



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



SECRETION

“Climate change ultimately entails ever greater human suffering, inequity and irreversible damage to the Earth.”

Dhaka Ministerial Declaration of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (November, 2011)

CLIMATE VULNERABLE FORUM

The Climate Vulnerable Forum is a global partnership of governments from Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific seeking a firm and urgent resolution to the growing climate crisis as some of the countries most vulnerable to the harmful effects of climate change. The Forum was founded at the initiative of the Maldives when 11 vulnerable countries from across the world met in Male' in November 2009. Governments represented at Male' included the Maldives, Kiribati, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Rwanda, Tanzania and Vietnam. This Forum's first meeting adopted a declaration that expressed alarm at the effects of human-induced global warming, committed to leadership towards a low-carbon future, and sought international assistance to fight climate change.

Following formation, a number of additional governments, mostly Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, have participated in the Forum's activities. Under Maldives leadership, the Forum published, together with DARA, the first *Climate Vulnerability Monitor*, a global report into the accelerating impact of climate change on human society. Kiribati took up chairmanship of the Forum from Maldives, hosting the Tarawa Climate Change Conference in November 2010 that adopted the Ambo Declaration. Bangladesh is incoming chair of the Forum for 2011-2012. The Forum's Dhaka Ministerial Meeting was co-hosted by the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of the Environment and Forests.

Since its inception, the Forum has met with considerable success in presenting the concerns of vulnerable countries as well as in creating an awareness and appreciation in international climate talks. Agreements made at the UN climate meetings of Copenhagen and Cancún, in particular, all recognised the importance of prioritising most vulnerable countries in response to the significant losses and damages being incurred by this group as a result of global climate change.

FORUM MEMBERS

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Barbados
Bhutan
Costa Rica
Ethiopia
Ghana
Kenya
Kiribati
Madagascar
Maldives
Nepal
Philippines
Rwanda
Saint Lucia
Tanzania
Timor-Leste
Tuvalu
Vanuatu
Vietnam

ADOPTED DHAKA DECLARATION OF THE CLIMATE VULNERABLE FORUM	1
KEYNOTE STATEMENTS	5
Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh	5
His Excellency Ban Ki-moon Secretary-General of the United Nations	7
His Excellency José María Figueres President of Costa Rica (1994-1998) Club of Madrid Member and Representative DARA Trustee and Representative	9
Her Excellency Dipu Moni Honourable Foreign Minister of Bangladesh	11
His Excellency Ahmed Naseem Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives	12
His Excellency Toakai Koririntetaake Honourable Minister of Education of Kiribati	13
His Excellency Dr. Hasan Mahmud M.P. Honourable State Minister for Environment and Forests of Bangladesh	15
OBSERVER STATEMENTS	17
China	27
Norway	18
United Nations Development Programme	19
United Kingdom	21

“We as vulnerable countries resolve to demonstrate moral leadership by committing to a low-carbon development path on a voluntary basis within the limitations of our respective capabilities.”

Dhaka Ministerial Declaration of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (November, 2011)

DHAKA MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF THE CLIMATE VULNERABLE FORUM

NOVEMBER 14, 2011

We, Ministers and representatives of Governments from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific, members of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, representing a significant number of countries most vulnerable to climate change and meeting in Dhaka on 14 November 2011,

Recalling the 2009 Male' declaration as the founding document of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, created at the initiative of the Republic of Maldives, and the 2010 Ambo Declaration, agreed under the leadership of the second Forum chair, the Republic of Kiribati,

Mindful of the firmly robust and unequivocal scientific basis of accelerating global climate change, wherein human activities are indisputably the principal and growing cause as well as of the imperative to act with urgency,

Standing indivisible as we are in our determination to act to bring about a resolution to the global menace of climate change which ultimately entails ever greater human suffering, inequity and irreversible damage to the Earth,

Resolute thereby in our commitment to pursuing, autonomously as an independent strategic choice and to the extent possible, national green development pathways, in spite of our limited capacities and negligible present and historical contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are the principal cause of climate change,

Reaffirming herein the objectives and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as the commitments of its parties, to enable its full, effective and sustained implementation through immediate and long-term cooperative action,

Acknowledging that the challenges of climate change are global in nature and call for the most extensive and inclusive cooperation by all countries, on the basis of equity and in accordance with common but differentiated responsibilities, historical responsibility, and respective capabilities and socio-economic conditions as laid down

in the UNFCCC,

Concerned at the findings of the *Climate Vulnerability Monitor 2010*, an independent study examining the current and near-term socio-economic impacts of climate change that point to a large-scale and growing worldwide crisis,

Noting that many heavily affected developing countries are low-lying, small-islands, isthmus, land-locked, remotely located, arid and semi arid least developed; and are faced with rapid on-set and/or slow on-set climate phenomena affecting productive capacities, and often reversing developmental gains,

Noting further that climate change is rendering development projects costlier and compelling diversion of already inadequate funds from development to costly adaptation programmes,

Mindful nonetheless of the possibility that highly effective adaptation responses to climate change could be capable of limiting, in a cost-effective manner, a significant range of adverse socio-economic and environmental consequences, particularly with respect to human health,

Aware that climate change induced displacement of people is a major concern and their relocation puts enormous pressure on infrastructures and service facilities; and furthermore, large-scale displacement has the potential to transform into security concerns,

Recognising that migration is a viable adaptation strategy to ensure that populations are not compelled to reside in high risk and affected areas, and to manage risks during displacement; and furthermore a planned strategy in the long-term to offer displaced populations with



Climate Vulnerable Forum 2011
High Level Delegates

enhanced options for dignified and diversified livelihood,

Emphasising that climate change related impacts have a range of implications, both direct and indirect, undermining our government's ability to ensure the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and that resultant humanitarian crises, if not adequately addressed, may create multifaceted security challenges,

Seized in this light of the window of opportunity for preventing irreversible changes nationally, regionally, and globally as fast narrowing and that a failure to arrest further anthropogenic factors to climate change indeed implies existential threats for a significant number of the most vulnerable countries,

Reaffirming also the continued relevance of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Recalling the Copenhagen Accord and the Cancun Agreements including commitments made by industrialised countries to take mitigation actions and developed countries to provide specified quantities of climate finance for the adaptation and mitigation actions of developing countries,

Recognising the inadequacy of essential commitments, in particular of mitigation actions proposed by industrialised countries for containing global temperature rise within the current internationally agreed goal of less than 2 degrees Celsius,

Expressing deep concern at the very slow realisation of essential commitments, as well as the real possibility of a vacuum in the international, legally-binding framework governing GHG emission reductions at the expiry of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC, which could seriously endanger political and economic momentum,

Determined to seize this challenge of climate change as an

opportunity for manifestation of our resolve to attain sustainable development to help lead the world into a new era of prosperity in fullest harmony with the Earth and in the interest of the younger and future generations,

Adopt the following Declaration:

1. We underscore that it is incumbent upon the developed countries, given their historical responsibility to climate change, and taking into account their commitments to reduce our vulnerability, to extend all necessary support to our vulnerable countries so as to be able to respond to the challenges posed by climate change.

2. We renew calls for a comprehensive legally-binding global agreement capable of fully attaining the objective of the UNFCCC, in all urgency and into the long-term, and voice the imperative for a well-calibrated balance in the global focus on adaptation and mitigation with emphasis on development and easy transfer for environmentally sound technology in nationally determined priority areas;

3. We, as vulnerable countries, resolve to demonstrate moral leadership by committing to a low-carbon development path on a voluntary basis within the limitations of our respective capabilities, which are to a large extent externally determined by the availability of appropriate financial and technological support, and call on all other nations to follow this moral leadership.

4. ADAPTATION

We underscore the need of focusing on adaptation in particular in the short-term in order to minimise growing and widespread harm, and seek support for initiatives and projects on adaptation with a view to developing and realising urgent country-driven adaptation activities;

We call upon developed countries to support implementation in the developing countries, particularly in the most vulnerable countries, of our national adaptation plans and climate resilient development

strategies and low-carbon development plans;

5. MITIGATION

We reiterate our firm resolve to work collectively with the other parties to the UNFCCC towards limiting foreseeable global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, peaking global GHG emissions by 2015, and thereafter achieving progressively ambitious emission reduction targets every subsequent decade targeting a sharp decline to a global reduction of 85% by 2050 relative to 1990 levels, and long-term atmospheric GHG concentrations to 350 ppm;

We underline the imperative for securing a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol with no gap between first and second commitment periods and the immediate conclusion of a broad-based and inclusive legally binding agreement on GHG emission cuts, enacted by all parties on the basis of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities, and respective capabilities;

We seek necessary and immediate support for undertaking programmes to uphold mitigation by creating carbon sinks, dissemination of environmentally sound technologies, and establishing a balance in the energy mix by focusing on renewable and or alternative energy;

6. FINANCE

We demand that climate finance under the authority of the conference of Parties to the UNFCCC must be truly new and additional to official development assistance commitments, as well as adequate, predictable, transparent and with comparable reporting, easily and directly accessible, and that may be supplemented through innovative sources of financing;

