positive, useful suggestions from learned discussants.



## CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR



**Ambassador Kazi Imtiaz Hossain, PAA**  
Chairman, BIISS

**Ambassador Kazi Imtiaz Hossain, PAA**, Chairman, BIISS, said that climate change is undoubtedly the most crucial issue facing the whole world nowadays. After more than a year, the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties summit is going to be held at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. This global event would attract billions of people and see what path would be charted for saving the world from the disaster that was taking place. Climate change has emerged as a mortal threat to the planet earth. Bangladesh is undoubtedly one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change. Extreme climate events have seriously been impacting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. Here, he mentioned a statistic which said that between 2008 and 2021, over 400,000 Bangladeshis had been displaced internally due to climate change; the data also says that merely a metre rise in sea level will render millions of people displaced. Economic loss from climate change will be severe too. The recent floods in Sunamganj and Sylhet were recorded to be



the severest in the last 122 years of flooding in the country. Over a billion US dollar was lost in damage and destruction to properties. Climate change, there is no doubt, threatens to erode Bangladesh's development gains and it is estimated that nearly 2 per cent of the country's GDP is thus lost annually; there is apprehension this figure can rise close to double digits. The country has invested in building climate change resilience; over US\$10 billion so far has been invested in promoting the resilience of vulnerable communities in facing and addressing the impacts of climate change.



On the 27<sup>th</sup> COP summit scheduled to be held at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, Ambassador Hossain said that it is now a good time to reflect on what happened at the previous 26<sup>th</sup> summit in Glasgow. It is generally believed that the summit was an opportunity lost, in terms of addressing the fate of millions of people, the earth is constantly threatened by human-induced global warming and actions. Various things which did not materialise, require to be looked into as Bangladesh approaches and goes to the COP27 in Egypt. There was again a reaffirmation from global leaders that the global temperature be kept at 1.5° Celsius. There was also a positive tone that adaptation funds would increase. However, the disappointment was, developed countries had not been meeting their commitment to financial support. The US\$100 billion (per year) commitment in this regard was made in 2009, then in 2019 and then again in 2025, but has not been met. The fund reached

US\$80 billion in 2019. However, the distribution itself is, around 40 to 80 per cent of it has gone into what it says for mitigation and only 25 per cent of that, meaning US\$08 to 20 billion went into adaptation.

Ambassador Hossain again focussed on the COP27 to be held at Sharm El- Sheikh. A few things will surface and here he stressed the role that Bangladesh would play as a leader of the CVF. He highlighted some very specific proposals that were made by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at COP26: a) limit the global emission; b) developed countries must meet their commitment of providing US\$100 billion (per year) and the distribution has to be on an equal basis, i.e., mitigation and adaptation. Developed countries must keep the interests of developing countries which are most vulnerable, and facing existential threats, in mind; c) the issue of loss and damage has to be addressed properly, which should also include global sharing of responsibilities for climate refugees. Here Ambassador Hossain brought in the issue of 400,000 people displaced by climate change in Bangladesh between 2008 and 2021. He believed these issues would emerge and might decide either to make or break the COP27. It is very important that the developing world's voice becomes united at the summit.

He concluded by thanking Dr Shamsul Alam for detailing not only what Bangladesh had so far done in terms of putting plans and policies in place, but also for undertaking projects to build resilience. According to Ambassador Hossain, the broad framework provided by Dr Alam, would not guide Bangladesh for the next 10 or 20 years, but through the current century in building resilience, a sustainable and prosperous country. He also thanked Professor Saleemul Huq for suggesting Bangladesh should now move on to showing itself as a resilient country rather than a vulnerable one.

# WORKING SESSION

## *Financing for Loss and Damage: Concerns for Bangladesh*



**Professor Mizan R Khan**

Deputy Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)

**Professor Mizan R Khan**, Deputy Director, ICCCAD commenced his presentation with the definition of the concept of loss and damage. Referring to the report, he stated that “Losses and damages are unequally distributed across systems, regions and sectors and are not comprehensively addressed by current financial, governance and institutional arrangements, particularly in vulnerable developing countries.” He informed the audience that the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report makes a critique of many past adaptation actions as ineffective, often contributing to maladaptation. It provides evidence that climate justice needs to be at the centre of global policymaking. The different estimates of loss and damage suggest the range of US\$300 billion to US\$700 billion by 2030; potentially shooting up to US\$1.2 trillion by 2060.



He then discussed the history of loss and damage in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Regime. In 1991, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) first began championing the cause of loss and damage by proposing the creation of an international insurance pool. Subsequently, loss and damage was first referred to in a formally negotiated UN text in the 2007 Bali Action Plan which called for disaster reduction strategies and means to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The AOSIS mechanism consisted of three elements namely insurance, rehabilitation and risk management. The loss and damage principle started gaining more traction in the following years. The landmark milestone for this principle was in 2013, at COP19 when the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) was established. The implementation of the functions of the WIM is guided by the Executive Committee of the Mechanism (ExCom). In 2017, at the sixth meeting of ExCom, the five-year rolling work plan was approved with recommendations. At the COP25 in 2019, the five-year rolling work plan was reviewed.

While talking about the actions for addressing loss and damage under the Paris Agreement, Professor Khan said that the principle of loss and damage was inserted into the Paris Agreement. It included both economic and non-economic loss and damage. Article 8.3 mentioned three areas of action, i.e., averting, minimising, and addressing loss and damage. “Averting” can be achieved by mitigation and adaptation. “Minimising” can be achieved through enhancing adaptive capacity. “Addressing” loss and damage is to support relief, recovery, and rehabilitation building forward better in which scaled-up humanitarian assistance is needed. Therefore, loss and damage is a function of vulnerability and access to resources. He commented that adaptation and loss and damage are conflated. However, adaptation finance is extremely low.

