

Concept Note

The Climate Vulnerable Forum- 2011 13-14 November 2011, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Introduction

The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) was founded in November 2009 as a group of nation states represented by government leaders who convened in Malé from around the world to act together on the concerns each share as a result of human-induced global climate change. Since then the Forum has met at number of times in New York and Tarawa, Kiribati. Bangladesh, as incoming chair, will host a Ministerial Meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum in Dhaka on 14 November 2011 with a view to enhancing the ability of vulnerable countries to address key challenges and seize all opportunities in this domain as the multiple-paced climate change field of policy continues to evolve through 2011-2012. The ministerial meeting will be preceded by a senior officers meeting on 13 November 2011.

Objectives of Bangladesh CVF Meeting

Raise Awareness: Increase the level of awareness in public debate and consciousness and relevant policy spheres of the dangerous consequences of climate change for vulnerable communities, of remedial actions on adaptation and mitigation already being undertaken in high risk settings, and of the opportunities for enhanced action stemming from a wider international engagement involving vulnerable countries.

Common Positions: Identify and develop areas of common interest where collective follow-up actions of different types could yield more effective outcomes for vulnerable countries, in particular with respect to such areas as: climate change financing, technology transfer and a framework for understanding and responding to climate change vulnerability.

Sensitize Key Actors: Build an enhanced understanding (among observer state parties and other international actors) of the technological, practical, political and economic conditions that contribute to the formulation and articulation of vulnerable country policies and negotiating positions on climate change.

Clarify Climate Change Mainstreaming: Develop parameters for an effective mainstreaming of climate change risks and green growth opportunities across national development planning processes consistent with the preservation of additionality in climate change financing and with the realities of the economic and political challenges facing vulnerable country governments.

Maximize Clean Development Mechanism Potential: Identify the means for maximizing the potential of the Clean Development Mechanism for promoting domestic green growth, including hybrid, business model-driven mitigation actions that also generate high pay-offs for enhancing local adaptive capacity.

Map the Forum's Future Work: Establish basic working procedures and modalities for engagement in the Forum, as well as a clear Road Map for its future activities.

Avenues for action

Vulnerable countries have a variety of opportunities for achieving commonly desired outcomes through collective action, in particular:

- **Advocacy** – Speaking out together from the moral high-ground, vulnerable countries can amplify key messages, limit uncertainties and confusion linked to climate change, and increase respect for their special needs.
- **Legal** – Vulnerable countries to seek to influence discussion and outcome in key international fora, such as the UNFCCC.
- **National Policy** – Determine domestic policies and negotiating positions, which can be fine-tuned and adapted to help maximize opportunities for green growth and sustainable development
- **Research** –By mandating targeted research through third-party organizations, an example being DARA's "Climate Vulnerability Monitor", the Forum can its goals anchored on sound evidence.

Theme

The global climate landscape has evolved considerably since the Forum first met prior to the Copenhagen climate summit in November 2009. At the same time, a number of key challenges identified by climate vulnerable countries remain unchanged. Vulnerable countries continue to share the headline concerns of ensuring progress towards the necessary global climate agreement(s), securing a fair and effective dispersal of climate assistance, in particular under the forthcoming Green Fund, and bringing about the creation of a truly enabling international environment for sustainable development locally and globally.

Pledges in climate change finance for developing countries are being realised, although at a slow pace. Involvement of over 20 different funds in the management of the pledged resources adds significantly to the complex overall structuring of climate finance. The whole architecture also feeds insecurity around questions of additionality.

Parallel to emission reduction legislation coming into effect in an increasing number of major economies supported by robust carbon markets with international reach, supporting highly effective adaptation to and mitigation of climate change across vulnerable countries will be fundamental components of any resolution to the climate crisis. Examples of adaptation and mitigation progress have been seen in a number of vulnerable countries to date. But the full potential of climate change policies to limit negative impacts and spur green growth remains largely untapped.

Research shows clear gaps in terms of impacts addressed, such as human health and humanitarian relief. Similarly, displacement of people and change in their livelihood

also need to be understood better. Then again there are gaps in mainstreaming climate change into development. In absence of a clear consensus both nationally and globally, mainstreaming is further complicating already delicate issues of additionality and respect for the Right to Development.

The prospect of a Green Fund and the availability of new climate resources run headlong into complex questions of an effective international allocation of finance to needs. But the lack of a common framework for assessing climate vulnerability and criteria for allocation of funds has to a certain extent divided vulnerable countries.