We demand further that decisions taken at Cancún on finance are realised through immediate implementation by ensuring accelerated disbursement of commitments made, prioritisation of the most vulnerable countries, and easy and direct access for nationally determined priority projects, preferably through public channels. We also demand early establishment of the Green Climate Fund, which itself should achieve operational implementation by 2013 at the latest;

We call upon the developed countries to make firm commitments on a progressive increase of funds with a specific and reasonable annual enhancement in the period 2013-2020 leading to USD 100 billion per year (in 2009 dollars) under the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and to realise those commitments;

We underscore the need for establishing a balanced adaptation window of at least a 50 percent allocation on adaptation for all climate finance within the GCF to address requirements of the most vulnerable countries in relation to the number of people affected, and the extent of the challenge of reducing vulnerability and consequential adverse effects;

We request that adaptation funds also be made available on an ongoing and predictable basis for the anticipated emergency response to severe weather events, with particular priority for vulnerable countries;

7. TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND CAPACITY BUILDING

We declare that the most vulnerable countries need critical support from the international community in the areas of transfer of technology for adaptation in particular, but also for mitigation actions, and for both public and private sector capacity building;

We call for ensuring fuller and more pragmatic technology development, including appropriate models for generating hydrological scenarios at different scales in the affected regions to

enhance water security through the adoption of climate resilient techniques, transfer and research and development to support crucial adaptation and green growth in vulnerable countries;

We also call for an immediate agreement to begin the progressive release and transfer of all technologies of beneficial effect for the adaptation and green development actions of vulnerable countries commensurate to the challenge of tackling climate change as implied by science, and including patented knowledge where these have resulted from the investment of public monies;

We request enhanced international collaboration and greater support on capacity building in order to enable us to respond effectively and comprehensively to minimise our risks to and impact of climate change, including the early, adequate and appropriately prioritised resourcing of the climate technology centre and network included in the Cancún Agreements;

We further request technical assistance for public and private sector capacity building in our countries targeted at the development, registration and scaling-up of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects with high payoffs for adaptation as well as wider socio-economic/environmental co-benefits;

8. GENERAL POINTS

We urge the UN System, International Financial Institutions and other global organisations and forums to focus on building greater convergence on recognising the nexus among environment, climate change, migration and development, and to work towards an enhanced reflection of the vulnerability of affected countries in the prioritisation of projects and programmes under their respective mandated responsibilities;

We acknowledge the expression of solidarity of the UN Secretary-General and request him to use all means available to his office to promote our cause and remain engaged with the Climate Vulnerable Forum;

We call for a common framework/criteria for assessing climate vulnerability with respect to the allocation of funds, (giving due consideration, inter alia, to the scale and extent of the present impacts of intensifying natural disasters, likely losses and risks in future, respective capabilities and socio-economic conditions, and people exposed to the impact of climate change country by country);

In particular, we call for the immediate implementation of paragraph 14 (f) of the Cancún Agreements, which recognises that migration is a viable adaptation strategy to address human displacement induced by climate change, and includes undertaking measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate-induced displacements, migration and planned relocation, and in this respect call for the commencement of an international dialogue for an appropriate framework;

9. We urge the UN Conference on Sustainable development (Rio+20), 2012 to recognise the very limited progress in achieving the objective of the UNFCCC and endorse the fundamental need to redouble efforts to limit further harm due to climate change;

10. We agree to work together in order to ensure widest possible dissemination of this declaration among all relevant national and international actors;

11. We recognise the important requirement of having enhanced clarity on the operational modalities of the Climate Vulnerable Forum and take note of a non-paper on provisional operational modalities as circulated by the People's Republic of Bangladesh as a reference document;

12. We agree that Costa Rica will host the next Forum.



Inauguration Ceremony

13. We also agree on the following as part of the agreed forum activities for November 2011-June 2012:

- a. Durban UNFCCC COP-17, South Africa, Side Event and delegation briefings to disseminate and support awareness, dialogue and implementation of the Dhaka declaration (November/December 2011).
- b. Roll-out CVF web site development (from January 2012).
- c. Rio+20 Technical Meeting to fine-tune substantive CVF inputs (April 2012).
- d. UNFCCC First Sessional: Feed-in delegate briefing documents updated against outcomes at/since COP-17 and delegate feedback, plus CVF focal point action (May 2012).
- e. Launch of second *Climate Vulnerability Monitor* report (June 2012).
- f. Rio+20 Caucusing: high-level coordination and communication (June 2012).

g. Commence work on a new low-carbon development monitor.

14. We express our deep appreciation to government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for hosting the Climate Vulnerable Forum 2011 in Dhaka.

Adopted at Dhaka, Bangladesh on 14 November 2011, by:

Afghanistan	Nepal
Bangladesh	Philippines
Bhutan	Rwanda
Costa Rica	Saint Lucia
Ethiopia	Tanzania
Ghana	Timor-Leste
Kenya	Tuvalu
Kiribati	Vanuatu
Madagascar	Vietnam
Maldives	

KEYNOTE STATEMENTS OF THE CLIMATE VULNERABLE FORUM 2011

SHEIKH HASINA

English translation of speech originally delivered in Bengali

Let me welcome you to Dhaka for the Climate Vulnerable Forum 2011. Climate change is a reality for the world. It has been causing large-scale loss of human life and irreversible damage to the environment, ecology and natural resources. Climate change caused over 300,000 additional deaths last year. The economic cost was over \$130 billion, though estimates may vary. However, vulnerabilities are increasing. Moreover, there is certainty that the impact will increase if we do not take adequate and timely measures.

This Ministerial meeting in Dhaka affords us an opportunity to collectively think about our response ahead of the Durban climate change meeting. The presence of an array of Ministers and high level delegations attests to the increasing concerns of vulnerable countries. This also manifests their determination to seek an effective response to the ever-growing threat and to forge an effective partnership. I thank you, Ministers and delegates, for your kind presence. Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon deserves special mention for finding the time to attend the Meeting and to express solidarity with our cause.

Since the Earth Summit in 1992, we have not been able to secure much progress in the reduction of greenhouse gases, their emission is still on the rise. This trend is unsustainable and damaging for the Earth. We, the vulnerable countries, suffer the most due to our limited coping capacities.

Climate change is seriously impacting our livelihood and imposing huge costs to our development efforts. We are confronted with daunting adaptation challenges; some of our countries even face existential threats. We are bearing the brunt of the damage though we made negligible or no contribution to the menace. This constitutes a serious injustice and must be acknowledged by the global community. This demands immediate rectification and remedy.

The global climate landscape has evolved considerably since the Forum first met in November 2009 in Malé. Progress under the UNFCCC process is very slow and inadequate. We do not see any concrete moves to support nationally determined adaption initiatives undertaken by our vulnerable countries. Initial thoughts on modalities for the release of fast start finance do not inspire our confidence.

We see no evidence of direct and easy access to funds and technology; conditions and criteria seem to favour countries that have greater capacities. We now have a situation where the most vulnerable countries, which deserve the highest level of priority, are failing to access whatever support that is being realised. We must therefore ask for a set of criteria to prioritise vulnerable countries based on their risks, impacts and lack of coping capacities. Then, we see tendencies to confuse climate change support with development finance. Partners should provide us with new and additional support, beyond development assistance to meet additional costs faced by us due to climate change. Funds being generated for the 2010-12 period are falling far short of commitments made in Cancun. Similarly, we see no clarity on how the global community would raise funds in the period between 2012 and 2020 towards operationalisation of the Green Climate Fund.

“We see no evidence of direct and easy access to funds and technology.”

On mitigation, we see extreme reluctance on part of major emitters. Absence of a convergence on obligatory and voluntary mitigation commitment is already casting a shadow over the Kyoto Protocol. This may wreck the international climate regime and put our countries at the risk of peril. Hence, we should not hesitate to



Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina
Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh

demand accountability for inaction. We should ask the industrialised nations to accept their historical responsibility and assume greater mitigation commitment. Similarly, emerging economies should also accept their moral responsibility and accept voluntary mitigation commitments based on equity and their own capacities.

It is widely accepted that the gravest effect of climate change may be on human migration. Last year, 42 million people were newly displaced by rapid-onset natural disasters. Extreme weather events are already displacing many more people than violent conflict. Slow-onset events like sea-level rise and desertification get even lower global focus. We must work towards correcting this imbalance. We must appreciate that migration could be an effective adaptation strategy, as we focus on enhancing adaptation capacities of affected communities. Hence, relocation and protection of displaced persons need due focus in global discourse to ensure their protection. We need to commence discussion on the creation of an appropriate framework to address the needs of people displaced due to climate change.

Bangladesh and other vulnerable countries have not been able to wait for an international response to climate causes. Bangladesh therefore adopted the 'Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund Act' in 2010. We have so far allocated Tk. 21 billion (US\$ 280 million) from our own resources to the Fund. Some 62 Projects are being implemented utilising the Fund to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change. We are implementing 134 climate change adaptation and mitigation action plans. We have finalised the 'Operation Manual' for utilising US\$ 125 million as a grant under Bangladesh Climate Change Resilient Fund. Cyclone shelters, extension of climate resistant agricultural system, greenery along the coastal belts are being developed utilising the Fund.

