

Press Release

CPRD proposes its analysis and recommendation on finalizing Bangladesh's Interim NDC to UNFCCC

Today, 6 February 2021, a joint press conference was organized by Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD) and Climate Action Network South Asia-Bangladesh (CANSAs) focusing “Expectations and Recommendation for Enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to lessen the Greenhouse Gas emission in Bangladesh to mitigate the Climate Change impacts”. The conference took place around 11 in the morning at the National Press Club, Dhaka.

The press conference was aimed to highlight the expectations of civil society on the Enhanced Nationally Contributed Contribution, to present a well-thought-out analysis of the newly submitted interim document and to make recommendations on the issue. Mr. Md. Shamsuddoha, Chief Executive of CPRD has presented the keynote speech at the press conference. Moreover, two senior journalists Mr. Kauser Rahman and Mr. Nikhil Chandra Bhadra delivered their insights addressing the topic. Senior Research Assistant of CPRD Mr. Md. Akib Javed has concluded the press conference with the summary of the discussion. Mr. Imran, Research Assistant (Policy and Advocacy) of CPRD has moderated the conference.

In a written statement, Mr. Shamsuddoha mentioned that although the CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere used to be less than approximately 280 ppm before the Industrial Revolution, has currently exceeded 420 ppm, which has not been observed throughout the last 420,000 years. Due to increase of Greenhouse Gases like Carbon Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, Chlorofluoro Carbo, Methane and Nitrous Oxide in the atmosphere, the global temperature has already risen by 1.1 degree Celsius compared to the pre-industrial revolution temperature. Meanwhile, this upward trend in global warming is causing detrimental impacts everywhere. Extreme weather events like disasters are on the rise. People's livelihoods are at risk; Social and economic uncertainty is constantly increasing. Different scientific reports have already demonstrated that if all countries meet their NDC, still the global temperature is likely to increase by 3 to 4 degree Celsius, which will undoubtedly threaten the existence of all living things in the planet. Hence, there's no other option rather than enhancing the Nationally Determined Contributions by all the countries and the industrialized nations have to take the lead and ensure their significant contributions to materialize the Paris Agreement.

The 1992 UNFCCC global Measures to tackle Climate Change explicitly urges the member states to reduce carbon emissions, but the bitter truth is, while rich nations have a legal obligation (Under UNFCCC and later by the requirement of Kyoto Protocol) to reduce carbon emissions substantially due to their large quantity of emission in the atmosphere, they have either delayed or denied to take the responsibility.

He added that in order to survive the impact of climate change and play a leading role in the international arena, Bangladesh must create a universally accepted, explanatory, revaluated NDC that can be used to reduce carbon emissions. Mr. Shamsuddoha emphasized that the revaluated NDC could not involve any sector where the livelihood of most of the people of the

country is dependent but at the same time without considering the issues related to environment and climate change, NDC will not be beneficial for Bangladesh.

Analyzing the interim NDC document, he said the original document was a total of 18 pages. Of these eighteen pages, the cover is one page, the table of contents in one page, the picture is one page, six (6) pages are blank, 4-5 lines are written in two pages, 11 pages have been used in that way. Out of rest seven pages that contain the texts, Introduction is written on one page, another page covers the aspects of Adaptation and rest of the 5 pages talked about the essence of policies and measures Bangladesh have already taken to lessen carbon emissions. The last page (page no. 13) of Interim report addresses the enhanced NDC, however, most of the texts are irrelevant and the chapter has not included any specific sector that should be considered in the enhanced NDC. There are only four lines in the text that specifically talks about the reduction of carbon emission. Mr. Shamsuddoha uttered that the civil society and various stakeholders of the country are committed to take the NDC process forward and take part in building Bangladesh as a sustainable and environmentally friendly country.

Mr. Kausar Rahman said in his speech that climate change is being talked all over the world but even after that we are still observing the deficiency in understanding among the policy stakeholders. “Undoubtedly, it is commendable that Bangladesh has done its best. I think, instead of having the limitations, Bangladesh has to contribute significantly in the global arena through its NDC. We are disappointed to see that the technical side of the interim NDC that Bangladesh has submitted meanwhile. We have seen that agriculture is targeted as a possible sector to enhance the country’s NDC but we can’t do any harm to the sector that involves the livelihood of a vast majority of the people in Bangladesh. Many people of the country are now using different luxury products like Air conditioner, making the energy sector effective would be a better option for the Enhanced NDC of Bangladesh. Furthermore, the NDC could be improved better if stakeholders and experts of different fields are involved to revise it” said by the senior Journalist Mr Kawser Rahman.

Mr. Nikhil Chandra Bhadra said that the people responsible for climate change should be reminded repeatedly to fulfil their responsibilities and duties. In the same way, a country like Bangladesh has to formulate appropriate policies to the best of its ability. “We have seen to suffer the common people from the wrong policy decisions. Therefore, it’s quite necessary for the policy stakeholders to formulate the appropriate policies. During the tenure of the present government, we are observing improvement in many sectors of the country. Hon’ble Prime Minister has always been vigilant in preventing climate change. We think she will take appropriate steps to formulate necessary policies to ensure the participation of people from different levels”, Mr. Nikhil Said. He also mentioned the responsibilities of journalists regarding climate change issues.

In Recommendation for the enhanced NDC, included:

- Bangladesh should submit a revised NDC that will be globally acceptable, Explainable and must mention the specific figure of Carbon emission target.
- In revised NDC, no sector can be included which relates the livelihood of mass people, like agriculture.

- The revised NDC should assess the possibility of reducing the emission of any new type of greenhouse gas
- The NDC of Bangladesh should rely on the use of modern technology, Executable and up-to-date. In the case of NDC regeneration, the knowledge and proposals of different stakeholders should be considered.
- To make the NDC reorganization process more participatory Civil society, researchers, development workers and development partners should be involved.
- In the revised NDC, it's necessary to consider the aspects of sustainable development.

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