

International Climate Change Negotiations: Strategic Priorities for Bangladesh

Afifat Khanam Ritika



Globally, the debate and discussion about climate change are conducted along two tracks. One is science-based named “The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)”, and the other is a policy track controlled by the “United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)”.

The treaty (UNFCCC) provides different responsibilities for the three types of signatory states. These categories are advanced countries with special financial responsibilities and backward or developing countries. Advanced countries are also known as developed countries or Annex 1 countries. Advanced countries must adopt national schemes and take appropriate measures to mitigate climate change by limiting anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and report on measures adopted, individually or collectively, to restore the 1990 emission levels. The advanced countries with special financial responsibility are also called Annex II countries. Annex II include all Annex I countries except those transitioning to democracy and a market economy. Annex II countries will be asked to provide new and additional funding to cover the costs to the developing countries for meeting their obligation to establish national inventories of their

emissions by source. This will also include removals by sinks for all greenhouse gases that the Montreal Protocol does not cover. Although Bangladesh is a developing country, the Bangladesh government pioneered the establishment of a climate change trust fund over 10 years ago. It has funded hundreds of adaptation projects across the country by ministries, agencies and civil society organizations. Now the fund has evolved to include climate change in the national budget. In the national budget for 2021-2022, 8% is earmarked for combating climate change in 25 ministries and also through NGOs. Alongside this, the country is also trying to access global funds. Bangladesh is a sufferer rather than a producer and trying to keep the temperature change to 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius. Bangladesh causes only 0.3% of the total global emissions. Even if it lowered to 0.0%, nothing would happen to the world. As Bangladesh aims to exit Least Developed Country (LDC) status in the next few years and engages more closely in various international activities and issues, we must tackle climate change as a national and diplomatic priority.

Bangladesh recently completed its term as the chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and the Vulnerable Twenty (V20) group of finance ministers from the 48 countries that comprise the international body for climate-vulnerable nations. Bangladesh's Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and V20 presidency advocated for strengthening climate action for survival and resilience. Indeed, the CVF is an international partnership of countries at high risk from this warming planet. The forum acts as a South-South cooperation party line for participating governments to take joint action against global climate change. In contrast, the V20 Group of Finance Ministers of the Climate Vulnerable Forum is a committed collaborative initiative of economies that are legally exposed to climate change. The V20 works through dialogue and action to combat global climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report clearly states that everyone must take urgent and decisive action to save the planet and future generations. The most recent IPCC Working Group II report features huge holes between transformation moves made and what is really required in numerous locales, and taking into account the extent of environmental change influences, activities on carrying out variation are deficient. In this specific situation, and in addition to a lack of funding, political commitment, reliable information, and a sense of urgency, the most vulnerable people and ecosystems are at the maximum risk. The CVF's 48 members account for just 5% of the total global emissions and are often referred to as the 'ground zero' of the adverse impacts of climate change. However, according to vulnerability, the Global Climate Risk Index ranked Bangladesh seventh among the most climate vulnerable countries in 2021 annual report. So tricking out proper strategies in the global platform should be developed pragmatically by Bangladesh.

No country can negotiate alone in the UNFCCC, So they need to form negotiating groups. Bangladesh can negotiate as a Least Developing Countries (LDC) group member. Bangladesh has many experienced negotiators selected by the LDC group due to their expertise on different topics to represent the LDCs on relevant topics. So, LDC is one of the country's best platforms to convey the global territory's needs. Federal countries have a long history of being involved in and contributing to the challenges of climate change. More than one-third of the CVF member states are also members of the Commonwealth of Nations, which lightens a new hope for global attention. The joint efforts of the CVF and Commonwealth member states can act as synergists for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Bangladesh has also been selected as a member of many vital institutions established by the UNFCCC over the years, including the Adaptation Fund Committee, the Green Climate Fund Committee, and the Warsaw International Loss and Damage Mechanism Executive Committee. This is the further recognition of Bangladesh's expertise and importance in this area by other states. Such international recognition may put Bangladesh in the global scenario regarding the issues related to the fight against climate change, especially in implementing activities. Therefore, Bangladesh is undoubtedly recognized as an essential country in UNFCCC consultations for domestic action, negotiators, and other representatives of the COP.



Working together to find practical, comprehensive and locally-led solutions to combat climate change is an apparent strategic option considering the country's present condition. To achieve the goal and serious consequences successfully, Bangladesh could approach our sub-groups like LDC, which can propose in G77 and finally, G77 can urge in the global platform. The Group of 77 (G77)

is the United Nations' biggest intergovernmental group of 134 emerging countries which is aimed at enhancing collective economic ability and developing joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations. We need to enhance knowledge sharing, research, capacity building and the transfer of affordable, clean and environmentally friendly technologies to developing countries to achieve sustainable, environmentally friendly, nature-based solutions for a prosperous future. Our joint position could help to secure \$ 100 billion annually in climate funding promised in the Paris Agreement from developed

to developing countries. Climate funding must be added to existing and future Official Development Assistance (ODA). Standing mutually is essential for the amount allocation in adaptation and mitigation evenly. The problems of ancestral homes and traditionally displaced climate migrants due to the negative impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels, salinity, river erosion, floods, and droughts, need to be addressed. There must be a global responsibility for the reintegration of these people. Finally, the collective action led by Bangladesh can act as a force for significant emitters to declare ambitious and aggressive NDCs to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Writer: Afifat Khanam Ritika is a Research Officer, BIMRAD.

Email: ibnatritika@yahoo.com

The article was published in [PAAL Magazine](#), Volume 05, Issue 02, August 2022