A couple of weeks ahead of COP17 in Durban, we, the most vulnerable countries, should seize this opportunity to identify our collective concerns and articulate them. Primacy of adaptation over mitigation for our countries must be accepted. Given that many countries are shying away from their obligations, we, as the greatest sufferers, ought to take the lead. Let us commit to

internalising the green development path best suited to our own specific circumstances and, without compromising on sustainable development and poverty reduction, our overriding priorities.

“Given that many countries are shying away from their obligations, we, as the greatest sufferers, ought to take the lead.”

BAN KI-MOON

It is a great honour and privilege for me to address this second Climate Vulnerable Forum, and I appreciate and commend the leadership of the outgoing Chair, Maldives, and incoming Chair, Bangladesh.

Thank you all for coming to this very important Forum.

You may represent different countries, but the challenges we face are common - climate change – we have to save this planet, we have to save human lives. That is why we are here this morning, and I hope there will be a strong commitment demonstrated by the leaders of the world. We will be able to address this climate change, the single most important challenge which we are facing these days.

To solve them, we must work together. We must be united.

And, of course, this is why everybody is here today.

Sheikh Hasina, let me begin by saying what a pleasure to be back in Bangladesh again, and thank you for your hospitality.

I visited Dhaka three years ago.

It was my first time as Secretary-General of the United Nations. But it was not my first time ever.

I was here in the 1970s when I was a junior officer of the Korean Government.

Those were the early years of Bangladeshi nationhood.

The nation has come a long way in the past four decades. This impressive, remarkable progress you have made under your leadership.

You have made great strides towards political stability and economic growth.

Your achievements across all the Millennium Development Goals are a source of national inspiration and I hope all these good examples will be emulated by many countries aspiring to this transition.

And you are a world leader in disaster risk reduction.

In 1991, a cyclone killed more than 140,000 people.

Then after twenty years, in 2007, when Cyclone Sidr struck Bangladesh again, many volunteers of Bangladesh with bullhorns and bicycles helped to move thousands and thousands of people out of the disaster region.

Four thousand people unfortunately lost their lives, but look at the difference between 140,000 to 4,000 – that is the difference depending on how you prepare yourselves for natural disasters – you can save human lives. We may not predict earthquakes or tsunami, but depending on how much you make preparations, it will make a huge difference. That is one thing which I have been showcasing – the example of Bangladesh.

Because of its adaptation and preparedness measures, the people of Bangladesh are much safer today.

The lesson is clear: natural hazards need not cause human catastrophe.

There are many cost-effective remedies that communities and countries can take to reduce the impact of extreme weather patterns.

This is a key message of a special report being released this week by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, known as IPCC, on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters.

The severity of cyclones, floods and other consequences of climate change are increasing.

Strong disaster risk reduction and adaptation policies will be increasingly essential.

Since 1970, 95 per cent of lives lost from natural disasters – both climate-related and other events like earthquakes – have been in developing countries.

The IPCC report provides guidance to governments on disaster risk reduction and adaptation.

And it describes the factors that increase a population's vulnerability – location, age, wealth, education – and gender.

Bangladesh is acutely aware of its vulnerability to the growing impacts of climate change – cyclones, flooding, and sea level rise.

As Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told the United Nations General Assembly last September, a one-metre rise in sea level could displace 30 million Bangladeshis.

You are on the front line of climate change.

It is fitting therefore, that Bangladesh is hosting this meeting on climate vulnerability.

Earlier this year I visited Kiribati. I have visited many places around the world, but it was a most heartbreaking experience for me to observe.

I met a young boy who told me: "Secretary-General, I am very afraid of going to bed at night because I may be drowned". And the parents were guarding their children during the nighttime because the highest point of Kiribati is just three meters high.

I was invited to visit the highest point above sea level – three meters high. The highest sea tide at the full moon comes to three meters, so every day and night this whole country is under water and above water. I and my wife were given life jackets because we may be drowned during the night. That is a real fact.

There are many vulnerable people, many vulnerable nations across the world.

"Climate change is a global problem requiring a global solution, global solidarity. That is why I am asking the leaders of the world to demonstrate their political leadership."



His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

I have been travelling to almost all the places where I could see for myself and learn the impact of climate change, starting from Antarctica; North Pole; Amazon – where I could see the impact of deforestation which causes climate change; Aral Sea; Lake Chad, where I have seen the dried up sea bed and lake bed, which used to be once a huge ocean and sea and huge lake. These have been all dried up. Only in thirty or forty years time. This is alarming.

Just in three days, this week, I am going to Kalimantan mountain in Indonesia, to see again the impact of deforestation. We have to save this planet earth. That is why we are gathering here.

Every country is affected – there is no country which is safe.

Each faces threats to lives, ecosystems and prosperity.

Climate change is a global problem requiring a global solution, global solidarity. That is why I am asking the leaders of the world to demonstrate their political leadership.

It requires urgent efforts on the part of every country, every citizen, every business community and civil society. We need scaled-up national, international and regional efforts.

As the IPCC has pointed out, it is imperative that global greenhouse gas emissions peak within this decade.

Yet, carbon emissions last year unfortunately were the highest in history.

Just last week, the International Energy Agency released a report saying we are close to a point of no return for staying under two degrees centigrade [temperature rise] which was recommended and agreed by the international community and by the IPCC.

If we keep adding fossil fuel-based infrastructure, we will forever lose the chance to avoid dangerous climate change.

Climate impacts will be with us for decades to come as a result of emissions released today.

Adaptation must be a priority for all countries, but especially the most vulnerable countries.

They need help with resources and technology.

But, our capacity to adapt is limited.

It is only viable in the context of effective mitigation.

I commend the lead taken by Bangladesh to follow a pro-development, low-carbon path.

You have also established a Climate Change Trust Fund and a Resilience Fund.

In this time of global economic uncertainty, let your commitment to green growth be an inspiration to more developed countries – the major emitters.

We are in the middle of a serious economic crisis.

But even in these difficult times, we cannot afford delay.

Climate change is not a luxury. We cannot ask the poorest and the most vulnerable to share the brunt of this impact.

Governments will soon meet in Durban next month.

Unresolved issues are both critical and complex.

Compromise and common sense will be crucial.

I count on the members of the UNFCCC to arrive with a strong and united voice. And there is a crucially important role by the members of this CVF to speak up. You have the politically very legitimate right to speak up, in your case to, particularly, the developed world.

Durban must complete what was agreed last year in Cancún. Governments must ensure that adaptation framework and technology transfer mechanisms are up and running as soon as possible.

Durban also must advance a work programme on loss and damage to respond to the needs of countries like Bangladesh that are particularly affected by extreme climate events. But this will not be enough.

In Durban I expect that countries will make the clarification on the future of the Kyoto Protocol. They have to launch the Green Climate Fund and they have to have a clarification on the short term and longer term climate change financing, as President Figueres has just said. There was a 30 billion dollar promise in Copenhagen. We have identified only 27 billion dollars. We have to make it happen and we have to have clear understanding and agreement on how the developed world will generate 100 billion dollars per year by 2020. That was a promise made in Copenhagen three years ago.

The Fund needs to be launched in Durban. An empty shell cannot be unanswered. We must fill this shell. Governments must find ways now to provide financial and technological support to the developing world who do not have any capacity at this time.

This is the message I am taking to Durban next month.

A measure of any society is how well it looks after its most vulnerable. Our hosts here today in Bangladesh are making extraordinary progress in protecting the safety and well-being of our people. Some of the world's most vulnerable countries, also represented here, are some of the best models for a clean energy future - Costa Rica, Ethiopia, the Maldives, Samoa, all plan to go carbon neutral. I recently launched my Sustainable Energy For All Initiative.

Energy is a very effective cost cutting tool. We have still 1.4 billion people in this world who do not have access to electricity. Without energy, we cannot realise all our blueprints - MDGs, and sanitation and health. It will help end poverty, drive economic dynamism, and reduce climate risks.

JOSÉ MARÍA FIGUERES

Let me begin by thanking Bangladesh for their cordial hospitality, and for being the host of this second Climate Vulnerable Forum. And let me recognise your unbending leadership, Mr. Secretary-General, on all issues dealing with climate change.

Friends, we all know development is not easy. Improving nutrition for children to receive the protein they need for their little brains to develop and be able to learn, fighting against lack of access to proper healthcare programmes, especially for the women in our world, changing mediocre education so that we can enhance the opportunities of the future generations, creating conditions for job generation by the private sector, or fighting to maintain peace. The complexity of all these challenges consumes our energy and our days. And because we are in the thick of these fights we do not focus sufficiently on the big picture. Let me invite you to take a step back.