The entire array of new business models, financing options and capital flows linked to climate change do mean significant new opportunities for driving investments in vulnerable countries. But vulnerable countries continue to face systemic hurdles in accessing and making best use of available resources. Coverage of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) beyond the largest emerging economies is also wholly inadequate. Targeted technical assistance for the development and implementation of new CDM projects in vulnerable countries could therefore achieve rapid, sustainable impact.

In the medium to long-term, the policies of major emitters continue to place vulnerable countries at peril. So together, vulnerable countries could speak out more clearly and demand increasing accountability to the consequences of inaction and supporting more ambitious responses around the world.

Locally, and with the support of external finance, progress on green growth can itself further contribute to breaking through the current international deadlock. Worldwide uptake of new green technologies and practices will drive economies of scale and reduce the marginal costs of mitigation steps.

Vulnerable countries, due to their low-levels of economic development and technological availability, are often subject to high-levels of short-lived non-CO2 gases (such as black carbon and methane). But their existence offers attractive opportunities for mitigation with significant degrees of co-benefits for health and development that also contribute to a comparative advantage for vulnerable countries in the low-carbon sector.

By forging the avenues for win-win global partnership, vulnerable countries could actually hold one of the keys to resolving the climate crisis. Questions will be central to this:

1. What are the various risks, impacts and vulnerabilities related to climate change shared (first and foremost) by vulnerable countries, how can they be effectively gauged, and how can each government best respond?
2. How can vulnerable countries maximize positive benefits for sustainable development from among the growing opportunities for climate-resilient, green growth?

3. What should vulnerable countries as a group call for to ensure better support for local action and ambitious global responses especially among major emitters?
4. Going forward, how can climate vulnerable countries and the Climate Vulnerable Forum mechanism best contribute to propelling effective global and local action?

Around these major questions revolve other specific questions- examples

- New evidence on climate change- vulnerability nexus
- Specific developmental challenges including in assessing national climate vulnerability and their impacts faced by most vulnerable countries and communities at risk, owing to climate change
- Effects of fossil-fuels and bio-fuels on sustainable development and humanitarian emergencies, including health and food security
- New opportunities for local green growth: multiple financing options, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), leveraging private capital
- Integrating adaptation to climate risks across national and sectoral policy, including maximizing adaptation payoffs of mitigation, mainstreaming climate change into national development
- Overcoming key barriers to implementation: financial, technical capacity, project development, legislative/ policy, fiscal/regulatory
- Possible regional and global actions and support to help adaptation by the countries at risks and reduce their vulnerability- Enhanced technical assistance for maximizing integrated climate resilience and green growth: mainstreaming climate policies; accessing and programming climate finance, CDM and private capital; development of national policy/legislative/regulatory change for enabling/driving implementation of actions
- Criteria for evaluating climate vulnerability and structuring of a Green Fund able to deliver for vulnerable countries
- Practical steps from international actors to support technology transfer appropriate to vulnerable countries and to promote green growth
- Views on the implementation of the Male' Declaration and on the way forward including a work program covering: COP17; UN Conference on Sustainable Development, June 2012 (Rio+20); COP-18 and other relevant forums.

Meeting Details

2011 Bangladesh Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) Meeting

Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka, Bangladesh
107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka -1215, Ph: +880-2-811-1005, Fax: +880-2-912-7029,

Date: **Sunday and Monday**, 13-14 November 2011

Host: Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Organizers: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of the Environment and Forests

Institutional support

DARA, CDKN (Climate and Development Knowledge Network) and UNDP

General delegate level: Ministerial (on 14 November 2011)
Senior officials (on 13 November 2011)

Expected official outcome

- Dhaka Declaration
- Meeting Report
- Road Map of Activities
- Preliminary discussion on Forum working modalities

Participants

- a. **Founding countries and countries that attended subsequent meeting as well as other interested vulnerable countries (26):** Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh (Incoming Chair), Barbados, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Kenya, Kiribati (Present Chair), Liberia, Maldives (First Chair), Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Vietnam

Additional invited members (7): Afghanistan, Gambia, Haiti, Madagascar, Myanmar, Nicaragua and Papua New Guinea

- b. **Observer countries (26):** Australia, China, Denmark, DRC, European Union, France, Gambia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States
- c. **International institutions and actors:** DARA, Club of Madrid, CDKN, CBR, BeCitizen, GEF, IIED, IISD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC, World Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat, Secretariats of UNCCD, CBD and Ramsar Convention, ICIMOD, IUCN(BD), BRAC, BCAS, and few other entities.

- d. **Select local and international topic experts and representatives** of leading civil society organizations and private sector.

