

Dhaka Integrity Dialogue-2: **Climate Finance and Governance in South Asia**

18-19 September, 2017, Dhaka

Organized by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)

Concept Note

Introduction

It is estimated that by 2050, 150 million people of the world may become environmentally displaced due to coastal flooding, river bank erosion, drought and agricultural inversion.¹ Though climate change is a global phenomenon, it has its regional dimension too. South Asia, as a region, is significantly susceptible to climate change induced risks and vulnerabilities. The Climate Risk Index 2017 ranks Bangladesh and two other South Asian countries² are amongst 10 most vulnerable countries, affected by the impacts of weather-related loss (storms, floods, heat waves etc.)³. SDG13 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.

SDG target (13a) emphasizes on implementing the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to mobilize funds to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation especially from the Green Climate Fund. While developed economies have pledged 'new' and 'additional' \$100 billion annually by 2025 to deal with climate change especially in developing countries. However, there is increasing concern over the absence of concrete and time-bound commitments from the developed nations and scanty flow of grant-based public funds.

The Paris Agreement recognized the contribution of the regional platform e.g. SAARC in addressing the climate change impacts. Several SAARC declaration called for regional cooperation in the areas of climate change and finance in the SAARC countries, home of one-fifth of world population, with a sizeable number living below the poverty line. Common positions of the SAARC Member States at [COP 16](#) and [COP 20](#) also demonstrate their commitment to implement SAARC Agreements on climate change, based on the principles of "Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR)". More specifically, the *SAARC Action Plan on Climate Change (2009- 2011)*, the [Dhaka Environmental Ministers' Declaration on Climate Change](#) in 2008 and the [Thimphu Statement on Climate Change](#) in 2010 committed to knowledge-sharing, technology transfer, joint initiatives for finance and investment for the management of climate change impacts.

The SAARC Council of Ministers also established the "SAARC Environment and Disaster Management Centre" and adopted the [Kathmandu Declaration](#) in 2014 which explicitly calls for meeting the SDGs (Article 13). Such joint efforts and agreements by SAARC

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

² GermanWatch, 2017

³ <https://germanwatch.org/de/download/16411.pdf>

Governments have opened up avenues and created opportunities for increasing both national and cross-boundary cooperation in climate change related actions.

However, Article 13 of the Paris Agreement underscored the need for transparency framework to promote transparency for action and supports referred in the Agreement. Existing research on climate finance governance carried out by Transparency International and some of its chapters including TI-Bangladesh, reveals that various governance deficits exist in the allocation and utilization of climate finance which include, amongst others, the absence of vulnerability mapping and priority setting in climate projects and programmes, inadequate participation of local communities in planning and monitoring of climate change projects, poor quality of project works, political undue influence in fund allocations and the absence of meaningful grievance redress systems.

It is clear from the above that sustained dialogue and engagement amongst concerned stakeholders in and outside governments are crucial to addressing these issues and finding realistic and long-term solutions.

Climate finance and governance

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) in its core work. A primary focus of TIB's CFG work included the monitoring of the state of transparency, accountability and participation in climate change project funding and its utilization. TIB's CFG research to date has identified many challenges in the governance of climate finance, for example, inadequate disclosure of information on CF allocation and project activities, inconsistency of fund allocation with the degree of climate vulnerability in terms of project location and local needs, low participation of local communities in the implementation of climate change projects and so on⁴. Many of the governance challenges in this sector identified by TIB, has been acknowledged by the Bangladesh Government's current 7th Five Year Plan.⁵

As part of TIB's advocacy for integrity in climate finance, it organised an international conference in March 2016 bringing together relevant stakeholders and experts from home and abroad to discuss on transparency, accountability and participation in climate finance. The purpose was to generate informed debates around these issues and identify concrete directions for sustained advocacy for effective change in climate finance governance. Consistent with its mandate and as a follow up of the 2016 initiative and recognising the significance of sustained engagement in this context, TIB is planning to organise "**Dhaka Integrity Dialogue-2: Climate Finance and Governance in South Asia**" in Dhaka on 18th-19th September 2017. The objective of the initiative is to bring together experts, policy makers and practitioners on climate finance governance from South Asia and beyond to analyze and exchange ideas on issues specific to the region.

Specific Objectives

- Identify the prospect and challenges in climate finance and governance in South Asia;
- Explore the potential scope, ways and means of regional efforts to meet SDG13 and the Paris Agreement in the context of good governance in climate finance;
- Share knowledge and best practices in climate finance governance among the participants;

⁴ http://www.ti-bangladesh.org/beta3/images/max_file/fr_cfg_October_13_en.pdf

⁵ For details please see, Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Planning, 7th Five Year Plan FY2015-2020, p.460

- Strengthen the existing collaboration of experts, practitioners, policy makers and development partners in South Asia.

Dhaka Integrity Dialogue structure and programme

The dialogue will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 18-19 September 2017. The dialogue consists of formal plenary and parallel sessions with participation of high level panels. Poster presentations will share more country specific experiences, best practices on climate finance and governance and exhibits will showcase publications, films, photos and more. The official language of the dialogue will be English.

Participations

The Dhaka Integrity Dialogue is open to anyone interested in climate finance, climate change adaptation and related governance issues including policymakers and government officials, non-government organizations (International, National and Local), experts/academics, research and policy think tanks, and practitioners with grassroots experience. There is no registration fees for the participants. As a host TIB will serve the foods/snacks to all participants during the program.

For participation, hosting session or further information

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18-19 September, 2017, Dhaka
Bangabandhu International Convention Center, Dhaka

Draft Programme

| TIME | THEME |
|----------------------------|--|
| 18th September 2017 | |
| 09:10am-10:30am | Inaugural Plenary Session 1: Conference Opening and Welcome Speeches |
| 11.00am -13.00pm | Plenary session 2: Climate Finance in Vulnerable Developing Countries: Progress, Challenges and Way Forward |
| 14:00pm-15:30 pm | Plenary session 3: Adaptation Finance in South Asian Countries: Progress, Challenges and Way Forward |
| 16:00pm-17:30 pm | Plenary session 4: A Methodological Study- Unbundling Pledges, Actions of INDCs and Measuring Stakeholders' Perceptions: The Case of South Asian Countries |
| 19th September 2017 | |
| 09:00am-10:15am | Plenary session 5: Adaptation Finance Governance in South Asia: Case Study on Bangladesh and Maldives |
| 10.45am – 11.45pm | Plenary session 6: Access to GCF and Capacity Building of South Asian Countries |
| 12.00pm – 01.00pm | Plenary session 7: Transparency Framework in Paris Agreement: Developed and Developing Country Perspective |
| 14:00 pm-15:30 pm | Plenary session 8: SDG and Climate Change: Finance and Governance Perspective |
| 16:00pm-17:30 pm | Plenary session 8: Dialogue Closing Session |