Let me suggest that 200 years of industrial revolution are rapidly coming to an end. And that instead, over the horizon, we are seeing the birth of a much more promising, more inclusive and better low-carbon economy. I say that the industrial revolution may be coming to an end because on one side a growing population and our dysfunctional patterns are making us realize for the first time in the history of humanity that we live in a world with planetary boundaries, and because on the other end the carbon intensive development style inherent in the industrial revolution is creating an increasingly inhospitable planet.

What do we do then, and where do we go? There is an unfinished

It is a win-win-win for all countries. I urge all Members of this Forum to join us in this initiative. We must work together to build a safer world and a more prosperous world.

Ladies and gentlemen, last month, on October 31st, we have welcomed the seven billionth citizen of this world family. Whether it is a blessing or a concern - that depends upon on how we can prepare to make this world better for all.

A seven billionth citizen can be a challenge, but that also can be an opportunity, depending upon on how we are united. We have to address all these issues in a sustainable way, in a comprehensive way, from a broader perspective; we have to link the dots among climate change, food crisis, nutrition, water scarcity, energy shortages and gender empowerment. All these are interconnected. If we link all this with one "golden thread", we can expect a solution to all the challenges which we are having.

So let us work together to make this world better for all and more prosperous for all the countries, and I count on your leadership and commitment.

“The Fund needs to be launched in Durban. An empty shell cannot be unanswered. We must fill this shell.”

war that we need to win, which is the war against poverty and inequality. One billion of us in the world today over-consume, and 6 billion are still trying to make it through. And there is a new war we need to fight, and hopefully win, which is the war against climate change. 385 parts per million of carbon in the atmosphere today, 3 more parts per year puts us on a trajectory of being of 660 parts per million by the end of the century. That is planet with 5 degrees centigrade change with respect to what we have today. Fortunately, friends, both wars can be fought and won by a transition to a low-carbon economy. It present much greater opportunities than the industrial revolution presented our forefathers 200 years ago. And while only some benefitted from the industrial revolution, from the transition to low-carbon, we can all benefit.

“What the world did, and is still doing, in leapfrogging to cell phones, we need to do again by leapfrogging to a low carbon economy.”



Inaugural Session of the Climate Vulnerable Forum

Chief Guest: Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina
Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Special Guest: H. E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
Dhaka, 14 November 2011

Organized by: Ministry of Environment and Forests
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

His Excellency José María Figueres
President of Costa Rica 1994-1998
Club of Madrid Member and Representative
DARA Trustee and Reopresentative

Those of us here today at the Climate Vulnerable Forum are ready to move in this new direction of low-carbon economy, even though of course we did not cause the problem. Costa Rica, my country, passed a carbon tax back in 1995, and the world is still thinking of how to do that, and (Costa Rica) increased its competitiveness by doing so. We have discovered that the environment is good business, that it generates jobs; it creates wealth and a much more dynamic economy, and a wealth of opportunities.

Bangladesh has invested heavily in research and development to adapt its rice to new environmental conditions. Bumper crops last year will be hopefully surpassed this year, on the way to setting Bangladesh on the track to full food security. What the world did, and is still doing, in leapfrogging to cell phones, we need to do again by leapfrogging to a low-carbon economy. We did not create the problem, but we are ready to do our responsibility as citizens of the world. The rest, also due to comply with their responsibility. We were

going to address this problem in Copenhagen. The Secretary-General did everything he could at that point in time, and we didn't. Then we were in Cancún, now we are going on to Durban, then where? What comes next? How many COPs do we have to do keep on going to, how much longer?

This same week, the International Energy Agency, which is an organisation funded by the developed nations, came out with its World Energy Outlook 2011, and it clearly states that unless we start moving in a new direction, the window of opportunity to do so will close by the year 2017 because we will have locked ourselves in to a pattern of carbon emissions that will no longer give us the possibility to maintain temperatures other than 2% degree centigrade changes. And, while back in 2008 trillions of dollars flowed in a matter of hours and weeks, to rescue the largest banks of the world, 30 billion promised in Copenhagen over 3 years have not been fully funded, much less disbursed. Part of that money has been taken away from overseas development funds, which normally are disbursed around 80% per year. And with respect to climate, we have disbursement of less than 8% of what was promised back then. That is not serious. Any way you measure it, it's not the way forward. Countries

that are responsible for not acting, for not complying with what they promised in terms of funding to the developing nations in Copenhagen actually insult us. You are part of the problem, and you insult us.

The Minister of Kiribati is here with us today, and for many of the small island nations changing to solar energy is already economically viable because of the high cost of transporting fuel to those island nations. And yet, we don't find the money to help them.

Ladies and gentlemen, the world seems to be in a bad mood. The *Indignados* in the Plaza del Sol in Madrid, the riots in London, the Occupy Wall Street movement; I think they all have a point. When it comes to climate, the developed world is dragging its feet, some that are powerful don't want a Kyoto II. Some others that are even more powerful, don't talk to transfer technology, and yet others that are even more powerful than the others don't want anything at all.

“Countries that are responsible for not acting, for not complying with what they promised in terms of funding to the developing nations in Copenhagen actually insult us.”

Well, perhaps we need an occupy Durban. Alongside occupy Wall Street, occupy Durban, a peaceful sit in, by delegations of our countries, to drive change. An occupy Durban is certainly better than going on and on to another COP, waiting for Kiribati to disappear, or for one third of the population to be under water.

Amigos y amigos, at the end of the day there is no planet B, there is no planet B. As a board member of DARA, an international organisation based in Madrid, directed by Ross mountain who is here with us, and as a member of the Club of Madrid, which brings together over 80 ex-presidents and heads of state democratically

DIPU MONI

It is my pleasure to welcome you at this Ministerial meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum. We thank the Ministers and delegates for attending this meeting.

The presence of over 20 delegations from CVF members from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Caribbean underscores the desire of these countries to be heard; their perspectives to be taken into account in the climate change discourse. In fact, climate change is unforgiving, irrespective of location and historical contribution to its causes. We are hopeful that this conclave will shape a critical visible mass with a capacity to impact the outcome in climate change negotiations. It is reassuring that a good number of our partner countries, international organisations as well as non-state stakeholders have also gathered here to extend their hands of cooperation. Together, we intend to discuss the content and contours of future engagement to make a difference and indeed to reduce our vulnerability. We are particularly beholden to the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), DARA and UNDP for their support and their faith in our capacity to make a difference.

We are grateful to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his presence here today. He has adjusted his travel plans for this and we acknowledge his personal commitment and the UN system's keenness to internalise concerns of the climatically vulnerable countries in their programmes.

Climate change is a reality that is playing havoc with human lives and livelihood as well as the environment, natural resources and infrastructures. Most of the severely affected countries are countries with limited coping capacities, which render them particularly vulnerable. For Bangladesh, our susceptibility comes from our geographical location and a global phenomenon to which we have not contributed at all.

CVF members have inadequate preparedness, resilience, and adaptive capacities. External support is therefore critical for us to be able to adapt well and manage impacts better. We need support in areas of adaptation, capacity building and technology transfer.

We are grateful to the Maldives for taking the lead in 2009 in creating this platform. Taking inspiration from the outcome of previous meetings and their impact on the international climate discourse, we have decided to invite more countries based on risks that they face and the extent of their vulnerability. We hope that this broad-based coalition would afford us greater strength and voice to raise our legitimate demands at the Durban climate talks.

CVF 2011 seeks to increase the level of awareness in the public domain of the dangerous consequences of climate change for vulnerable communities, of remedial actions and of the opportunities that exist amidst challenges. While we identify collective actions, we would seek to forge enhanced understanding with other state parties and international actors of the urgency to act and of economic and technological requirements.

elected around the world, we stand ready to work with the Climate Vulnerable Forum, and support your efforts as we move forward. The path that was begun in the Maldives when president Nasheed convened, as here in Bangladesh with the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, still has a long way to go, the transition to a low-carbon economy is a wonderful opportunity for us to work together. North and South, South and South, the private sector and the public sector all working together to handle this challenge, which we can transform into a tremendous opportunity in making this a much better world.

The process of negotiations in the UNFCCC and poor realisation of committed international support do not inspire either in their content or in pace. We see little prospect of easy and direct access to funds and technology for the most vulnerable countries. Disbursement is extremely slow and often is donor-driven. There is lack of clarity on new and additional funds for the vulnerable countries. We need clearly outlined supportive measures on adaptation.

“CVF 2011 seeks to increase the level of awareness in the public domain of the dangerous consequences of climate change for vulnerable communities.”

We must also appreciate that adaptation is very costly, as our access to technology is limited. And then, adaptation cannot be an endless process, without matching concrete and time-bound progress on mitigation. Hence, the need for immediate conclusion of negotiations on the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. Any further delay may undermine the legally-binding international climate regime and create a legal vacuum. Here, it would be logical for major emitters including from the developing world to manifest commitment. Countries from the developing South may voluntarily accept mitigation commitments, based on equity and their own capacities.

We must also acknowledge that we face an uninspiring future. Sitting idle in such a situation is no option. We have to take the lead and show to the world that we are ready to accept moral leadership. We ought to express firm resolve to pursue green growth paths voluntarily as we remain steadfast in our endeavors to reduce poverty and attain economic growth. We must be ready to lead by example.