He then talked about the current status of climate finance. He commented that the legal and institutional framework of climate finance was established long back, but it reflects the political, economic and social dynamics of a neoliberal globalised world. Market justice is an antonym to climate justice. Rich countries are legally obligated to support developing countries. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 2022 Report claims that US\$83.6 billion has been delivered as climate finance in 2020. The Oxfam 2018 Report deflated the claimed figure of US\$78.9 billion down more than three times US\$19-22 billion of which 21 per cent is adaptation finance and the remaining is for mitigation. There is triple counting of the same money under Rio Markers. The reason is an absence of an agreed definition of climate finance. The loan-grant ratio is 80:20 which is increasing even for the LDCs. However, climate finance is increasing a little, but the ODA is

going down. Only about 10 per cent of adaptation finance is targeted at local communities where the delivery is much less. Besides, access remains as problematic as ever.

Professor Khan identified the measures to address loss and damage. He discussed four categories in this regard. In terms of financial protection, setting up, scaling up, or capacity building for insurance schemes is necessary. Besides, there is a need to integrate climate change risks and impacts into setting up, scaling up, or capacity building for social protection schemes. For recovery and rehabilitation, certain measures such as reconstruction and reparation of destroyed infrastructure, rebuilding/restoring of livelihoods and restoration of ecosystems and landscapes, and capacity building in the context of recovery and rehabilitation are important. The third category is displacement, migration and alternative livelihood. Here it is important to support measures for planned relocation/resettlement. Building up alternative livelihood provisions/developing alternative livelihoods is needed. It is important to address the root causes of vulnerability, such as through social protection and capacity building in the context of displacement, migration and alternative livelihoods. With a view to addressing the non-economic loss and damage, there is a need to recognise loss (accompanied/unaccompanied by financial payments). Active remembrance through museum exhibitions, school curricula and counselling for people experiencing trauma related to loss and damage is necessary. Besides, capacity building to address non-economic loss and damage is needed.

On finance for loss and damage, he mentioned that there is no dedicated funding yet. WIM has failed to mobilise support in this regard. COP26 established a dialogue on loss and damage up until 2024. UNFCCC finally agreed to include an agenda on loss and damage at COP27. He stated that the literature shows the instruments for loss and damage, such as risk pooling, catastrophe bonds, insurance, social safety nets, contingency funds, etc. But many of these instruments fail to fit with slow onset events. Solidarity levies on externalities/global public goods as polluter-pays-principle is not agreed upon yet. These can be carbon pricing/trading, financial transaction tax, levy on defence spending, etc. There is an evolving consensus for a levy on air and maritime transport. These auto-generation mechanisms, independent of the public treasury, can create a dedicated fund for loss and damage. These instruments are fair, predictable, adequate, additional and transparent. He emphasised on the introduction of the Climate Visa programme for displaced people for Selective Relocation Abroad.

Professor Khan then identified the challenges for loss and damage finance available at the international level outside UNFCCC. First, there is a lack of financing at scale to meet real needs. Second, lack of adequate coverage of all relevant risks and losses and damages. Third, lack of comprehensive risk financing strategies and limitations to a narrow scope of instruments. Fourth, fragmented and complex international CDRFI architecture. Finally, gaps in a demand-driven, human rights-based implementation measure.

He listed the way forward for loss and damage. He stated that new and additional funding is needed to support developing countries in managing climate risks and addressing loss and damage. He emphasised the implementation of key justice criteria for loss and damage finance including Public Private Partnership (PPP), Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBRD), adequacy, and additionally, predictability. Developing needs-based solutions jointly with vulnerable countries is necessary. Finally, a loss and damage finance gap report is needed.

In the final part of his presentation, Professor Khan talked about learning from Bangladesh. He said that Bangladesh is a leading example of loss and damage practice, using its own money to establish the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) to finance adaptation and loss and damage. The proposed National Mechanism on loss and damage is being taken forward as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiative. It is a two-year action research project involving Government ministries and agencies, NGOs, academics/researchers, the private sector and insurance companies. This will be piloted with its own resources initially, but if successful after two years, developed countries can also contribute. The goal of Bangladesh is to develop robust, transparent and reliable systems to identify loss and damage and support the victims not just to recover, but to better adapt to the future. He hoped that if successful Bangladesh may be a role model for other countries as well.



## *The Role of International Organisations in Climate Diplomacy*



### **Arif M Faisal**

Programme Specialist (Nature, Climate & Energy), UNDP Bangladesh

**Arif M Faisal**, Programme Specialist (Nature, Climate & Energy), UNDP Bangladesh, provided a country context of climate diplomacy while presenting on the topic “The Role of International Organisation in Climate Diplomacy”. He stated that climate change impacts and variability are critical development concerns for Bangladesh. The government has developed a range of national legal and policy responses to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change and promote climate-resilient development and green growth. He opined that climate negotiations could be an effective platform for branding Bangladesh in a global forum. In this regard, he shared some examples of locally-led adaption. He mentioned that Bangladesh has more than five million solar power systems. The country is working with refrigeration and air conditioning companies that are transforming their production system with the inclusion of new technology. He recommended that promoting these things should be one of the agenda.

Mr Faisal stated that climate change, human and national security issues are getting intertwined. They are being recognised as such globally. Climate finance is the top issue for most vulnerable nations. He predicted that future negotiation agenda may be Loss and Damage (L&D), coal phased-out, energy transition, climate migration, net-zero emission, etc. For example, in COP26, the main discussion was concentrated on promoting net zero emissions. Capacity building and concessional finance could also be new forms of climate negotiation. He opined that climate negotiation is a complex multi-lateral process and hence no country negotiates in the UNFCCC as a single country. They do it within negotiating groups. More than 195 countries participate in the negotiation process. In his opinion, the traditional instruments of diplomacy are not always effective in tackling global climate change. In order to address the climate change challenges, new thinking in foreign policy is required. He suggested that the Economic Councilors, Ambassadors and diplomats need to know about these skills as well as a new set of skills need to be developed for the purpose.

Mr Faisal highlighted that Bangladesh's foreign policy stands primarily on two pillars, i.e., security and development. He reiterated that Bangladesh is no more a vulnerable country, vulnerability is no more a selling point. The "Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan" is about shifting from vulnerability to resilience and prosperity. This is one of the selling points for Bangladesh. Bangladesh's technology and locally-led adaptation are now being piloted in African and Central Asian countries. Bangladeshi experts are now working in many countries for climate change resilience and development.