Preparatory Track Meetings

- 26 September 2011, New York, at the sidelines of UNGA: a briefing of Forum delegations by Bangladesh
- 13 November 2011, Dhaka, Bangladesh: officials pre-meeting of Forum delegations

**Tentative Program for the Meeting Preparatory
to the Climate Vulnerable Forum
13 November 2011**

12 November 2011(Saturday)

---- Arrival of Delegates/ Senior Officers/ Experts
Check in at Hotel Sonargaon, Dhaka
1900 -2030 hrs Dinner hosted by Ambassador Mijarul Quayes, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, Venue- (Hotel Sonargaon)

13 October 2011(Sunday)

0845-0915 Inauguration of the preparatory meeting (Venue: Ball Room-III, Hotel Sonargaon) (to be chaired by Foreign Secretary)
Welcome statement by Director General (Eco. Affairs), MoFA(3 min)
Statement by Representative of Maldives (5 min)
Statement by Representative of Kiribati (5 min)
Statement by Secretary, MOEF (5 min)
Statement by Bangladesh Foreign Secretary (5 min)

0915-0930 Tea Break

0945-1215 Common Space for CVF member States, observer and non-state stakeholders (Venue: Hotel Sonargaon, Ball Room-II, III)
a. Evidence on climate change and vulnerability in particular nexus between climate change and displacement- by Dr. Saleem Ul Huq and Mr. Shahidul Haque, IOM- total 15 minutes- followed by 50 minutes discussion (any lead discussant?)
b. Challenges and opportunities for green growth in the specific context of CVF countries- **presentations by DARA (8 min)** and UNDP(8 min) - followed by 50 minutes discussion (lead discussant?)

Anchorpersons-

1. Dr. Ainun Nishat
2. --- **(to be indicated by DARA)**

1230-1315 Working Session- I (Closed) /Venue: Hotel Sonargaon, Ball Room-III (Plenary to be chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Committee of the Whole to be chaired by Director General (Economic Affairs), MOFA)

1330-1430 Lunch hosted by Secretary, Mr. Mesbah ul Alam, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of Bangladesh, (Venue: Hotel Sonargaon, Ball Room-I, II)

1500-1730 Working Session- II (Closed) / Venue: Ball Room-III (Closing plenary to be chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Committee of the Whole to be chaired by Director General (Economic Affairs), MOFA)

1930-2130 Dinner hosted by Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Her Excellency Dr. Dipu Moni, MP, Venue- Hotel Ruposhi Bangla, Winter garden

**Tentative Program of the Climate Vulnerable Forum Ministerial Meeting
14 November 2011**

14 November 2011 (Monday)

- 0900-0915 Invited guests take their seats
- 0930-1030 **Inauguration of the CVF** (Venue: Hotel Sonargaon, Ball Room-I,II
(to be chaired by Honorable Foreign Minister)
- (Speaking order is subject to change based on the level of participation)**
Welcome statement by Bangladesh Foreign Secretary (4 minutes)
Statement by State Minister for Environment and Forests of Bangladesh (5 min)
Statement by the Leader of the delegation of the Maldives (5 min)
Statement by the leaders of the delegation of Kiribati (5 min)
Statement by Bangladesh Foreign Minister (6 min)
Statement by distinguished speaker¹ (6 min)(tbc)
Message from Secretary-General of the United Nations (6 min)-(tbc)
Statement by the Chief Guest (Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh) (10 min)
Vote of Thanks by Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests of Bangladesh (3 min)
CVF Family Photo (5 min)
- 1030-1100 Tea break
- 1100- 1315 Working Session- I (closed) (Venue: Hotel Sonargaon, Ball Room-III)
(as per agreed agenda, Country Statements- not exceeding 5 minutes) (to be chaired by Hon'ble Foreign Minister)
- 1330-1430 Lunch hosted by His Excellency Mr. Hasan Mahmud MP, State Minister for Environment and Forests of Bangladesh (for heads of delegation by invitation) (Venue: Restaurant Jharna, Hotel Sonargaon)
- 1440-1600 Working Session- II (closed) (Venue: Hotel Sonargaon, Ball Room-III)
Deliberation as per agenda (to be chaired by State Minister for Environment and Forests)
- 1600-1630 Concluding Session (Venue: Hotel Sonargaon, Ball Room-III) (to be chaired by State Minister for Environment and Forests)
Adoption of the Dhaka Declaration
- 1630-1715 Press Briefing and release of the Declaration (Venue: Ball Room I, Hotel Sonargaon)²

¹ DARA is trying to secure participation of one former Head of State/ Government or one distinguished person at similar level from the Club of Madrid; the sequence is subject to change

² [1800-1830]- A Joint Call on the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh may be explored)

Organizational Arrangement

Conference of Climate Vulnerable Forum Dhaka, 13-14 November 2011

Programme: A provisional programme is attached.