Our objective is also to add dynamism to the Forum. CVF 2011, it would appear, has already generated interest among the stakeholders which, we expect, would help put our concerns and challenges at the core of global development and the environment agenda.

Our senior officials met yesterday and have secured significant convergence on the way forward. I am confident that our deliberations at the Ministerial level would contribute to making the CVF a sustainable platform. We are encouraged to have the



LEFT: Ahmad Naseem
Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives
RIGHT: Dipu Moni
Honourable Foreign Minister of Bangladesh

Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh in our midst today. Through her relentless efforts and strong leadership, she has been successful in bringing the plight and the need of the climatically vulnerable countries at the centre of the climate change discourse. I am confident that we will benefit from her wise counsel and guidance towards adding further dynamism to our Forum and making it relevant in the global climate and development discourse.

I thank you once again for joining CVF 2011 and contributing to its success.

AHMED NASEEM

It is a great honour and a pleasure to be with you all here in Dhaka for the second Climate Vulnerable Forum.

On behalf of the Government of the Maldives, I would like to thank the Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh and her Government for inviting us, for their hospitality and for their extraordinary efforts in organising this important meeting. I would also like to thank H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the UN for being with us today; all the assembled ministers and high-level delegates for their attendance; and last but not least DARA for its invaluable support.

The CVF was convened by H.E. President Mohamed Nasheed in 2009 as a unique new forum designed to amplify the voice of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations and to position those countries not as the victims of global warming but rather as the voice of reason and as the agents of change.

The outcome of the First CVF in the Maldives – the Male Declaration – was, I believe, crucial in changing the parameters of the global debate on climate change. Prior to the Male Declaration, intergovernmental talks had become obsessed and divided over the issue of new binding commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions. On one side, the developed world, by and large, refused to consider deeper emission cuts without meaningful mitigation commitments

“We must be ready to lead by example.”

from the large emerging economies. On the other side, key developing countries, using G77 as a vehicle, were adamant that they would not accept such commitments and that responsibility for climate change and thus responsibility for dealing with it must rest solely with the industrialised world.

Squeezed between these two poles were the CVF nations; the only countries brave enough to point out the obvious – that to keep warming below 2 degrees, to save vulnerable countries like Bangladesh and Maldives from extinction, every country on Earth would have to agree to change, to play its part, to move away from carbon-intensive development and towards a greener future. And, moreover, that it is in every country's social and economic interests to do so.

And that was the message delivered by the world's most vulnerable countries at CVF1. With the Male' Declaration we “emphasised that...action is required by all countries,” we “underscored that maintaining carbon-intensive modes of production will incur enormous social and economic costs, whereas shifting to a low-carbon future creates wealth, jobs, and new economic opportunities”, we expressed our conviction that “those countries which take the lead in embracing this future will be the winners of the 21st Century” – and asserted our determination, as vulnerable States, to be amongst those winners.

Today, conventional wisdom suggests that Copenhagen was a

failure. I beg to differ. In my opinion, the Copenhagen Accord was not an admission of defeat, but the first step on the road towards a solution – a solution based on the vision laid down in the Male’ Declaration. That vision was simple: that global warming will only be halted when States realise the futility of arguing over whom should cut emissions, and begin competing to become the leaders of the new industrial revolution – a revolution based not on the finite power of coal and oil, but on the infinite power of the sun, sea and wind.

One only has to look around today to see evidence that the world did begin to turn a corner in Copenhagen. Billions of dollars are now invested each year in low- carbon technologies, and this has resulted in double-digit growth in renewable energy and the broader green economy. Investment in renewables, excluding large hydro-electronic power, rose in 2010 to about 130 billion dollars – a 40% increase from the 2008 level. Equally important, growth is not restricted to the industrialised world. Low-carbon investments in developing countries, especially China, are also soaring. Indeed, by 2025 China is expected to become the undisputed world leader in renewable energy capacity – overtaking the European Union.

President Nasheed has always held that the best way to stop climate change is not to demand that States cut emissions but rather to encourage them to invest in low- carbon technology and renewable energy. That was the ultimate aim of the Maldives’ decision to commit to carbon neutrality by 2020. And it was a key aim of the CVF – to show the world that despite our vulnerability and despite having contributed almost nothing to the problem, CVF countries are willing to take the lead in directing and moving the world towards a solution to global warming.

I believe therefore that we can all be proud of the CVF’s contribution to international efforts to address climate change.

However, much remains to be done if the CVF and the wider international community are to halt and reverse climate change before it is too late.

That is why this meeting and your presence here in Dhaka is so important.

It is the hope of President Nasheed and the Maldives delegation that this third meeting of the CVF will achieve five things:

1. Remind the world of the plight of the most climate-vulnerable countries, and in-so-doing confront the growing sense of apathy and reenergize the international community to act.
2. Send out a strong progressive message to COP17 in Durban, encouraging the UNFCCC to establish a new legal framework

on climate change which encourages and helps States take positive action, in other words to invest in low-carbon technology, rather than only demanding that they accept negative obligations – namely to cut emissions.

3. Inspire and lead this reorientation of the global debate on climate change by updating the international community about progress made by CVF States to move towards low-carbon development.
4. Understand and explain the main challenges and difficulties faced by developing countries in shifting to a low-carbon development pathway, and to give guidance to the international community regarding how it can best help and support that shift. In that regard, the CVF must send out a strong message about the accessibility of the CDM, about the establishment of the Green Fund and about how to best leverage private capital.
5. To institutionally-equip the CVF to deliver these messages and results in the long-term, and to ensure that its impact is not only felt once a year but rather on a continual and sustained basis.

The Maldives delegation pledges itself to work with all of you to achieve these goals.

“Global warming will only be halted when States realise the futility of arguing over whom should cut emissions, and begin competing to become the leaders of the new industrial revolution.”

TOAKAI KORIRINTETAKE

Happy Greetings from our President HE Anote Tong and the people of Kiribati to you all.

I wish to begin by voicing our deep appreciation and great gratitude to the honourable Prime Minister Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina for taking responsibility to accommodate the third meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum in their beautiful country of Bangladesh. This affirms the commitments that Bangladesh accords to protect and safeguard the interest of the most vulnerable people on this earth.

I would like to commend the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Forestry for the wonderful welcome and protocol provided.

It is a great honour and priviledge to meet you all in this important

meeting on Climate Vulnerable Forum to share our common vulnerable issues of climate change and to rethink on new ways to address these persistent challenges and issues.

It is very sentimental and sad for all us who are suffering the consequences of climate change that are not our creation, but the creation caused by our big brothers in developed countries.

From science evidence based climate change periodic reports and assessments, it is really alarming to know that there are impacts of climate change that are undeniably avoided. Indeed, there are people in areas and countries who are most vulnerable who are facing greater hardships and sufferings.

This is an urgent call for us now in this forum to think beyond what is happening now. This is the Forum which we should fully utilise to make an effective voice to the industrious world to stop now and think twice of the consequences of their aspirations for advanced economic growth.



Toakai Korintetaake
Honourable Minister of Education of Kiribati

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES FOR PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

The people of the Pacific island countries are facing significant development challenges caused by climate change. For smaller island countries like Kiribati, Tokelau and Tuvalu (to name a few), the changing weather patterns have hardly brought rain for more than six months now.

From my recollection of my young life on my island 20 years ago, we used to enjoy good downfall rain at beginning and end of year. I can vividly recall myself enjoying the fullness of these rainy seasons; I could even swim in babai pits as the water was very fresh and good for our babai (taro) root crops.

The adverse impacts of climate change have now brought severe droughts with new emerging problems where babai pits are full with salty water destroying our babai taro root crops. I know that this is really happening as I had witnessed this with my own babai taro roots crops that were suddenly dying away under my nose. Without realising, the water in almost all babai pits in the area where I live were full with salty water – and that was the cause.

It was most amazing to learn that the salty water into the babai taro pits did not come from high sea tides invading the land but came from underground. The emerging cause of climate change had allowed sea infiltration from both above and beneath land.

Land degradation and coastal erosion caused by sea infiltration onto and below our land also contributed a lot to the salinity of ground water that our people are depending on for fresh drinking water. I am glad to say that an eyewitness who had seen the sufferings of our people living in degraded coastal areas is a distinguished and honoured Chief Guest, the UN Secretary-General, who paid a visit to Kiribati last October of this year.

The people of Kiribati were deeply touched and inspired by the visit made by the UN Secretary-General, who saw with his eyes the

reality of the impacts of climate change in Kiribati.

I must voice again our big thank you to the Secretary-General for having joined the planting of mangroves during his visit. Mangrove planting is one effective initiative to protect coastal erosion and mangroves have significance importance in the lives of our people as it provides a good spawning ground for sea shells that our people are depending on for living.

GREEN GROWTH

We support the move to Green Growth as a means to address the acute food security issue. Given the circumstances on weather and soil conditions, agriculture and farming is a big challenge. This has contributed a lot to our dependency on world food grains with prices that are escalating very fast.

