

**Dhaka Integrity Dialogue-2:
Climate Finance and Governance in South Asia
18-19 September, 2017, Dhaka
Organized by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)**

The summary of discussions of Day 1

A total of nine presentations were made on the first day.

Morning session

- The morning plenary session looked at the progress, challenges and way forward of climate finance in vulnerable developing countries. The speakers agreed that transparency at the demand and supply sides of climate finance are equally important. Therefore, integrity practices by both financiers and recipients are important for effective implementation of CF projects.
- It was observed that the language of the Paris Agreement creates scope for ambiguities. This necessitates a scaling up of climate diplomacy. However, while practicing diplomatic diplomacy, it would do well for climate actors to exercise morality, rights and ethics in climate diplomacy.
- It was observed that the South Asia countries prioritized adaptation over mitigation; however, the governments in this region are yet to mainstream adaptation into their regular developmental portfolio. This is significantly impacting the achievement of the desired results as many climate-financed projects in the region are failing to accommodate the diverse needs of local communities.
- The issue of private sector engagement in mitigation was discussed. The speakers urged the climate community to explore innovative ways to engage the private sector. For climate projects to succeed it is important to
 - ✓ to address the disconnect between the asks of the financiers and the ground realities;
 - ✓ to secure community buy-in;
 - ✓ to ensure that the projects are sustainable;
 - ✓ to recognize when to exit.

The afternoon session

- This session looked at the methodological study that unbundled pledges, actions of INDCs and measured stakeholders' perceptions, the cases of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were presented.
- It was found that the level of awareness of energy efficient technologies among government and academic groups in the region are much higher than that of private players and NGOs.
- The need for incentive based policies to promote energy efficient production and consumption to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in these countries was also highlighted.

Post-lunch session

- The discussion centered on the progress, challenges and way forward of adaptation finance in South Asian Countries. The experts observed that climate action plans remained as vision documents pending integration into the existing policy/ practice framework.
- Some grassroots experiences in the region suggest that there is very limited understanding of climate vulnerabilities and adaptation in government departments at the sub national level.
- There was unanimous consensus that adopting principles of equity, participation, responsiveness and ownership are pivotal to enhancing transparency in adaptation finance for the benefit vulnerable communities.

The summary of the discussions of Day 2

A total of sixteen presentations were made on the second day.

Morning session

- The results of two case studies on adaptation finance governance from Bangladesh and the Maldives were presented. The Maldives experience emphasized on establishing effective accountability mechanism in addressing grievances of the community. The Bangladesh experience recommended for public disclosure of user-friendly monitoring and evaluation and audit reports and the use of social accountability tools, such as public hearing to enable communities to flag their concerns and demands.

- The discussion also touched on the complex and fragmented funding landscape that is essentially complicating the ability of stakeholders to track financial flows and to ascertain who should be held accountable for decisions and results.
- The speakers stressed on concerted efforts to link climate finance issues with the broader country-specific democratic governance situation, without which the climate adaptation projects would fail to produce the desired outcomes.
- Building the capacity of the South Asian countries to access Green Climate Fund was emphatically highlighted. The speakers stressed on simplifying the rather cumbersome approval processes of GCF.
- The speakers also underpinned the necessity to ensure minimum governance standards for monitoring of climate adaptation finance by the public sector.

Post-lunch session

- This session explored the interface between climate finance and governance and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- It highlighted the steps taken by the Government of Bangladesh to attain the SDGs, involving NGOs, CSOs, business, professional groups, women's network, DPs and the media.
- The speakers stressed that the quality of governance, institutional integrity and regulatory frameworks would be critical to achieving the relevant SDG goals.
- They recognized that it is important to link climate change action plans to budget allocations.
- Additionally, national and sub-national governments need to provide information at the right time.
- It was observed that civil society engagement in climate finance accountability would require acquisition of skills and knowledge on both climate change and public finance and budgeting.

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