Conference Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, 107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Telephone: +880-2-811-1005, Fax: +880-2-912-7029,

Hospitality and logistic arrangements:

- **Air Ticket:** Development Assistance Research Associates (DARA) will arrange air tickets for foreign participants. One (01) business class air ticket will be provided to attending Ministers/ Permanent Secretaries (leading the delegations) while economy class air ticket will be provided to one expert from each CVF country (in most direct route from capital to Dhaka). Request for second economy class air ticket for each CVF country is under consideration subject to the availability of funds and will be provided on a first-come-first-service basis.
- **Accommodation:** Delegates from member States will be provided with accommodation on a 1+2 basis at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.
- **Transportation:** Organizers will arrange local transportation for foreign participants. Protocol assistance will be provided at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka to all arriving and departing delegates.

Medical Services: Emergency medical services will be available during the meeting.

Registration: For each delegate, separate registration form should be filled-in and sent to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Dhaka by 31 October 2011 through government channel. The registration forms may directly be faxed to the office of the Director General (Economic Affairs), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka at fax number +880-2-955-6292 or +1-646-395-1909. Scanned copies may be sent to direa@mofa.gov.bd or cvf@mofa.gov.bd. A registration form is attached.

Badges: After arrival in Dhaka, all meeting participants are requested to obtain badges from the 'CVF Facilitation Desk' in the Hotel. The desk will be open from 2.00pm to 8.00 pm on 12 November (Saturday), from 08.00 am to 08:00 pm on 13 November (Sunday) 2011 and from 08:00 am to 10:00 am on 14 November (Monday).

Language: The meeting will be conducted in English.

Format of Discussion: The first day (13 November) will be senior officials meeting and second day (14 November) will be Ministerial level conference. Background information papers, research reports and presentations, if received, will be circulated by the organizers.

Bilateral Meetings: Bilateral meetings may be arranged at the hotel. Request for such meetings should be communicated in advance to CVF Facilitation Desk or direa@mofa.gov.bd

Visas facilitation: All participants are requested to obtain their entry visa into Bangladesh prior to the start of their travel. To facilitate the issuance of visas, a copy of the invitation of the co-organizers should be enclosed to the visa request. All participants are requested to initiate their visa application at their earliest convenience to allow sufficient time for the processing of visa requests. Visas can be obtained from the Bangladesh Missions in the country of origin/permanent residence of a participant. If the participant is from a country where there is no Bangladesh Mission, on-arrival-visas may be arranged subject to prior intimation. In such cases, the participants are requested to intimate the organizers at least 7 days before the date of arrival.

Weather: Temperature in mid November in Dhaka is around 25° C. Delegates are advised to bring some light clothes

Currency: The Bangladesh Currency is Taka (Tk.). The Current exchange rate of Taka to US\$ is around Tk. 75.00 = US\$ 1.00

Contacts: For registration, accommodation and air ticket, kindly contact the followings:

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E-mail: lfernandez@daraint.org
- III. Mr. Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury
Director (Economic Affairs)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka, Bangladesh
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E-mail: direa@mofa.gov.bd

REGISTRATION FORM
Ministerial Conference of
Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF)
Dhaka, Bangladesh, 13-14 November 2011

Photo

*One form should be filled-in for each participant and sent to the Economic Affairs Wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) through Bangladesh Missions **before 31 October 2011**, together with a photograph. The forms may kindly be sent by fax to +880-2-955-6292 or +1-646-395-1909. Scanned copies may kindly be sent by email to: direa@mofa.gov.bd*

1. Country/ Organization: _____
2. Name Dr./Mr./Ms. _____
in full: First Name Middle Name FAMILY NAME
3. Title of official position : _____
4. Mailing Address : _____
5. Telephone No.: (+) _____ Facsimile No. _____
6. Email: _____
7. Passport Information: No. : _____

Date and Place of Issue: _____
8. Personal Information:
Date of Birth (dd/mm/year): _____
Gender : () Male () Female
Nationality : _____
9. Arrival/ Departure Information : (if available at the time of filling-in; may be sent later when flights are confirmed)
Arrive in Dhaka on _____
Depart from Dhaka on _____

Date:

Signature: