

Integrity Dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation Finance **Transparency, Accountability and Participation**

29-31 March, 2016

Organized by Transparency International Bangladesh

Concept Note

By 2050, 150 million people of the world including 27 million Bangladeshis may become environmentally displaced due to coastal flooding, bank erosion, drought and agricultural inversion.¹ Adaptation to climate change risk is already putting additional strain on development efforts in countries like Bangladesh, which in turn is expected to significantly raise social, economic and environmental costs. From the time of the Rio Convention in 1992 to the recently concluded COP21 in Paris, developed countries have made commitments to mobilize meaningful financial support for climate adaptation by the countries that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The inclusion of Goal 13 in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which calls for urgent action to combat climate change impact has indeed reinforced the significance of these commitments. SDG 13 is a pledge to strengthen resilience and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation through effective integration of measures to combat climate change into national policies, planning and strategies.

Amongst other things, the Paris Agreement aims to enhance ‘adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change’ (Article 7.1). The Agreement specifies that countries should put more emphasis on adaptation planning based on which Parties should strengthen their cooperation, including through the transfer of funds (Article 7). The final text of the Paris Agreement in Articles 9.5 and 9.7 clearly oblige developed country Parties to communicate biennially indicative quantitative and qualitative information about projected levels of financial resources to assist developing country Parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation. The Agreement also calls for transparent and consistent information on support provided for developing country Parties and mobilized through public interventions². Likewise, developing country Parties shall provide information on support needed and received³. The adequacy of action and financial support for adaptation purposes will be reviewed as part of the global stocktaking referred to in the Paris Agreement⁴.

On the other hand, debates continue around the mode of adaptation financing (grant versus loan). Other issues of concern include the absence of concrete and time-bound commitment from the developed countries, meager flow of grant-based public fund, mal-adaptation or

¹ IPCC, 5th Assessment Report, Chapter-13, (Wheeler, 2011)

² Paris agreement (adopted at Conference of Parties, Twenty First Session, 12 December 2015), Article 9.5

³ Ibid., Article 9.7

⁴ Ibid., Article 9.6

non- consideration of the local climate risks in adaptation projects and programs, inadequate participation of local communities in adaptation planning and monitoring of the implementation projects and absence of meaningful grievance redress system. These deficits can adversely affect the adaptation efforts of vulnerable countries. In this regard, Bangladesh and other developing country Parties need to work together for building individual and collective capacity to ensure the highest level of transparency. It is imperative to share the knowledge on adaptation finance governance among related stakeholders and identify the future role of the Government, CSOs and think tanks in taking this forward.

The 'Perspective Plan 2021' of the Government of Bangladesh aspires to an accountable and transparent governance system through its Vision 2021. The Government of Bangladesh has formulated a National Integrity Strategy (NIS) that recognizes the necessity to promote values and principles of integrity, and increasingly practice them as part of individual and institutional activities⁵. The Government has also included a specific chapter on climate change in its 7th Five Year Plan though it underscores a number of implementation challenges. These include lack of proper prioritization, limited financing, low fund management capacity, weaknesses in implementation and monitoring, and limited scope of sharing and learning⁶.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has been working on Climate Finance Governance since 2011. TIB is currently implementing a five-year (2014-2019) Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change (BIBEC) project that has mainstreamed climate finance governance (CFG) with its core agenda. Major intervention of CFG related works are to monitor the state of transparency, accountability and participation in funding as well as fund utilization through different projects. TIB research has identified such challenges as inadequate disclosure of information on CF allocation and project activities, inconsistency of some allocations with degree of climate vulnerability in terms of project location and adaptation needs, low participation and accountability⁷.

In view of the above, TIB is going to organize "Dhaka Integrity Dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation Finance: Transparency, Accountability, Participation" in Dhaka from 29-30 March 2016 with the participation of stakeholders and relevant experts from home and abroad. The objective of the Dialogue is to share knowledge, expertise and experience to explore ways and means of cooperation involving Government, NGOs, CSOs, media and think tanks for promoting transparency, accountability and participation in adaptation finance.

Specific Objectives

- Share experience, enhance knowledge and build common understanding on climate adaptation finance and assess related governance risks; and
- Explore the potential scope, ways and means of partnership to ensure transparency, accountability and integrity in adaptation finance including strengthened demand and supply side to that end.

⁵ An Independent Review of National Integrity Strategy (NIS), The Government of Bangladesh, 2013

⁶ For details including other identified challenges, see: Government of Bangladesh, Planning Commission, 7th Five Year Plan FY2015-FY2020, pp. 460

⁷ http://www.ti-bangladesh.org/beta3/images/max_file/fr_cfg_October_13_en.pdf

Participants

- Relevant global, regional and national experts/representatives, public officials and CSOs/NGOs, think tanks and media working and/or interested on adaptation finance governance; and
- Representatives from Transparency International-Secretariat and several TI National Chapters including Indonesia, Kenya, Maldives, Malaysia, Nepal, PNG, Philippines and Sri Lanka.