

Webinar Brief
COP26 and UK-Bangladesh Collaboration to Tackle Climate Change Webinar
Date: June 18, 2020, Time: 4:00-6:00PM BDT

Prof. Saleemul Huq, Director of International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) inaugurated the webinar by welcoming all the panelists. He highlighted that COP26 was supposed to happen in Glasgow this year but has been postponed to November 2021.

Remarks from the Main Speakers

Ken O' Flaherty: The postponement of COP 26 does not mean the postponement of climate action. The pandemic is an opportunity that can accelerate climate ambition.

Anna Ballance: The partnership between the UK and Bangladesh will no longer be a partnership with only the governments, but all stakeholders, and we will share our expertise. This partnership with focus on three areas: adaptation, mitigation, and environmental management.

Prof. Mizan R. Khan: Access to climate finance is a perennial problem, and I hope that the presidency will focus on capacity building more.

Shaila Shahid: Ensuring climate justice for those who are vulnerable is most important at this moment. The key areas are capacity building, knowledge sharing, and maintaining gender balance in participation, particularly focusing on women leadership.

Remarks from the Additional Speakers

Jennifer Khadim: Youth involvement are rising in the global process of climate change decisions through COPs. It gives opportunity to youth to share country specific stories and demands.

M Hafijul Islam Khan: Loss and Damage has been a slow but important element of COP process. A network for loss and damage has been proposed in COP25, considering it as a crucial tool.

Dr. Feisal Rahman: The developing countries suffer from two things; climate vulnerability and lack of capacity. This capacity building initiative should be country specific and our partnership between with UK universities will work as a core to deliver capacity building in the longer term.

Speaker's Details:

- Ken O' Flaherty, COP26 Regional Ambassador for Asia/Pacific and South Asia
- Anna Ballance, Climate Change and Environment Advisor, DFID, Bangladesh
- Prof. Mizan R. Khan, Deputy Director, ICCCAD
- Shaila Shahid, Senior Advisor, Climate Change, DRR and Gender, ICCCAD

Speaker's Details:

- Jennifer Khadim, Coordinator, Youth Programme, ICCCAD
- M Hafijul Islam Khan, Programme lead on Loss and Damage, ICCCAD
- Dr. Feisal Rahman, Research Coordinator, ICCCAD

Concluding Remarks

Shaila Shahid: There is the triple crisis of hunger, unemployment, and migration. We must ensure all basic services and come up with a stimulus package, taking an intersectional approach and considering gender.

Prof. Mizan R. Khan: We greatly appreciate and welcome the UK's doubling of climate finance. Out of 25 COPs, many of them have been utter failures. We hope we will have real action at COP26.

Anna Balance: The world is so different now from just a few months ago. The world can change. There are some in the global community that have been more prepared than others, but the response to the pandemic has been largely a reactive response. We need to work together in a multidisciplinary approach and at the scale required in the run up to COP26 and beyond.

Ken O' Flaherty: Nature based solutions are very high priorities. It is clear that we have an opportunity to shift now. Furthermore, I am pleased with all my contacts in Bangladesh, as I have experienced clear cooperation.

Prof. Saleemul Huq: There are three major lessons to learn from current situation. Number one lesson is this: Listen to your scientists. Leaders who listened protected their people and those who did not killed their own people. The order of magnitude is higher for climate change. The new normal should be to listen to scientists, and the economy will be a part of that.

This report has prepared by Tania Ahmed, Research Officer, ICCCAD

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