Our people are struggling to survive now during the wake of climate change and rising of prices of these imported food grains. Maybe Green Growth is the answer.

However, developmental opportunities to promote green growth require huge finance and capital and modern technology. We need assistance to address quality water for good irrigation, good modern technology on agricultural machineries and hand tools, and for modern technological food processing facilities.

“Our people are struggling to survive now during the wake of climate change.”

We need to change the lifestyles of our people to depend on traditional food crops that are readily available on land. We need to build their capacity to be able to survive and at the same time, preserve to save for the hard and severe droughts seasons. This can be done through availability of modern technological tools and machineries appropriate for agricultural preservation techniques to turn raw agricultural productions into preservable products for future use. I know that we can turn pandanus fruits into preservable products such as cereals for future consumption, unless we have access to appropriate tools and machineries.

However, the path for most low lying coral atolls to green growth requires a strategic coherent approach as there are urgent and critical development challenges to address first.

For Kiribati to adapt to the Maldives strategy, to build high sea walls to prevent high sea level coming on land, is beyond our means and requires financing assistance.

We need a good drinking and irrigation water system to make agriculture and farming an effective solution.

We are also depending on imported fuel, which is another significant developmental challenge for most Pacific Island Nations. We need to explore affordable sources of energy. Renewal energy is a possible solution but then this requires considerable financing requirements and capital technology.

GREEN CLIMATE FUND

It is disappointing to see that the Green Climate Fund is slowly moving despite the fact that it has been a priority agenda in the last two meetings. We need immediate actions to ensure that the decision taken at Cancún on finance are realised through immediate implementation and ensuring accelerated disbursements.

We need a simple financing system that can be easily accessed by country governments and civil society.

POSSIBLE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ACTIONS

The Climate Vulnerable Forum is a good starting point for one collective voice for the most vulnerable countries. Together and united we stand and strong to challenge the big boys. This is our right for the survival of our people.

HASAN MAHMUD

It is certainly a privilege for Bangladesh to host the CVF 2011 following the footsteps of the Maldives and Kiribati. We are thankful for your participation and support. We are humbled by your words of appreciation. With the spirit of cooperation manifested here, we are confident that together we can transform the CVF into a truly effective and meaningful organisation.

It is needless to repeat the severity of impacts of climate change and the need for a truly global partnership to effectively respond to the challenges posed by climate change. Given our poor coping capacities, vulnerable countries suffer the most despite their least contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions. We have no option but to forge an effective partnership to face climate change. We have a golden opportunity at Durban to demonstrate our collective resolve and ask for concrete follow up with concrete action. We can stress that the Durban Climate Conference must deliver two fundamental outcomes. One, a second commitment period of the rule-based Kyoto mechanism beyond 2012, and two, a mandate with clear roadmap agreed by parties to conclude the

The Climate Vulnerable Forum should make an influential voice for early reactions rather than too late.

Early implementation without further delays of the outcomes and decisions of the Male' Declaration 2009 and Tarawa Climate Change Conference 2010, and now the Dhaka Declaration 2011.

Call for early reactions and responses without delay for fast-track financing systems is required.

We need to consider national and regional efforts to create specific climate vulnerable fund through green tax initiatives to be pursued.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

It is an inspiration to meet all of you here in Dhaka which shows your interest and commitments to take leadership to pursue our right of survival that we should strive to do with dignity and pride.

I congratulate Bangladesh for the wonderful and smooth arrangements to facilitate a good common space for rethinking and preparations of all outcomes of sessions.

I must not forget the efforts made by DARA and officials and other donor partners for bringing CVF participating countries together into this beautiful city of Dhaka.

To all my colleagues, with one voice we should call on all Parties to the UNFCCC to act with renowned urgency and without further delays, that a fair and safe legal binding is reached at COP17.

**“Together and united
we stand and strong to
challenge the big boys.
This is our right for the
survival of our people.”**

discussions towards reaching a legally-binding agreement that is fair, effective, comprehensive and robust ensuring global environmental integrity, as an agreed outcome under LCA.

Given the context of UNFCCC negotiations, we may articulate our position on adaptation with high priority. We may call for:

- A balanced global focus on adaptation and mitigation, at least a 50-50 distribution;
- Establishment of an adaptation window within the Green Climate Fund;
- Serious examination of the issue of climate change induced displacement as an adaptation strategy. International support and protection for environmental migrants facilitating planned relocation and regular movement.

Though not mandatory, Bangladesh is willing to participate in global mitigation efforts by committing itself to a low-carbon development path on a voluntary basis. Here we need support with adequate finance and appropriate technology. As a group, we can forcefully articulate this. We must take advantage of the 2015 window for the revision of the internationally agreed climate goal, currently at 2.0 degrees Celsius of warming, to adopt the global temperature goal at

Ministry of Environment and Forests Bangladesh



Hasan Mahmud
Honourable State Minister for Environment and Forests of Bangladesh

1.5 degrees Celsius. We may clearly stress the imperative to avoid a legal vacuum at the expiry of the first commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol. We have to ensure rapid and sound completion of the Bali Road Map for a comprehensive and equitable international legally binding agreement addressing long-term climate change to be in effect at the latest by January 2015.

On finance, we may focus on:

- Accelerated disbursement of Fast Start Climate Finance, prioritising the most vulnerable countries for adaptation activities and by targeting a minimum of 50% disbursement of total funds.
- A common definition of the baseline for new or additional climate change finance as well as a coherent format for reporting coupled with simplification of procedures (as vulnerable countries also lack capacities owing to poor human development).
- Specification of exact financial commitments on climate finance for developing countries in particular for the year 2013, but also, as a priority, information relating to the incremental increases of climate finance, on an annual or biennial basis, for the period from January 2013 to December 2019, in steady increase towards the 2020 target of US\$100 billion.
- Limit the number of funding mechanisms, whose proliferation complicates accounting, transparency and delivery.

On development and transfer of technology, we can

- Underscore that the technology executive committee and climate technology centre and Network to be made operational by 2012, as decided at Cancun.
- Technical assistance for public and private sector capacity building targeted at the development, registration and scaling-up of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects with high payoffs for adaptation as well as wider socio-economic/environmental co-benefits;
- Immediate agreement to begin the progressive release and transfer of all technology of beneficial effect for the adaptation and green development actions of vulnerable countries, including patented knowledge, where these have resulted from the investment of public monies.

Additionally, we may call for immediate determination of agreed vulnerability criteria or index factoring in present impacts of natural disasters, likely losses and risks in the future, and the number of people exposed etc

On the way forward, we see strong merit of maintaining momentum through undertaking periodic engagement among our countries so as to project the CVF as a determined platform and to enhance its profile. This may be done by: a) continued participation in the UNFCCC and other relevant fora like the Rio+20. b) seeking to engage with other forums like G-8, G-20 and Bretton Woods Institutions, c) one or two expert level engagements every year to identify issues and for effective follow up of agreed decisions. However, this all will depend on how we see the CVF. We need to bring in better clarity on our objectives and focus, structures of engagement, coordination mechanisms, and generation of funds to support our initiative. We think that the time is ripe to commence a serious discussion on greater convergence on a possible operational modality for our Forum. Without further clarity, it may be extremely difficult to sustain the momentum and the CVF may suffer a fatal blow to its credibility.

“Durban must deliver a second commitment period of the rule-based Kyoto mechanism beyond 2012.”

OBSERVER STATEMENTS OF THE CLIMATE VULNERABLE FORUM 2011

CHINA

At the outset, please allow me to express, on behalf of the Chinese Government, warm congratulations on the successful opening of the Climate Vulnerable Forum in Dhaka!

Climate is the natural environment which mankind depends on for living and the important basic resources for sustainable economic and social development. Climate change is a major challenge the world faces today. It is our common task to curb climate change and save our homeland. In two weeks time, the UN Climate Change conference will be held in Durban, South Africa. At this critical moment, the Climate Vulnerable Forum meeting certainly carries significant impact on consolidating international cooperation on climate change and safeguarding the common interests of developing countries. Here I would like to share with you some of our observations.

Firstly, the Durban conference should achieve comprehensive, balanced and pragmatic results. The main goal of the conference should be to maintain the dual-track negotiation mechanism on UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, and make positive progress in related areas with the guidance of the Bali Road Map. The result of the Durban Conference should follow the dual-track negotiation mechanism and fully represent the consensus of the Cancún Agreement. We should specify the emission reduction credits in the second commitment period for the developed parties; we should specify a comparable emission-cutting commitment for developed non-contracting parties; we should ascertain a mechanism arrangement for adaption, funds, technology transfer, and capability building, and create a mechanism of adaptation that effectively supports developing countries on funds and technology transfer. Also, we should specify the arrangement of "measurable, reportable, verifiable" and "transparency." Only with all these factors can the developing countries implement certain voluntary mitigation actions based on the principle of a "common but differentiated responsibility."

The UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol are the basic framework and

legal basis for the international community to work together against climate change. The second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is the key issue for the Durban Conference to make progress with the guidance of the Bali Road Map. The second commitment period must be adhered to. Developed countries should face their historic responsibilities and obligations, increase the standard of emission-cutting commitment and bear the duty for large-scale emission cuts during the second commitment period. Developed non-contracting parties of the Protocol should also bear an emission-cutting credit that is comparable to the developed contracting parties over scale, property, and compliance mechanism. Developed countries should provide funds, technology transfer, and capability

"China would like to carry out pragmatic cooperation with CVF members on coping with climate change and a bilateral framework, and provide our help and support within our capabilities by means of South-South cooperation."



Inaugural Ceremony

building for developing countries. Only on the basis of all these can developing countries take nationally appropriate mitigation actions.

Secondly, we should make overall arrangements for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change as both factors are important aspects for coping with climate change. Adaptation to climate change is the most pressing task that developing countries face and we should make positive progress in this area during Durban.

Developing countries bear no responsibilities for climate change today. However, they are the most vulnerable to climate change and have become its victim. Developed countries should fulfil the obligations stipulated in the Protocol, provide assistance in funds, technology, and capability building, and help all developing countries, especially climate vulnerable countries to cope with climate change. As a victim of climate change, China understands the concerns pertaining to adaptation of climate vulnerable countries and supports their reasonable claim on adaptation.

Thirdly, developed countries should provide large-scale new, extra, and predictable funds for tackling climate change. The funds should mainly come from public funds and funds from carbon market

and private sectors can be used as a supplement. China holds that the funds be provided to Small Island Countries, Least Developed Countries, and African countries on a priority basis.

Fourthly, CVF members are mostly small island countries, Least Developed Countries and African countries. Like many CVF members present here today, China faces the same threat from climate change and fully understands the feeling of climate vulnerable countries. China would like to further strengthen the dialogue of communication about climate change with climate vulnerable countries, improve our understanding, broaden our consensus, and consolidate our solidarity, so as to protect the overall interest of developing countries and play a constructive role on climate change negotiations. China would also like to carry out pragmatic cooperation with members of the CVF on coping with climate change and a bilateral framework, and provide our help and support within our capabilities by means of South-South cooperation.

The Chinese government will, as always, work together with all countries, including CVF members and make concerted efforts in effectively coping with climate change and achieving sustainable development of mankind.

NORWAY

Co-chairs, ladies and gentlemen,

As a way of commemorating Fritjof Nansen, the first High Commissioner for Refugees under the League of Nations, and as a means of setting an important international agenda, the Norwegian government earlier this year convened the Nansen Conference on Climate Change and Displacement in the 21st Century.

The conference agenda included topics relating to vulnerability, resilience, adaptation, the protection of displaced people as well as prevention and management of displacement. Allow me now to briefly share with you three highlights from the conference.

First and foremost – a strong underlining of the need to base our response on knowledge and clear thinking about the issues at hand.

There is little doubt that factors such as deterioration of agricultural land, desertification, reduced access to water and sea-level rise will make parts of the earth less habitable. While such slow-onset change is expected to be the most important driver of human displacement related to climate change, sudden-onset climate related natural disasters such as hurricanes and floods are having a significant immediate impact.

The Conference also highlighted that there is no simple causal relationship between climate change and displacement, and that consequences will vary in space and time. Climate change

influences vulnerability and displacement through complex interactions with other driving forces, including social, economic and political factors, conflict, demographic change - and with other environmental stresses that cause the deterioration of ecosystems and life-support systems in vulnerable areas.

The second point I would like to highlight is the need for responsible action in an interconnected world. This was a key theme throughout the Conference. It implies that climate change and the resulting displacement concern us all and that we have a shared to the humanitarian impacts of the phenomena.

In order to act responsibly we must ensure that our responses to climate-related displacement are guided by the fundamental principles of humanity, human dignity, human rights and international cooperation.

It was pointed out that states affected by climate-related processes have a primary duty to protect their populations and give priority to the particular needs of the most vulnerable and those most affected by climate change, including the displaced and those at risk of displacement.

When national capacity is limited, regional frameworks and international cooperation should buttress action at the national level. In this regard the Conference endorsed the crucial importance of preparedness and preventive efforts.

With smart investments in local capacities and adaptation strategies, we could avoid many of the much larger costs involved in responding to a disaster, including displacement management and reconstruction.

Finally, my third and last point is that the full potential of existing international law should be exploited and that normative gaps should be addressed. There was broad consensus that the 1951 Convention should not be reopened. It was also stressed that the label “refugee” in the context of climate change is potentially confusing and could run the risk of diluting the concept of refugees as defined in the Convention. It was therefore recommended to use the term “environmentally displaced persons” which also includes those who are victims of non-climate related natural disaster.

The good news, as highlighted by the Conference, is that existing international law seems to provide a viable framework for protecting all internally displaced persons, including climate-related internal displacement. This framework is set out in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The groundbreaking African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa is another key instrument – and source of inspiration.

The Conference did, however, point to a normative gap with respect to external displacement resulting from disasters, which needs to be addressed. It was suggested that States in conjunction with UNHCR

and other relevant stakeholders develop a guiding framework for the protection of people displaced externally due to sudden onset natural disasters, including where climate change plays a role. Many speakers underlined that the guiding principles on internal displacement could serve as an inspiration in this regard.

Going forward, Norway stands ready to continue a dialogue on these issues. For the ministerial-level meeting in Geneva December 7-8 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention, Norway is prepared to offer the following pledge:

“A more coherent and consistent approach at the international level is needed to meet the protection needs of people displaced externally owing to sudden-onset disasters, including where climate change plays a role. We therefore pledge to cooperate with interested states and other relevant actors with the aim of obtaining a better understanding of such cross border movements at relevant regional and sub-regional levels, identifying best practices and developing consensus on how best to assist and protect the affected people.”

I would also like to draw your attention to the UN guiding principles on internal displacement. The Forum may wish to consider the inclusion of a reference to these in the declaration from Dhaka.

“In order to act responsibly we must ensure that our responses to climate-related displacement are guided by the fundamental principles of humanity, human dignity, human rights and international cooperation.”

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

I am extremely pleased to be here at the preparatory meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum.

Climate change is a powerful and very real global phenomenon. But we all know that it affects lives and livelihoods in very different ways, from one place, from one country, to another. This fact is the essence of this meeting, because we recognise that when it comes to the risks of climate change, some countries, your countries, are more vulnerable than others.

In the six months I've been in Bangladesh, I've seen real leadership

by the Government on the international stage in calling for a global response to climate change. It feels right that we are meeting here in Dhaka today for Second Climate Vulnerable Forum, and once again, let me welcome you all to this timely event.

In Bangladesh, the United Nations Development Programme – UNDP, is proud to be a consistent and trusted partner in the country's sustainable development endeavours. Environmental protection is a core element of our development mandate. Over the years, UNDP Bangladesh has played an important role in the development of policy and programmes that are securing better environmental and natural resource management. In close collaboration with national partners, we can see results! We see improved protection of important biodiversity; really successful work introducing cleaner fuels, the ubiquitous “CNG's” in Dhaka; and in encouraging energy



SECOND FROM LEFT:
Neel Walker
UN System Coordinator for Bangladesh
with senior officials during the Inauguration of the
Preparatory Meeting

conservation. Throughout everything, UNDP promotes inclusive approaches that link poverty eradication and the environment.

The BIG question is, will the actions to date, be enough? Here today, the most vulnerable countries are represented, and I think we can all agree: more action is needed! The challenge of climate change in Bangladesh is easy to visualise: it is the combination of the melting Himalayas to the north, sending ever more unpredictable river-flow through the country, and the rising sea to the south. Indeed, many people in the vulnerable southern coastal belts are already feeling this: climate change in Bangladesh means more natural disasters that are more frequent, more intense and more destructive.

Clearly, response must be multi-faceted: it must be global, national and local; it must be at the policy level AND at the practical level. And while funding is important, it's also about innovation and impact! Bangladesh's pioneering and comprehensive disaster risk reduction and management system stands ready to show results on many fronts, in Bangladesh. But we know - I am sure that all of you know: this is only part of the response. To adequately deal with the problem we must also be seeking ways that capture and promote the best in ideas, technologies and opportunities to put all countries on a development path that is clean, green and sustainable.

From this perspective, the 'win-win-win' coastal afforestation project is an excellent and innovative example. It combines climate resilience by reclaiming lost land and protecting the coast; it promotes emission reductions by expanding carbon sinks and it strengthens social protection for the poorest through cash-for-work employment.

Along with adaptation, UNDP Bangladesh's present portfolio seeks to push the low emission green development and green economy agenda forward. From the Brick Kiln Efficiency project which is demonstrating the real value in energy efficiency, to the CFC Phase-out projects or to a comprehensive portfolio of pipeline projects, UNDP is committed to our work in Bangladesh.

But today, for the record, I am here to represent UNDP's actions

worldwide, and I am confident in stating that we are proud to be a trusted partner in all vulnerable countries, supporting you to design innovative solutions to the challenge of climate change. Please allow me to provide two quick examples where countries here today, despite real resource constraints, are taking bold and positive steps.

First, our neighbors in Bhutan. Unprecedented glacial melt is posing serious and imminent risks in the form of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (Let's just call those "GLOFs"). GLOF events can release millions of cubic meters of water and debris into narrow mountain valleys causing catastrophic and sudden losses, losses of lives, livelihoods and economic infrastructure. In response to this threat, with support from UNDP and the GEF managed Least Developed Countries Fund, Bhutan is successfully draining one of its most dangerous glacial lakes – Lake Thorthomi. The project is also helping to establish an early warning system for hazard prone downstream areas, and local people are being trained in GLOF preparedness.

In another part of the world, in Ghana, with UNDP support, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Disaster

“Clearly, response must be multi-faceted: it must be global, national and local; it must be at the policy level AND at the practical level.”

Management Organization apply an integrated approach to coordinate and manage climate change risks and opportunities. What does this mean in practice? It is local and national. At the local level, it means that the quality of local planning is made more responsive to local needs. Mechanisms ensure that local people can better communicate their needs to service providers and ensure that local authorities listen better. Working together they're finding ways to bring in new ideas that build from local knowledge.

At the same time, Ghana is taking steps to reduce its national carbon footprint on a voluntary basis, promoting a green economy through the introduction of incentives to reduce energy wastage in the manufacturing sector.

In conclusion: all of the climate vulnerable countries assembled here today can provide evidence of a proactive stance in fighting climate change even though they bear no historical responsibility of causing greenhouse gas emissions.

So, it is your efforts that serve as an inspiration globally, and also for us in the UN system. Without your leadership, we are just a voice in the wind. But with your commitment, with your action, we in UN have the foundation we need to provide effective support. Indeed! We can help vulnerable countries access additional resources from global funds; we can help target policies and programmes towards the most vulnerable populations and the most urgent needs; and we're energised to help you transform your economies towards climate smart and environmentally sustainable development.

As the discussions over the next two days will show, many of the solutions are already available and being implemented by the governments and peoples' represented here. One of the key challenges now is to make this experience more visible and transferable, which is one of the objectives which underpin this event.

Looking forward though, we all recognise that much more needs to be done. We need to scale up the response - not through atomised projects or 'one off' initiatives, but through smarter, more comprehensive approaches. Sector policies offer one avenue of opportunity, by designing and putting in place incentives that can transform both the role of government, and the way it interacts with other players, notably the private sector.

I am delighted to be present at this important meeting. Climate change is one of the most complex and multifaceted challenges of our time. All of you represent countries that are the front-line victims,

facing a disproportionate share of climate burden. I therefore thank all organisers and participants of this important meeting for your proactive stance in effectively addressing climate change.

I would also like to commend the Government of Bangladesh for the timely hosting of the Forum just prior to the COP meetings in Durban, and the Rio+20 meetings next year. This is a great opportunity to build bridges towards a constructive outcome in the COP negotiations in Durban. Durban outcomes can be further strengthened by the historic opportunity of Rio+20 Summit next year that specifically deals with pro-poor green economy and institutional framework for sustainable development themes.

Finally, I am especially encouraged by presence of the United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon who will speak at the Forum tomorrow. Please be aware it was his personal choice to significantly adjust his arrival date to be with you tomorrow. I can tell you all with deep pride, the Secretary-General: he's my boss, and addressing climate change is one of his highest personal priorities. So, from the very top, please count on your United Nations Team, in whatever country you come from, for passionate, results-oriented support in your hard work.

I wish you every success in reaching a common and strong message on behalf of climate vulnerable countries.

“We need to scale up the response - not through atomised projects or ‘one off’ initiatives, but through smarter, more comprehensive approaches.”

UNITED KINGDOM

The UK fully supports this third meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum. We are delighted that Bangladesh is hosting, awareness raising and encouraging greater dynamism and intent amongst CVF members. Bangladesh's own leadership and thorough embracing of the climate and green growth debates is compelling. It is therefore a fitting showcase for these two days of discussion.

The UK is struck by this meeting's resolve to reaffirm the CVF's desire for influence. Also, the determination to move from what the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh called "conference room rhetoric" to a more proactive and coherent messaging. In supporting the CVF from its inception, UK hears your voice. We are encouraged by your willingness to take action yourselves, however small. We believe this will truly transform the moral and financial imperative into progressive and sustained impact.

It is right that the developed world takes responsibility. The UK supports your powerful message of equity. But we cannot do it alone. We would now urge you to widen your pressure to include all major emitters, including developing countries. In this we are your allies

too. UK believes that only by all major emitters being bound to targets under a legally binding instrument is the only – and most cost effective way - of delivering our shared 2 degrees C goal.

Together, the CVF family can – and should - use a sequence of events (such as CHOGM, SAARC, CVF) around which to further coalesce and seek convergence on key issues. This in turn can only strengthen your powerful voice in a wide range of international fora, and encourage interregionality in a positive and creative way. This will not only prove invaluable within the context of the UNFCCC negotiations, but also lay a solid foundation for the CVF's long term sustainability and direction.

The UK also hears your voice on concerns around funding. UK is proud to live up to its Copenhagen and Cancun commitments in supporting developing countries' fight against climate change and helping them adapt to its effects. We are on track to fully meet our Fast Start pledge to deliver GBP1.5bn of international climate finance by 2012. UK was also the first country to pledge climate finance beyond 2012, and has allocated GBP2.9bn through to March 2015. On long term finance, UK welcomes the work of the Transitional Committee to design the Green Climate Fund, and are committed, with other developed countries, to jointly mobilising \$100bn per



year for developing countries by 2020. One way to achieve this will be through leveraging sources of private sector finance. This will be enabled through greater political certainty around the negotiations process - another reason why we must strive together for a global deal.

The UK congratulates Bangladesh on a successful meeting. We are proud that we were able to support you through CDKN, and applaud the vision and determination so manifest here in Dhaka. We look forward to hearing a reinvigorated collective CVF voice carried loud and high in Durban, and beyond.

“It is right that the developed world takes responsibility. The UK supports your powerful message of equity. But we cannot do it alone.”

CONTACTS

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka
Bangladesh
P +880 295 67 472
F +880 295 56 292
www.mofa.gov.bd

Ministry of Environment and Forests of Bangladesh

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Building # 6, Level # 13, Bangladesh Secretariat
Dhaka
Bangladesh
P +880 271 67 240
F +880 271 60 166
www.moef.gov.bd

DARA

Headquarters:
Calle de Felipe IV, no.9
28014, Madrid
Spain
P +34 91 531 03 72
F +34 91 522 00 39
Representative Office:
International Environment House 2/MIE2
7-9 Chemin de Balxert
Châtelaine CH-1219 Geneva
Switzerland
P +41 22 797 40 30
F +41 22 797 40 31
info@daraint.org
www.daraint.org

Photo Credits

Government of Bangladesh
DARA

FORUM TIMELINE



JUNE 2012

2nd Climate Vulnerability Monitor

RIO+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

NOV/DEC 2011

COP17

Durban, South Africa

NOV 2011

Ministerial Meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum

Dhaka, Bangladesh

SEPT 2011

High Level Meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum - Parallel to the UN General Assembly

New York, US



President Nasheed of Maldives at the launch of the *Climate Vulnerability Monitor*
London, December 2010

DEC 2010

Climate Vulnerability Monitor 2010: The State of the Climate Crisis

London, UK & Cancún, Mexico

NOV/DEC 2010

COP16

Cancún, Mexico

NOV 2010

Tarawa Climate Change Conference

Tarawa, Kiribati



President Tong of Kiribati at the High Level Meeting of the Forum
New York, September 2010

SEPT 2010

High Level Meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum - Parallel to the UN General Assembly

New York, US

DEC 2009

COP15

Copenhagen, Denmark



High-level delegates at the First Meeting of the Forum Male', November 2009

NOV 2009

First Meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum

Male', Maldives

Climate Vulnerable Forum

Ministerial Meeting

Dhaka 2011

The Climate Vulnerable Forum is a global partnership of governments from Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific seeking a firm and urgent resolution to the growing climate crisis as some of the countries most vulnerable to the harmful effects of climate change. The Dhaka 2011 Ministerial Meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, was hosted by the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Environment and Forests, with institutional assistance from DARA and other development partners.

“Standing indivisible as we are in our determination to act to bring about a resolution to the global menace of climate change.”

Dhaka Ministerial Declaration of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (November, 2011)



This initiative has benefited from the funding of our partners

This document has been compiled under the responsibility of DARA upon request of the Government of Bangladesh as an input for Climate Vulnerable Forum delegations.

DARA is an independent international organisation based in Madrid, Spain, committed to improving the quality and effectiveness of assistance for vulnerable populations suffering from conflict, disasters and climate change. DARA co-published the first *Climate Vulnerability Monitor* together with the Climate Vulnerable Forum, and is providing institutional assistance to the Government of Bangladesh and the Forum process.

