

Press Release

Bangladesh should lead CVF Countries towards the Carbon Neutral Economy by 2050

Dhaka, 15 April 2021

Today a group of national and international CSOs organizational call the current Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum to lead the forum countries towards the carbon neutral economy by 2040. The organizations namely Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD) Climate Action Network South Asia-Bangladesh (CANSA), CAN South Asia, CAN International made this call in a virtual press event held today. The press event titled “*Aligning Enhanced NDC to the Paris Goal: Bangladesh’s Leadership as the Chair of Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF)*” emphasized dynamic leadership of Bangladesh’s Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ad the chair of CVF to lead 48 climate vulnerable countries of this forum in the Prescient Biden’s Climate Suga Summit in April and towards the 26th climate conference at the end of this year.

Md. Shamsuddoha, Chief Executive of CPRD made the keynote prestation in the event. Mr. Kauser Rahman, President, Bangladesh Climate Journalist Forum, Mr. Nikhil Chandra Bhadra Senior Reporter, Kalerkontho, Syed Jahangir Hasan Masum, Executive Director CDP, Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, President, Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh, Dr Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Director Climate Change of PKSF and Ms. Rabeya Begum, Chairperson, Steering Committee, CANSA-Bangladesh spoke in the press event.

In the key note presentation, Md Shamsuddoha emphasizes full implantation of the Paris Climate Agreement, especially achieving its overarching goal of limiting global average temperature rise well below 2 Degree C from the pre-industrial era. He called up Bangladesh’s political leadership to undertake enhanced targets of carbon emission reduction under the NDC, also pursue other countries to make their NDCs progressive and aligned to the Paris Agreement. Md Shamsuddoha presented a comprehensive analysis of the Paris Agreement’s goals. Alongside the carbon emission reduction, he also emphasizes full implementation of other goals and articles of the Paris Agreement, which include resilience building, addresses the loss and damages and fulfilling commitment of the developed countries of annually providing USD 100 billion for addressing climate change.

Md. Shamsuddoha also highlighted the scopes of establishing Bangladesh’s leadership in climate diplomacy. Being the current chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum's (CVF) Bangladesh could play a critical role taking a common position towards a carbon neutral economy also could create pressure on other countries for their faster response in carbon emission reduction. Again, being one of the important participating countries to the President Biden’s Virtual Climate Summit Bangladesh cand CVF could urge for an increased and economy-wide Carbon Reduction for the developed countries under their NDCs.

Syed Jahangir Hasan Masum uttered that if Bangladesh wants to achieve the unconditional target of NDC, it’s mandatory to incorporate people in the NDC process. There is no such scope to separate the current development from NDC process.

Quamrul Islam Chowdhury said, “we see NDC as a National document where few relevant ministries have possibly been involved but Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) is yet to be incorporated in the process”. He added that it’s not acceptable both nationally and globally to keep CSOs outside the process while preparing a national document like NDC. Bangladesh has already taken the lead in some global platforms and there’s a high possibility of maintaining commanding role in the coming days. If the Enhanced NDC of Bangladesh is not well prepared, it will be tough to maintain a positive image towards the global community.

Mr. Kausar Rahman said in his speech that Bangladesh has already demonstrated a pioneering role in combating climate change. “we have to prepare NDC as a participatory document and we must follow the guidelines of UNFCCC. Since the inception of the Biden administration, the USA has been expressing its positive attitude towards climate change initiatives. Bangladesh may take the lead to pressure the carbon-emitting countries. All the climate change-affected countries including Bangladesh should take this opportunity” - he added.

Mr. Nikhil Bhadra expressed that the people working at the ground level, active researchers and the afflicted community bearing the brunt of climate change have not been involved in the NDC process. If these groups are not involved, it won’t be possible to develop a participatory NDC.

Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed said that high carbon-emitting nations have apathy in enhancing NDC. Many of them were seen to submit the previous version of NDC, it’s a big concern. He added, “Bangladesh is responsible for 0.003 percent of the global emission, and our country's national economic reality is quite lower than the high emitting countries. So, we have to simultaneously focus on the poverty alleviation, making the community resilient towards climate change and we have to keep pace with the global initiatives”.

Ms. Rabeya thanked all the press conference participants and expressed her gratitude to CPRD for initiating such an interactive event to ameliorate the final NDC document of Bangladesh.

Recommendations

Bangladesh’s Inclusive NDC 2020: Key requirements

- Ensure participation of a broad range of stakeholders’, e.g., sectorial experts, CSOs, Private Sector,
- Ensure participation and ownership of other relevant ministries, e.g., Road and Transports, Industry, Housing and Public Works, Agriculture, Railways, Disaster Management, Textile and Jute, Environment and Forests etc.
- Establish an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee for NDC Preparation and Implementation
- Ensure that the NDCs are aligned to other national plans and policies and vice versa, like Power Sector Master Plan, Energy Efficiency Plan, Renewable Energy Plan etc.

- Ensure a formal discussion/vetting of the NDC in the national parliament
- Identify carbon-intensive sectors, e.g., Communication, Building Infrastructure, Housing, Power and Energy, Cement & Steel Industries, Brick Manufacturing etc. and include them in the NDCs
- Quantify the emission reduction targets and ensure proper reporting on their implementation

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