

CLIMATE VULNERABLE FORUM



PRESS RELEASE

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VULNERABLE COUNTRIES WILL NOT GIVE UP FIGHT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- Ministers and representatives of countries highly vulnerable to climate change met in Durban at COP17 amid a lack of concrete outcomes in international climate talks

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA – 06 December 2011: The government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, supported by DARA, convened a ministerial-level meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) with representatives from Africa, the Americas, the Asia-Pacific gathered today in Durban on the side-lines of the UN climate talks (COP17). Ministers from Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Maldives, Rwanda and other senior government representatives met with civil society, academics, parliamentarians and leaders from other sectors amid slow progress on key outcomes of legal agreement, mitigation, finance and technology outlined in the Dhaka Declaration of the CVF only 2 weeks ago.

Bangladesh Environment Minister, HE Dr. Hasan Mahmud, said:

“We are all the passengers on the Titanic, the only difference between the most vulnerable and the rest is that we are the first into the water.”

Maldives Environment Minister, HE Dr. Mohamed Aslam, said:

“We are not going to give up. We are going to fight. We should not appeal to the governments. We must appeal to the people. When climate change becomes an election issue in major emitting countries, only then will we see any concrete real outcomes in the talks.”

Costa Rica Environment Minister, HE Mr. René Castro said:

“We will suffer – especially economically and socially - and we want to fight. The world needs to find new ways to develop. That is why we are going head to head with the Maldives to try and achieve carbon neutrality as fast as possible – by 2021 at the latest we hope.”

Rwanda Environment Minister, HE Mr. Stanislas Kamanzi said:

“We have in any case set our national climate strategy and we plan to move ahead with climate intelligent action locally.”



Chairing the Panel discussion of the meeting, CDKN Executive Chairman Mr. Simon Maxwell, said:
"There are no winners and losers in climate change. Collective action must inspire us to find a way for us all to be winners rather than all to be losers."

Speaking at COP17, DARA Trustee and Former President of Costa Rica, Mr. José María Figueres said:
"We need to occupy Durban with positive energy amid difficult steps in the talks. The Climate Vulnerable Forum adds accountability. It also brings positive energy for winning the war on climate change. Others should follow that lead."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Climate Vulnerable Forum is an international partnership of vulnerable countries from Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Pacific founded in 2009. 19 members of the Forum adopted a 14-point Ministerial Declaration in Dhaka, Bangladesh in mid-November 2011 at a meeting inaugurated by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the threshold of the UN talks in Durban.

For more information on the Forum see: www.daraint.org/cvf and www.mofa.gov.bd

DARA and the CVF also publish the *Climate Vulnerability Monitor* – a global assessment of the impacts of climate change. For more information see: www.daraint.org/cvm

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