

South Asian Debate Competition on Adaptation Finance Governance

Theme: *Transparency, Accountability and Integrity: The Key to Ensuring Effective Mobilization and Use of Adaptation Finance*

Proposed Date: 19-20 July 2017

Organizer: Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)

Place: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Concept Note

Increased transparency, accountability and integrity are pre-requisites to ensure effectiveness in the implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions to fight climate change. As developed countries pledged to provide 'new and additional' finance to cope with adverse effect of climate change, the volume of climate finance is likely to increase for the use of developing countries which are at the receiving end of impact of climate change. On the other hand, countries that are adversely affected by global climate change also happen to be widely affected by governance deficit and corruption which may turn out to be a predicament against the expected level of climate funds to these countries.

Transparency International (TI) is supporting TI Chapters (Bangladesh, Maldives, Kenya, Peru and Mexico) to promote better anti-corruption policies, practices and systems in climate finance under its [Climate Finance Integrity Programme \(CFIP\) programme](#). As a part of this initiative, TIB has been implementing the [Climate Finance Policy Integrity \(CFPI\) programme](#) with support from TI's CFIP programme since 2015. Under this initiative, TIB is working to ensure that corruption does not undermine climate change adaptation objectives, and to facilitate effective and equitable allocation of climate funds and efficient delivery of climate projects in meeting adaptation and mitigation targets. The CFPI programme is designed to influence the climate finance policy regime through research, advocacy and capacity building of stakeholders for ensuring transparency and accountability and integrity in policies and practices in climate finance. There are growing evidences of governance deficits and corruption in the management of climate finance, particularly at different stages of project formulation, approval, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and audit. In these circumstances, a lot remains to be done so that

climate goals are achievable, increased resources are available and benefits become measurable.

South Asian countries are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and as such, deserve their just and equitable share of the climate finance to adapt to climate change and mitigate its adverse impact. The younger generation of South Asian countries is most likely to experience the impact of climate change acutely, while they can also be powerful agents of change in strengthening the demand side for improved governance and integrity in climate finance. In the circumstances, it is necessary to equip them with the relevant knowledge and build their capacity to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and negotiate for just share of global climate funds.

As part of its social movement against corruption, TIB has for years engaged with the youth by organizing thematic debates, cartoon competitions, youth assemblies, Advise and Information Desks (AI-Desks), and information fairs in an attempt to raise awareness and motivate young people to raise their voices against corruption.

Recognising that the youth of South Asian countries hold the key to sustainable change for a better, safer and cleaner world, TIB is planning to organize a two-day long parliamentary style debate competition involving University level debaters from South Asian countries to be selected through national level competitions by respective accredited national chapters/chapters in formation/national contacts of Transparency International..

The debate will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh and organized in Westminster Parliamentary Style. The language of the debate is English and the final round of the competition will be aired in a private TV channel of Bangladesh. The theme of the debate is “**Transparency, Accountability and Integrity: The Key to Ensuring Effective Mobilization and Use of Adaptation Finance**”. This event will be organized in partnership with TI chapters where each chapter will select a team of two university level debaters based on the criteria and in the due process. TIB will bear costs of air travel, local accommodation, food and local transport of two debaters from each participating country and a teacher mentor/coach while in Dhaka to participate in the event.

Objectives of the initiative:

- ☐ Acquaint South Asian youth on adaptation finance governance issues;
- ☐ Enhance learning and knowledge sharing on effective implementation of adaptation finance projects ensuring good governance, especially transparency, accountability and participation; and
- ☐ Develop a network of youth stakeholders on adaptation finance governance in South Asia for strengthening collaboration on common issues.

Criteria for selecting debaters:

- ☐ Debaters must be university level/graduate level students from the respective countries;
- ☐ Debaters must be fluent in reading, writing and speaking English;
- ☐ Debaters must have sufficient experience of participating in English debate at national/international level;
- ☐ One team from each country, consisting of two debaters (one of whom will act as Prime Minister or Leader of the Opposition as may be applicable), will be selected following the above criteria and through a competitive process (the process described below for TIB may be followed as much as possible/applicable);
- ☐ Although it is not mandatory, we would prefer if one of the two debaters is a woman;
- ☐ One teacher/coach/mentor from each country will accompany the respective country team in the South Asian debate competition.

Language of the debate: The debate will be conducted in English in all stages.

Selection Process:

- ☐ Each duly accredited/recognized TI National Chapter/national contact/chapter in formation of South Asian countries other than Bangladesh will be responsible for selecting one team of university level debaters preferably through a respective national level competitive process and their respective teacher/coach/mentor;
- ☐ TIB will select two teams through a separate a national competition to represent Bangladesh in this South Asian Debate competition;

- ☐ The two Bangladeshi teams will be selected through two-stage national competition – first through a knock-out open competition among all interested debate teams of Bangladesh to select the best 8 teams, and then a second round of parliamentary style competition to select the champion and the runner up who will take part in the South Asian Debate competition;
- ☐ TIB will appoint an independent panel of Speakers/Chairs and adjudicators for the South Asian Debate Competition. The best available principles of integrity and neutrality shall be applied to avoid any conflict of interest in adjudication.

Deadline:

- ☐ Chapters are requested to confirm and send participants name details 9 June 2017;
- ☐ The tentative date of the debate is 19-20 July 2017.

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