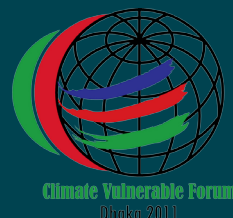


# CLIMATE VULNERABLE FORUM DHAKA MINISTERIAL MEETING 13-14 NOVEMBER 2011



Press Release

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## **Vulnerable Country Ministers to Meet on Core Issues of Finance, Technology, Adaptation and Green Development ahead of COP17**

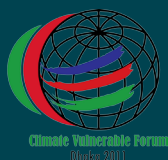
- More active involvement of vulnerable countries sought in tackling climate change adaptation and mitigation on an autonomous basis based on national specificities and capacities through green and climate-resilient development
- Major outstanding issues on climate finance, technology, capacity support and carbon markets, flagged ahead of UN Durban climate talks (UNFCCC/COP17)

***DHAKA - 9 November 2011: Around 20 Ministers and High-Level delegates from a number of the most vulnerable parts of Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific set to gather in Dhaka, Bangladesh for Climate Vulnerable Forum on 13 and 14 November 2011. Delegates to examine status of UN negotiations, climate finance, adaptation policy, technology and progress on emission reductions towards global goals.***

Delegate briefing documents (available at: [http://daraint.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/cvf-Briefing\\_Notes.pdf](http://daraint.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/cvf-Briefing_Notes.pdf)) issued today highlight key concerns for deliberation in Dhaka ahead of COP17, including:

- Nearly 90% lack of new or additional climate finance, and disbursement rates for so-called Fast Start Finance ten times slower than Overseas Development Assistance (ODA).
- Total lack of climate finance committed to support developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change between the years 2013 and 2020, a crucial period of 7 years.
- Major gaps in access to direct finance, and technologies for limiting suffering and in adaptation policies – especially for green development, human health, migration/displacement and extreme weather – leaving, in particular, an adaptation deficit equivalent to an estimated 350,000 deaths per year already today.
- Vulnerable countries suffering from serious lack of access to carbon markets – through the Clean Development Mechanism - beyond the largest emerging economies.

In light of earlier Climate Vulnerable Forum commitments, a draft declaration (also on [www.mofa.gov.bd](http://www.mofa.gov.bd))



prepared for the Dhaka Ministerial of this Sunday/Monday also expresses a firm determination:

*".. to pursuing, autonomously as an independent strategic choice and to the extent possible, national green development pathways, in spite of our limited capacities .."*

Forum briefing notes highlight how a 1.5 degrees Celsius global temperature goal – as originally proposed by the group in November 2009 – could be achievable even within the existing (conditional) emission reduction commitments of major polluters. An enhanced role for vulnerable developing countries would be critical to the achievement of any ambitious climate policies, including through a larger-scale participation in carbon markets and concerted action on hazardous largely poverty-linked non-CO2 emissions, such as black carbon, methane and ozone. However, the key question remains how the vulnerable developing countries could be assisted with the requisite technology and finance.

A lack of capacity, technology and finance to pursue ambitious climate goals is the headline concern for vulnerable countries. Lack of progress on the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol and the completion of the Bali Road Map for a comprehensive and long-term agreement on climate change also overshadow several key elements of the ambitious policy agenda being targeted by the Forum.

With a number of the most vulnerable countries facing "existential threats", the draft declaration, which delegates will further develop with a view to adoption in Dhaka, additionally expresses a will to:

*"Assume a principal role in securing an international partnership towards the immediate, full, sustained and long-term attainment of the objective of the UNFCCC, and demand adequate and predictable support to vulnerable countries that will enable us to make our own contribution to address the causes and consequences of climate change."*

Delegates are meeting amid concern that currently highly effective – though practically unfunded – actions for adapting to climate change will be increasingly rendered ineffective due to an escalation in global warming and its damaging effects, with ever greater harm for populations and the environment. Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius is seen as an upper limit by most vulnerable countries that view as irresponsibly dangerous the internationally agreed global 2 degrees target, itself also outside of the scope of current policy and up for revision by 2015.

Around 20, predominantly ministerial-level, delegations of vulnerable countries are set to meet in Dhaka starting this weekend. UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, will also be actively participating in the Forum, together with other senior international figures, that will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

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### Climate Vulnerable Forum

The 2011 Dhaka Ministerial Meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum is being convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Forests of the Government of Bangladesh. The Climate Vulnerable Forum is the first global partnership of nations from Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Pacific united against a common threat as some of the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Forum countries have contributed least to a problem that threatens, in many cases, their very survival. The Forum first convened in the Maldives in November 2009 and adopted a declaration that expressed alarm at the pace of change to the Earth caused by climate change and sealed the commitment of participating nations to work in concert towards strongest action tackling global warming and its negative effects.

Probable participating countries include: Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh (incoming chair), Barbados, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Kiribati (present chair), Liberia, Madagascar, Maldives (first chair), Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Vietnam. For more information on the Forum visit: [www.mofa.gov.bd](http://www.mofa.gov.bd)

Bangladesh is working with institutional support also from DARA ([www.daraint.org](http://www.daraint.org)) and other development partners, particularly CDKN ([www.cdkn.org](http://www.cdkn.org)) and UNDP ([www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)).