He highlighted that Bangladesh should consider appointing a personal "Special Climate Change Envoy/Adviser." He mentioned that experts have been advocating for this for a very long time. He added that Bangladesh is a member of important bodies set up by the UNFCCC, such as the Adaptation Fund Board, the GCF Board and the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) on loss and damage. This is another recognition of Bangladesh's expertise and importance in this area by other countries.



Next, Mr Faisal shared some points regarding the history of International Conventions, Treaties and Protocols. He mentioned the Rio Convention and the Kyoto Protocol on the reduction of greenhouse gasses. He stated that the Kyoto protocol is the first binding mechanism for the reduction of emissions. He also talked about the UNFCCC-Bali Conference on Climate Change which discussed five building blocks of climate change adaptation and mitigation. He also presented the key agendas of the Paris Climate Agreement in a nutshell. He mentioned long-term temperature goals, mitigation, market- and non-market-based approaches, cooperative approaches, etc.

At this stage of the presentation, he elaborated on the role of International Organisations (IO) in climate diplomacy. He shared that international conventions, treaties and protocols are formed using a democratic, right-based, multi-lateral process and consensus-based approach. The United Nations (UN) is playing a very unified role regarding this. The UN's main role is bringing all countries to raise their voice and make a consensus-building decision-making process using a unified single platform. IOs mobilise resources and channel climate funds to the most vulnerable countries through multilateral funding processes e.g., Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund, Climate Investment Fund, etc. All these funds have a unified policy



and due diligence process. This is also discussed in the COP summits. The IOs establish a series of mechanisms, networks and committees. They also build formal relationships with the scientific community to deal with climate change. The IOs strengthen the voices and capacity of the most vulnerable countries. In this regard, Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), Vulnerable 20 (V20), LDC and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) lead the way. The IOs support all the vulnerable countries irrespective of their economic status to bring vulnerable voices in a single platform.

Mr Faisal added that the IOs also track progress in adaptation. In the Paris Agreement, there is a mention of the global goal of adaptation. For tracking mitigation, every developed country irrespective of their economic status is now preparing a nationally determined plan. This is a kind of mitigation plan. They also work for technology development and transfer, climate finance and capacity building. For example, there are various committees on capacity building. The UN bodies track the progress of achievement in climate change. They also set targets for mitigation, adaptation and climate finance. In 2009, a floor was set for US\$100 billion for climate but the pledge has not been met yet.

In discussing the role of IOs, Mr Faisal further stated that these organisations make a delicate balance of power structure among all parties by creating a common negotiation and bargaining platform. They engage multiple actors, both state and non-state. Here he shared some insights regarding the structure of the negotiation process. He stated that there are two types of negotiation process. First is the government delegation. This group gets a blue badge. The other group includes participants from the private sector, civil society and media. They get a green badge. This group does not have access to the blue zone where the head of the state's discussion takes place. Overall, IOs promote a “whole of government” and “whole of society” approach. They also engage and empower special groups like the youth. In COP26, there was a huge engagement of youth and women. There is also a big forum for indigenous people. They actually steer the climate negotiation process and also influence it.

Mr Faisal discussed his views regarding better choices for climate negotiation. He talked about branding Bangladesh through climate diplomacy. He shared that Bangladesh is already engaging the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Economic Councilors in attracting foreign direct investment and promoting green trade. Bangladesh has more than ten green certified garment industries. Among the top ten green industries, six are in the country. This shows that the private sector is much aware about this issue. He

mentioned that Bangladesh can be the global lab for climate solutions. Through south-south cooperation, north-south cooperation and triangular cooperation, Bangladesh can promote its good locally-led adaptation. It can invest in developing a national mechanism to tackle L&D from human induced climate change and take the lead role in the L&D agenda. Bangladesh is already taking the lead and bringing other vulnerable nations, particularly in the L&D agenda. He shared that Bangladesh could lead the process to bring international attention to climate displaced persons. He recommended opening climate visas or relocating some people. He thinks that Bangladesh can lead the international discussion in this area. Bangladesh needs to represent a balanced climate negotiation team. In earlier times only the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change actually led the negotiation team. But under the present government, other relevant ministries like Finance, Foreign Affairs, Industry, Energy, Women and Children Affairs, Local Government Rural Development are included. Through this, the climate negotiation theme is very balanced. This is an example of how Bangladesh can advance the negotiation agenda.



Next, Mr Faisal highlighted Bangladesh's need of long-term and transformational capacity building since the negotiating team is ageing. A new generation of negotiators is

needed. There is also a need for a Lead and Co-implementing agency. The private sector also needs to be engaged in negotiation. Ten years back there were very few private sector engagements in the negotiation process. This is increasing but a lot more engagement is needed, particularly to attract the FDI in green investment and promote green business. He also added that youth engagement is needed. There is a youth forum in Bangladesh who are very vocal. But more youths need to be brought into this negotiation process. He also opined that there needs to be a selection criterion for climate negotiation participants to eliminate “tourists” at the outset. He added that the country needs to retain talented and experienced negotiators. There are some retired people who have huge skills and experience, these people need to be retained. The capacity of the next generation should also be built.

In the final part of his presentation, Mr Faisal discussed the challenges. In his view, Bangladesh still needs to engage resources, particularly in the science-based policy-making process. The database needs to be more robust and the focus should be on making evidence-based climate diplomacy and negotiation. Bangladesh needs to prioritise the many commonalities that climate change shares with other major foreign policy issues. As development and security are prioritised in foreign policy, on the development front, Bangladesh can further augment the policy by including climate resilience development and green growth. He shared that the common but differentiated responsibilities of countries and their respective capabilities are the principles of UNFCCC. It means that there is a common policy, for example, reduction of emissions and enhancement of resilience, but the responsibility may be different. For example, the reduction of emission by China and the reduction by Bangladesh is not the same. He shared that there is a huge challenge in meaningfully addressing equity and climate justice. Static attributions of responsibility are unfair as country situations change. For example, after the Russia-Ukraine war, lots of countries are becoming vulnerable. Instead of graduating, their economic position is declining due to inflation and other things which is a challenging area. Effective climate risk management calls for national changes with a broad and profound impact on local economies and voters’ lives. Climate agreements are politically controversial as they require explicit local government decisions for reforms, often in line with the political economy. Bangladesh has prepared the national climate change adaptation plan. In parallel, it is now preparing the local adaptation plan. Not addressing the local climate change vulnerability will be challenging. He added that, as large economies such as the US, China, India, and Brazil are allowed to grow, the effectiveness of mitigation action elsewhere may be reduced. Every country, irrespective of development status, has the



right to grow. However, there are a lot of challenges in determining the limit of the growth. He spoke about uncertainties regarding technologies. Technology is rapidly changing. In COP26, all automobile companies pledged that by 2030, all the cars will be electric. Bangladesh has entered this era. If the new technology comes, the old technology will become obsolete. There is an economic impact at the same time a huge challenge regarding this. He also mentioned that in the climate negotiation process there are huge, powerful asymmetries around the negotiation table. This is a discussion between core and developed countries. As the last challenge he mentioned that there is less focus on building the next generation of climate diplomacy negotiators. The young generation needs to be targeted. He concluded by saying that this should be the main agenda that Bangladesh could advance.

## ***Major Outcomes of COP26 and Issues of COP27: Bangladesh Perspective***



### **Mirza Shawkat Ali**

Director, Climate Change and International Convention, Department of Environment, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

At the outset of his presentation, **Mirza Shawkat Ali**, Director, Climate Change and International Convention, Department of Environment, GOB, shared some information on the possible impact of Bangladesh's LDC graduation. He said that, over the last ten years, Bangladesh has accessed only US\$35 million from the LDC fund. From GCF, the country has accessed US\$101 million in grants and US\$250 million in loans. From the adaptation fund, Bangladesh has accessed US\$9.21 million, and from GIF, it has accessed around US\$166 million. So, in total, the country has accessed around US\$400 to 450 million. But from Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF), Bangladesh has accessed US\$480 million, and according to the climate fiscal framework, the government has allocated about US\$2.96 billion. Therefore, he believes that there will be no significant pressure on the economy in terms of climate financing after graduation.

Mr Ali first highlighted on the major outcomes of COP26. In the case of adaptation, the expectation was mentioned in setting a global goal on adaptation in Article 7.1 of the Paris Agreement. A comprehensive two-year Glasgow–Sharm El-Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation (Decision7/CMA3, para2) was established and launched. So the basic understanding is that through consultation, there will be a Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). Regarding adaptation finance, there is an imbalance between adaptation and mitigation. So, it was really important to see how this imbalance can be addressed. There were discussions in the Glasgow pact. There was reference that the current provision of climate finance for adaptation remains insufficient. Mr Ali argued that the discussion was possible only because COP26 was organised in a developed country. Since the UK had the presidency, they succeeded in pinpointing these issues. If it was in a developing country, it might not be possible to utilise this kind of language. Besides, the COP urges developed countries to significantly scale up their provision of climate finance. So, these were the major outcomes in adaptation finance.

In the case of long-term finance, Mr Ali informed the audience that the discussion of long-term finances started back in COP17. That lingered and a decision was made that this discussion will continue till 2027. COP26 noted with deep regret that developed country parties to mobilise US\$100 billion per year have not yet been met (Decision 1/CP.26, para26; Decision1/CMA3, para44). It urged developed country parties to fully deliver on the US\$100 billion goal urgently (Decision 1/CP.26, para27; Decision1/CMA3, para46) and called upon to provide greater clarity on their pledges (Decision1/CMA3, para45). There was a complete decision that biennially developed countries should submit information about their climate financial support to developing countries. A roadmap for deliberations on the new collective quantified financial goals was set. So, this was another important initiative that was taken during COP26. Parties agreed that deliberations on the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) be set up around the: Ad hoc work programme for 2022–2024 (para3); Four technical expert dialogues per year (para5); High-level ministerial dialogues (para10); Stock-takes and guidance by the CMA (para12).

In mitigation, one of the most important agenda items was to keep the temperature goal of 1.5° C alive. There were two temperature goals fixed in the Paris Climate Agreement. One was 2° C and the other was 1.5° C. But the preferred one from developing countries and LDC countries is, if possible, it should be 1. 5° C. So, in that line, there were some outcomes like pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5° C (Decision 1/



CP.26, para15), reducing global carbon emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 and net zero around 2050 (para17), revisiting and strengthening the 2030 NDC targets by the end of 2022 (Decision 1/CMA.3, para29). According to the present status of the NDC, the temperature rise will be beyond 3°C. So, in every five year cycle, the countries need to submit them and they need to make it more ambitious. The countries have already established a work programme to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation and request the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to recommend a draft decision on this matter for consideration and adoption by the CMA4 in 2022, to complement the global stocktake (Decision 1/CMA.3, para27).

At this point of his presentation, Mr Ali focused on some selected agenda items for COP27. According to him, the Glasgow-Sharm El-Sheikh work programme on GGA will be the most important issue for COP27. CMA3 established and launched a comprehensive two-year (2022–2023) Glasgow–Sharm El-Sheikh work programme on GGA, to be carried out jointly by the SBSTA and the SBI. So, these are the two subsidiary bodies that are jointly working on these. There will be four workshops per year conducted under the guidance of the SB Chairs, (i) two virtual inter-sessional workshops and (ii) two workshops in conjunction with the SB sessions. The secretariat will prepare under the guidance of the SB Chairs, an annual report on the workshops. Third Workshop on the GGA will be held on 17-18 October 2022 in Cairo physically/virtually.

Regarding long-term climate financing, Mr Ali mentioned the decision of COP26 to continue discussion on the issue till 2027 (decision 4/CP.26). COP26 also requested the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) to prepare a report in 2022 on progress towards achieving the goal of mobilising jointly US\$100 billion per year to address the needs of developing countries. It also decided to convene biennial high level ministerial dialogues on climate finance in 2022, 2024 and 2026 and requested the COP Presidency to summarise the deliberations at the dialogues for consideration by the COP in the year thereafter. That means, every year there will be some sort of reporting and then next year there will be some sort of discussion. He informed that the current climate finance definition is not established yet, so the countries are expecting that the standing committee on finance by this year will establish the definition of climate finance that will clarify many things. Besides, the principles of UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, particularly Articles 9.4, 9.5 and 9.7 should be materialised immediately. Adaptation financing is less prioritised compared to mitigation financing in both GCF and other funding windows, therefore it

should be prioritised for achieving climate resilience in climate vulnerable developing countries.

According to Mr Ali, another vital issue regarding long-term climate financing is getting clear indications from developed countries on how they will step up their funding to meet the US\$100 billion goal in line with the Paris climate agreement. US\$83.6 billion has been mobilised by developed countries, but there are different estimates. Only 20 per cent is mobilised for adaptation which is a huge imbalance. Developed countries should come forward with a delivery plan, including sources of financing and the mode of allocation. Alongside increased flows of finance, it is crucially needed to improve access to climate finance. Current mechanisms for accessing climate finance are often slow and complex. There should be some sort of mechanism so that the financial progress can be tracked.

Mr Ali then talked about the new collective quantified goal on climate finance. COP21 decided that, in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 3 of the Paris Agreement, developed countries intend to continue their existing collective mobilisation goal through 2025. So it was US\$100 billion in 2020. Prior to 2025, the CMA shall set a new collective quantified goal from a floor of US\$100 billion per year, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries. So the US\$100 billion will be raised because the requirement of adaptation and mitigation is much higher. According to some assessments, there is a requirement of US\$600 billion. Other assessments estimate US\$300 plus billion per year. So, a discussion has already started and under this NCQG on climate finance, three workshops were conducted and there was a decision that four technical expert dialogues on this work programme will be held each year and three have already been organised. The first dialogue was in 2022 and held from 24 to 25 March in Cape Town, South Africa; the second one was in conjunction with SBs 56 in Bonn, Germany. The third Expert Dialogue, from 6 to 9 September 2022 in Manila, Philippines and the fourth Expert Dialogue will be held in conjunction with CMA 4 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

Unfortunately, the main focus of the mobilisation of climate finance was through private sector participation. But for adaptation, private sector participation is insignificant. There are huge challenges because the private sector looks for profit maximisation and in the case of adaptation it should be like a voluntary contribution kind of thing. For mitigation, it is okay to involve the private sector because, in most cases, the technologies lie with the private sector and there are opportunities. Bangladesh along with other

vulnerable countries may suggest that the submitted NDCs, NAPs, NCs, BURs and TNAs could be the basis for assessing the financial needs of vulnerable countries and starting point of NCQG assessment. The third Expert Dialogue focused heavily on the role of the private sector. Bangladesh may communicate that the role of the private sector is still limited in adaptation actions in vulnerable developing countries compared to adaption. The private sector is not well aware of the opportunities and their role in both mitigation and adaptation, increasing dialogue and capacity building of the private sector should be explored for their involvement. Bangladesh should also reiterate that public sources should be the major sources of climate finance in establishing the NCQG and the NCQG should have a review and adjustment cycle every 5 years which will be consistent with the NDC and Global Stocktake cycles.



The last agenda item Mr Ali discussed was the matters relating to the Global Stocktake (GST). Article 14 of the Paris Agreement provides that the CMA shall periodically take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement to assess collective progress and long-term goals in line with Article 14, paragraph 2, the CMA shall undertake its first global stock in 2023 and every five years thereafter. The global stocktake consists of three components: information collection and preparation, which commenced at SB 52–55;



technical assessment, which started at SB 56 and will conclude at SB 58 (June 2023); and consideration of outputs, which will take place at CMA 5 (2023). The discussion on global stock-taking has already started. Decision 19/CMA.1 requests the secretariat, to prepare for the technical assessment four synthesis reports: (i) A synthesis report on the state of greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks and mitigation efforts undertaken by Parties, (ii) A synthesis report on the state of adaptation efforts, support, experience and priorities, including the information referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 2, 10, 11 and 14, of the Paris Agreement, (iii) A synthesis report on the overall effect of Parties' NDCs and overall progress made by Parties towards the implementation of their NDCs, (iv) A synthesis report on the finance flows, including the information referred to in Article 2, paragraph 1(c), and means of implementation and support and mobilisation and provision of support, including the information referred to in Article 9, paragraphs 4 and 6. So, based on these four synthesis reports, and discussions, we will come up with a decision on global stock-taking. So, the stock-taking is ongoing, and the GST should ensure achieving long-term temperature goals and strive for achieving global climate resilience, including mobilisation of climate finance. GST should also focus on enhancing support for capacity building and technology transfer, in the light of the best available science.

## ***Bangladesh's Presidency in Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF): An Assessment of Climate Leadership in Perspective***



### **Dr Sufia Khanom**

Senior Research Fellow, BIISS

**Dr Sufia Khanom**, Senior Research Fellow, BIISS, presented on the topic of “Bangladesh’s Presidency in Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF): An Assessment of Climate Leadership in Perspective.” She divided her presentation into five parts: Background, Conceptual Framework for Leadership, Assessment of Bangladesh’s Leadership in CVF, Assessment of the Legitimacy of Bangladesh’s Leadership and Conclusion with challenges.

Dr Khanom pointed to the fact that CVF consists of 55 states with 1.4 billion people who are only responsible for 5 per cent of global total emissions while paying US\$4.2 trillion equivalent GDP every year for extreme climate events. Thus, it is no surprise that since 2009 CVF member states have reached 55 from 11. Out of 55, 25 member states are from Africa and the Middle East, 19 are from Asia and the Pacific and 11 are from Latin

America and Caribbean states. Then, she talked about the evolution of CVF, which had its first meeting in 2009. In 2010, CVF had Kiribati as president and in 2011 Bangladesh, for the first time assumed the presidency of CVF. Later in 2013, Costa Rica took the presidency of the CVF and in 2015 Philippines. Afterwards, Ethiopia and Marshall Island led CVF in 2016 and 2018 respectively. In 2020, Bangladesh took over the CVF presidency for the 2nd time which was later passed on to Ghana in 2022.

Dr Khanom argued that the International Climate Regime and Climate Negotiation is a complex mechanism. Climate negotiation has multiple levels, like near negotiation, para negotiation, and formal negotiation. CVF provides a safe space for countries to put forward their ideas, test their thoughts and bring proposals into the formal negotiation process. This process includes parallel by which different groups and blocs align and develop their positions. They work to basic and cut a dialogue, do not negotiate in the UNFCCC, but coordinate and align their positioning whereas the Association of Independent Latin American and Caribbean countries negotiate as a group and coordinate. This process shows the importance of the CVF in the International Climate Regime and Bangladesh's climate diplomacy. She outlined two research questions that her paper seeks to answer; first, what are the initiatives and interventions that led to Bangladesh's presidency at CVF and second, assessing the legitimacy of leadership. To explain the justification of this study, Dr Khanom said that climate justice and human rights are one of the core areas for climate diplomacy of Bangladesh and it represents the country's image in international fora.

Dr Khanom then moved on to discuss six key features of leadership that will provide justification for the fact that Bangladesh is a climate leader. Firstly, leadership must have creativity in action. Secondly, it should have the power to orient and mobilise others for a purpose. Thirdly, controversies regarding motivation as the process is political. Fourthly, leadership is relational and competitive because every year new leaders emerge from COP summits. Fifthly, the number of followers matters in leadership and lastly, leadership does not focus on common goods for limited success but rather focuses on goods for broad objectives. In broader understanding, leadership can be summarised into two parts- 1) showing herself as a leader, and 2) considered to be a leader by others.

Afterwards, Dr Khanom analysed Bangladesh's CVF leadership through three theoretical lenses, particularly focusing on climate leadership. The first one was structural or coercive leadership. This idea refers to the development of power resources



for the purpose of creating incentives and changing the cost and benefits associated with different avenues for actions in a particular issue area. Secondly, intellectual and directional leadership is taking unilateral actions and accomplished by the demonstration effects of leading by example through making the first move. It is possible to demonstrate the feasibility value and superiority of particular policy solutions. Lastly, the third lens instrumental or problem-solving leadership relies on negotiating skills and seeks to put together deals that would elude participants.

Dr Khanom analysed Bangladesh's leadership through the three lenses mentioned above. According to her study, Bangladesh does not have the required resources to provide structural or coercive leadership and no behaviour of Bangladesh indicates its intention for coercive actions in order to attain certain objectives. Regarding intellectual or directional leadership, Bangladesh has taken up a number of notable initiatives during its presidency that have shifted the narratives from vulnerability to resilience. Bangladesh developed the "Midnight Survival Deadline," the "Mujib Prosperity Plan" and produced NDC reports along with 70 other countries. Bangladesh also developed a seed bank with the Marshall Islands and CVF-V20 Multi-Donor Fund for providing support during any emergency. Then she analysed Bangladesh's initiatives through the instrumental or problem-solving leadership model. She found that Bangladesh has led CVF twice, worked to increase the number of members in CVF and developed the five thematic ambassadors to enhance the effectiveness of CVF activities. Bangladesh portrayed CVF as a global lab for adaptation for countries, where Bangladesh and other states can share their knowledge regarding climate changes and initiated a famous campaign called "Time to Pay Up", similar to Green Climate Fund, which other vulnerable countries like Bangladesh is claiming for their adaptation.

Dr Khanom discussed the legitimacy of Bangladesh's leadership role in climate negotiation. She talked about six angles to analyse Bangladesh's leadership legitimacy: the Demand-Supply factor, Normative of Formal Leadership, Social Empirical Leadership, Proactive Country in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change (CC) Adaptation, Weak Power and finally the "First Mover Advantage" position. Firstly, the demand-supply model shows that Bangladesh has a strong collaboration with negotiation alliances like Africa Group, LDC, G-77, AOSIS etc. which gives Bangladesh a better position to influence those groups during climate negotiation. Bangladesh's strong climate negotiation experts and vibrant civil society played an instrumental role in developing leadership from the bottom-up approach which brings people from different sectors for collaboration.

### **Hybrid Seminar on Climate Diplomacy: Constraints and Choices for Bangladesh**

Bangladesh also has good connections in order to borrow resources from other countries of the world and has long experience of conducting training for young diplomats and youth professionals on climate negotiation which reinforces the country's position as a climate leader. Bangladesh does share experience and knowledge with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS). Bangladesh now no longer just draws attention by tackling humanitarian crises induced by devastating floods and cyclones but also for the lessons it can share with the rest of the world. GISS-NASA invited Bangladeshi specialists on natural disasters to share their experiences with them.

In the case of the Normative of Formal leadership, she mentioned that Bangladesh has led CVF twice, led LDC once, conducted Light House Activities 2013 and won the Champion of the Earth Award 2015 from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and developed Climate Resilient Fund Mechanism, a model which is now being followed by Indonesia and Malaysia.



As a country which is proactive in DRR and CC Adaptation, Bangladesh has numerous achievements in the field. Dr Khanom then highlighted that the adaptation approach over mitigation is the key focus of Bangladesh's climate diplomacy. Though

Bangladesh remains one of the most vulnerable but proved to be the most resilient country in this regard. Bangladesh is a favourable destination for climate researchers who want to observe the changes and explore the “No Regret” options in the COP summits as well as vocal for Climate Adaptation Fund. She said that Bangladesh has Moral Leadership in climate diplomacy. Being the most vulnerable country, Bangladesh has a legitimate position for claiming moral leadership. Bangladesh’s National Climate Framework and other initiatives have set examples in policy making and the use of renewable energy.

Bangladesh, despite being a weak power in the international system, was a “First Mover” country as far as climate leadership is concerned. Its many initiatives were followed by other vulnerable countries around the globe. As CVF has different countries from diverse regions with various negotiation blocs around the world, Bangladesh can influence a wide range of states and different negotiation blocs through its leadership. Despite pressing concerns about climate change, the resurgence of real political impetus has weakened the CVF. Even after that, weak powers can bring pressure on powerful states for meaningful actions.

Dr Khanom concluded her presentation with the discussion on the challenges ahead of CVF and Bangladesh. She mentioned corruption and lack of accountability in climate governance, which she believes has to be taken into serious account. Bangladesh also needs to think about its position after its graduation from LDC. She added that often climate negotiations get paralysed under the pressure of powerful states so countries must address and find a way forward to overcome such obstacles.



