



## Bangladesh is Counting for a Fair and Just Climate Deal in Copenhagen

Climate is much more than the synthesis of weather in one locality averaged for at least 30 years. Climate is not only statistical information, rather a fundamental element of human security. It is the inherent common resource for the humanity. Climate change may undermine human security by reducing access to, and the quality of, natural resources that are important to sustain livelihoods. Climate change is already happening and represents one of the greatest environmental, social and economic challenges for the future.

The February 2007 science report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) shows that the world has warmed by an average of 0.76° Celsius since pre-industrial times and the temperature rise is accelerating. Similarly, sea levels rose almost twice as fast between 1993 and 2003 as during the previous three decades. These changes have been identified as caused by man-made emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG); and it is reckoned that, without action to limit emissions, the global average temperature is likely to increase further by 2° to 5°C this century.

Climate change presents significant threats to achieving all of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to eliminating poverty and hunger and promoting environmental sustainability. Climate change will have a massive impact on food production and may jeopardize food security in many regions. Warmer temperatures will affect crops and crop production, changes in rainfall patterns will be as important. Climate change will also influence the availability of water for human consumption and for food production. Loss of land through sea level rise and other consequences like erosion caused by wind and water will affect the agriculture production. Climate change-related risks may force people into trade-off that limit their freedom and crumble choice. The rich people may cope with climate shocks through insurance or savings, by selling off assets, but the poor may have no alternative except to reduce nutrition, take children out of school, or sell the productive assets on which their recovery depends.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has defined climate change as a change of climate that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity, that



alters the composition of the global atmosphere and that is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was finalized and adopted on 09 May 1992 in New York, USA to reducing the adverse effects of climate change. On 4 June 1992, the UNFCCC was opened



## COUNTDOWN TO **CO<sub>2</sub>PENHAGEN** Time for climate justice

for signature at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and came into force on 21 March 1994.

The goal of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is 'stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. By ratifying the convention, parties agree to develop national programs to slow climate change. All countries have

a general commitment to address climate change, adapt to its effects, and report on the action they are taking to implement the UNFCCC. Bangladesh signed the Convention on June 9 1992, ratified it on 15 April 1994 and ratified the Kyoto Protocol on 22 October 2001. The Kyoto protocol was agreed after the convention and sets out clear quantified commitments for developed countries to be achieved by 2012. The UNFCCC conference in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009 is a key opportunity to press for an effective global deal to curb global warming. The developed countries cut in their carbon emissions at least 80 per cent by 2050 from 1990 levels is crucial in keeping global warming below 2°C or less. International agreements made between governments of different countries are critical to address the global impacts of climate change. It is the moral and ethical responsibility of developed countries to take the lead in ensuring that the level of increase in global temperature is maintained below 2°C over pre-industrial levels. In this 15<sup>th</sup> conference (COP 15), governments needs to agree on a programme to slash radically global greenhouse gas emissions after the current commitment phase of the Kyoto Protocol ends in 2012. They also need to agree a much bigger package of resources to help poor countries adapt to the unavoidable climate change. The urgency of tackling climate change justifies an acceleration of people's engagement in 2009.

The Countdown to Copenhagen campaign is an Aprovev initiative to ensure World leaders deliver a fair and effective deal for the poor at the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP15) signatories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. APRODEV is the association of the 17 major development and humanitarian aid organisations in Europe including Church of Sweden, Diakonia, Norwegian Church Aid, Dan Church Aid, Finn Church Aid, ICCO, EED, Brot für die Welt, Bread for All, and Christian Aid. Coastal Development Partnership (CDP), human rights focused not-for-profit, and public interest serving research and advocacy organization is one of the key facilitator of the Countdown to Copenhagen campaign



in Bangladesh. CDP is a partner organisation in the Aprove UNFCCC delegation team. At the UNFCCC negotiations, Aprove agencies and partner organisations act as one coordinated delegation with one voice.

The Countdown to Copenhagen Bangladesh Campaign has linked 54 NGOs into one platform to connect more than 100,000 climate vulnerable people to get their solidarity for People's Memorandum. CDP along with 54 NGOs are voluntarily conducting the Bangladesh campaign in 57 Upzillas of 35 districts. The geographical coverage of the campaign has already shaped it as national climate justice campaign. The Bangladesh Campaign included solidarity support from the rural women & men who cannot read and write. Volunteers delivered the message by reading the campaign demands and provided option for expressing their solidarity through finger signature.

The Countdown to Copenhagen Bangladesh Campaign recognizes the Grassroots NGOs/CBOs as an important facilitator for promoting climate change awareness among the communities as well as building local adaptive capacity for managing climate risks. The Bangladesh campaign prepared a People's Memorandum which is calling on rich countries, who are most responsible for climate change and with the greatest capacity to act, to sign up to obligations that commit them to:

- Achieving at least a 40 per cent cut in domestic carbon emissions by 2020 from 1990 levels.
- Additionally provide US\$ 150 billion for ensuring developing countries have all the support and resources necessary to reduce their emissions, develop cleanly and adapt to climate change.
- Supporting developing countries emissions reductions & low-carbon development pathways through substantial financing and technology transfer.
- Strengthening international activities through a Global Adaptation Action Framework under the UNFCCC to support vulnerable developing countries to adapt to climate change and build resilience to the already now unavoidable impacts of climate change.

The people of Bangladesh are suffering some of the severest impacts of climate change but they have done the least to cause the problem. All the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) impact assessments recognizes Bangladesh as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the negative impacts of climate change. The geographic location and geo-morphological conditions of Bangladesh make it especially vulnerable to climate change impacts, particularly to sea-level rise. The United National Development Programme (UNDP) has identified Bangladesh to be the most vulnerable country in the world to tropical cyclones and the sixth most vulnerable country to floods.



Bangladesh campaign is counting the level of urgency and commitment from developed countries to keep adaptation as a top-level priority in international negotiations for a post 2012 deal. The Countdown to Copenhagen Bangladesh campaign demands that any solutions to climate change must protect the most vulnerable, compensate displaced people, guarantee individual and collective rights, and respect people's right to participate in decisions that impact on their lives. No country, not even a developing one, has the right to pollute or degrade the natural resources of the Global Common.

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