## OPEN DISCUSSION



**Dr Mohammad Abu Yusuf**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, GOB, praised Professor Mizan R Khan for his excellent presentation. He wanted to know whether there is any decision under UNFCCC that confirms the US\$100 billion of climate finance promised by the developed countries.

**Salahud Din Ahmed**, former member, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission, referred to Professor Khan's presentation that rich countries are legally obligated to support the developing countries to fight against climate change. He opined that the vulnerable countries should be more confident in the negotiation process.



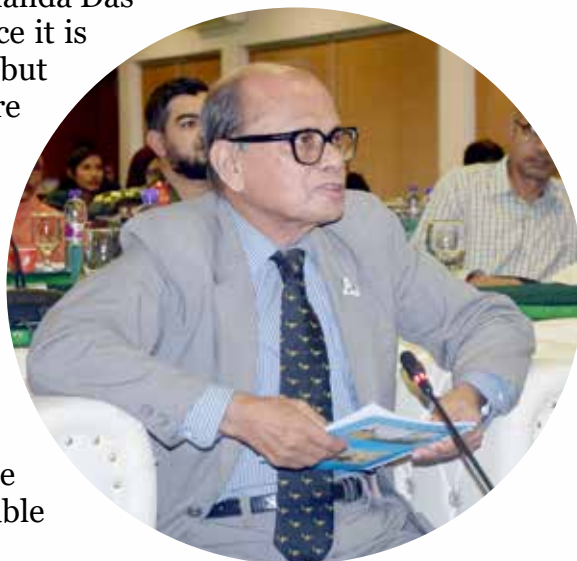
**Ashfaqur Rahman Khan**, National Programme Officer, International Organization for Migration (IOM), wanted to know what would be the impact of the graduation of Bangladesh from LDC to developing country status on climate finance. He then raised the issues of climate induced displacement and migration and asked how the government is planning to address the issue. He gave an example of Haiti where after the 2010 Earthquake, displaced people were given temporary protections in the US where they stayed for 18 months before coming back to Haiti. Such a mechanism allows resilience to the people who are vulnerable to climate change and disasters.

**Dr Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed**, Deputy Managing Director, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) stated that the issue of climate refugees needs to be discussed more as it is one of the most crucial issues. There is a lack of funding for loss and damage. Besides, climate finance has a complex institutional structure. He opined that the climate inaction is a gross violation of human rights.



**Ambassador Zia-us-Shams Chowdhury** said that global climate negotiations mostly resulted into broken promises and asked as Bangladesh is trying to establish itself as a brand, what can be done to ensure that action follows?

**Professor Dr Syed Anwar Husain**, Bangabandhu Chair, Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP), quoted from poet Jibanananda Das “পৃথিবীর গভীর গভীরতর অসুখ এখন”. He told the audience it is not only because of the coronavirus pandemic, but also for the environmental degradation. Entire focus of discussions in the seminar was on the current situation but one needs to look back to yesterday as well. The Sahara Desert was full of green vegetation about thousands of years ago. The Indus civilisation declined due to environmental degradation. Hence, there is a need to balance between development and climate, suggesting that the narrative on climate diplomacy should be seen in a holistic manner in the context of environment. Lastly, he stated that about 55 nations are mostly vulnerable but the entire world is at stake.







**Farzana Faruk Jhumu**, climate activist from Fridays For Future (FFF) Bangladesh, referred to Mr Arif Faisal's presentation where he talked about youth development and asked how UN bodies are helping create space for youth activism and negotiating with the Bangladesh government in order to promote youth participation in climate negotiation. In her second question to Mirza Shawkat Ali, she asked about whether there is any mechanism to address false solutions like carbon capture, carbon tax or policy like Net Zero by 2050.

**Md Shiyam Sadik**, Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), talked on climate finance as it needs a whole of society approach; he wanted to know how international organisations and the leadership approach can incorporate local media to maximise the media impact on global level to increase climate finance and diplomacy.



**Sohanur Rahman**, Vice Chair, Partnership and Engagement at Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network, mentioned about Bangladesh signing the Children and Youth Declaration in COP25 and Glasgow Pact. He asked what are the measures taken so far to engage youth in the process of climate negotiation in the upcoming COP. His second question was that Bangladesh, despite being two time president of CVF, did not engage the youth much while Ghana appointed youth ambassador during their presidency; thus, how can CVF engage more youth in climate diplomacy?







**Dr Atiq Rahman**, Executive Director, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), shared his challenging experience when he first addressed the United Nations 45 years ago about climate change. On that time, he was referred as “madman” because the discipline was not established and flourished unlike it is today. There was confusion between climate and weather in the earlier period as weather changes rapidly but climate changes take a longer time period. Climate is a minimum 20 years of summation of weather. He congratulated the government, various institutions and scientists for their extraordinary contribution in the great progress

Bangladesh made on the climate change issues over the last 20 years. Bangladesh is progressing towards the right direction and producing fascinating development through world class research. He praised the government policy of no restriction, no resistance as far as climate change research is concerned. The government, intellectuals, and people of the affected community, are all working in harmony; people’s experience about the change in the climate has made the issue more real than ever before. One of the reasons behind Bangladesh’s success story is due to all actors’ proactive role in the initiative to include integrated climate planning for every aspect. This process will help the country take its next step in the coming days. But for more improvement in building capacity to combat climate change, Bangladesh has to strategise local level planning towards climate adaptation.



## RESPONSE BY THE PRESENTERS



### **Professor Mizan R Khan**

Deputy Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)

While talking about new and additional climate finance, Professor Mizan R Khan replied that the US\$100 billion still remains ‘the golden deer’ for developing countries. In 2009, rich countries committed to support climate change adaptation and mitigation activities in developing countries. It was agreed that they would provide “scaled-up, new and additional” finance, reaching US\$100 billion a year in 2020. However, in 2020, the OECD reported that rich countries had provided and mobilised a total of US\$83.6 billion of climate finance. Also, a lot of the funds reported as climate finance cannot be considered as “new and additional” to support for development. Using two definitions of additionality presented by the UNFCCC Biennial Assessments, Oxfam finds that a large share of funding from rich countries is simply Official Development Assistance (ODA), being regarded as climate finance. He commented that the problem is lack of proper definition of climate finance. Therefore, any funding can be dubbed as climate finance.

Answering the question of legal obligation of developed countries, he said that according to the Article 4.3 of the UNFCCC, “The developed country

Parties and other developed Parties shall provide new and additional financial resources to meet the agreed full costs incurred by the developing country Parties ...” Article 4.4 of the UNFCCC also states that “The developed country Parties and other developed Parties shall also assist the developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in meeting costs of adaptation to those adverse effects.” Similarly, Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement says, “Developed country parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation in continuation of their existing obligations under the Convention.” However, Article 9.2 stipulates that “other Parties are encouraged to provide or continue to provide such support voluntarily.” In Dr Khan’s opinion, it gives a recommendatory tone rather than obligation. Hence, there is constructive ambiguity which gives the participants freedom to interpret in their own way.

On the impacts of the graduation on climate finance, he said that one of the major consequences of Bangladesh’s graduation would be loss of access to the dedicated LDC Fund for Climate Change. But graduation should not inhibit getting grants as adaptation finance. However, there are needs of building capacity with a view to developing proposals and developing technical skills; an important element of proposal development is having excellent language skills. Like he mentioned during his presentation that two-thirds of adaptation comes as loans to LDCs, there is a chance of getting into a new climate debt trap, since it does not bring in immediate benefits.

Regarding climate induced displacement and migration, he said the Prime Minister of Bangladesh is raising the issue very diligently in global forums. The government has established training institutions for capacity building in the vulnerable hotspot areas. He referred to one of his publications where he made two suggestions for climate induced displacement and migration, first is establishing climate resilience migrant friendly towns, and second is selective relocation abroad.





**Arif M Faisal**

Programme Specialist (Nature, Climate & Energy), UNDP Bangladesh

In response to the youth engagement initiative question, Mr Faisal mentioned that UN organisations provide travel support to youth activists to help them participate in COPs. The UNDP also initiated a youth consultation session prior to NAP and NDC. He said that UNDP well acknowledges the youths' role in the process of Climate Resilient and Green Growth. He highlighted that Net Zero 2050 or Carbon tax or Polluter Pays Principle (principle of extended producer responsibility) etc. policy has been proposed and clear directives are outlined in the Eighth Five Years Plan's chapter dedicated for green growth. He said about the media engagement that Bangladesh needs to create a good narrative from her experience and tell the success stories to the world community. He proposed to promote the story of Bangladesh's incredible journey towards climate resilience from a vulnerable country. He mentioned about such branding of Bangladesh initiatives from the Dhaka Tribune which bring forth a monthly supplement on climate issues and Channel I's climate advocacy programme on "Prokriti o Jibon." He added that Bangladesh Environmental and Climate Journalist Association who organise various consultation programmes and publish lots of writing on climate change.

On climate finance for loss and damage assessment, he said there is no national framework associated with climate change in order to fund the loss and damage. This issue is evolving and Bangladesh is in the learning curve about this challenge and thus, along with other vulnerable countries, is joining to work together on this matter. So far, different mechanisms are in the process of framing but the methodology for climate attribution or loss and damage associated with climate change is not yet established by the scientific community.





**Mirza Shawkat Ali**

Director, Climate Change and International Convention, Department of Environment, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

In response to questions from the floor, Mr Ali said Bangladesh is at the final stage of preparation of the national vision plan. In that plan, youth and vulnerable groups participation issue is adequately addressed. This will be reflected in future projects and implementation of the plan while opening more opportunities to encourage and support increased youth engagement.

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) or Carbon Capture and Sequestration is a very sophisticated technology. Countries with major mining capabilities like Australia, can use this for capturing and storing carbon for sale. It is not a proven method so far; there are possibilities of leakage present, the technology is expensive to operate and maintain, which is not feasible for Bangladesh. As for Net Zero, Bangladesh has not developed such long term mission development strategy yet, but once Bangladesh develops the plan, then can set a year for the closure.





**Dr Sufia Khanom**

Senior Research Fellow, BIIS

About the climate induced displacement related question, Dr Khanom mentioned there is no data or statistics available in this regard and what type of natural disaster is causing displacement in Bangladesh. This data is necessary for analysis and planning for adaptation; sudden disasters and gradually developed disasters cause different types of displacements. Often it is mixed between climate migrants and economic migrants. She also mentioned that due to rising pressure on cities for climate migrants, informal settlements are growing rapidly.

Then she moved to the question about the media and highlighted that Bangladesh is doing very well with local level adaptation as far as climate change is concerned and it is the local media that is bringing forth the news ahead on the national level. Grassroot level non-state actors have also played pivotal roles in formulation of national level climate diplomacy. She added that every social group and people form different categories of the society have separate needs which need to be addressed.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR



**Ambassador Shamsheer M Chowdhury, BB**  
Former Foreign Secretary, Bangladesh

**Ambassador Shamsheer M Chowdhury, BB** noted that the topic of the session has been a very important issue, and one could talk about it for days. The world has been talking about this issue over the last two or three decades. He referred to Professor Syed Anwar Husain's statement that the world is paying a price for mistakes made by people who are occupying the planet. There is a conflict of goals between development and fighting climate change. This is a natural and realistic situation. He quoted a famous Chinese proverb that one has to be grey before becoming green. In his view, the problem is that people have remained grey far too long. The world has not seriously moved towards an attempt to address the issue. The garments industry is credited for the fabulous work they have done in making Bangladesh an export oriented country, but in the process, damages have been done to the rivers through pollution. He feared that many of the rivers might not exist in this lifetime.

Ambassador Chowdhury credited the panellists for their extensive academic and research work in highlighting the problem. Climate change negotiations should be done in a more structured forum bringing the best minds and making the youth part of this process. He was hopeful to see a greener world or at least the next generation will see a path towards a greener world. He also highlighted about leadership and opined that it is important to take note of what is delivered through the leadership position; delivering quality is very important. With these words, he thanked BISS for arranging the well-timed seminar and concluded the session.





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