

TIB-TM INTEGRITY TALK ON CLIMATE FINANCE GOVERNANCE

TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

25-27 APRIL 2018, BANGKOK, THAILAND

CONCEPT NOTE

INTRODUCTION

South Asian countries are amongst the most vulnerable to global climate change, with Bangladesh, the Maldives, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka predicted to be the worst affected.¹ The Paris Agreement, adopted on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016, saw 197 governments make commitments to limit the temperature rise and to protect the lives, livelihoods and economies of the people experiencing the effects of climate change. The Agreement² reinforced the need for mobilizing increased finance to implement actions through cooperation, collaboration, participation and an “enhanced transparency framework”. Despite commitments by developed countries long before the Paris Agreement, to provide “new and additional” funds to less-developed and vulnerable countries at a rate of \$100 billion a year for adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change, the financial flow to date has been far from adequate.

For the Paris Agreement to be effective, Governments must formulate robust and fair rules and systems to generate, invest and mainstream additional and new finance for countries in need. The setting of indicators for the “enhanced transparency framework”, the prioritizing of activities to mainstream climate actions in institutions and economic sectors and holding the Parties accountable for meeting their commitments for mobilizing additional finance need to be achieved through shared understanding of the concerned countries. On the other hand, while a number of Green Climate Fund (GCF) projects have been approved to be implemented in South Asian countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka)³, transparency, accountability and integrity must be ensured in these projects to guarantee the best utilization of climate finance which will ensure stronger grounds for much bigger flow of such funds. Increased joint actions and information sharing are imperative to ensure transparency in climate actions, enhance participation and cooperation among national and regional partners to strengthen institutional capacity to achieve the desired outcomes of GCF as well as the Paris Agreement.

SDG 13 talks about taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Among the various targets under Goal 13, Target 13.3 focuses on raising human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and impact reduction. Target 13.A urges developed countries to implement the commitment they have undertaken mobilise jointly the promised \$100 billion annually by 2020. Indeed, the achievement of these targets necessitate good governance in climate action at both ends, namely countries that have made those pledges to make such funds available and those who will receive and utilize the funds specifically for confronting the implications of climate change. Clear and comparable information on climate actions consistent with SDG 16 are key to ensuring transparency in mobilizing finance and creating accountable institutions. To promote a just and inclusive society, it is essential that the existing climate finance architecture is compatible with human rights-based approach in terms of its governance and fund distribution. In other words, it is imperative to ensure that climate finance mechanisms promote and protect social and environmental integrity, maximise citizens’

¹ ESCAP (2016), Climate Finance in and Beyond the Paris Agreement: Implementing Climate Finance Commitments in the Asia and the Pacific region, Available at: https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/14.Climate%20finance_Yuqing%20Yu_0.pdf

² UNFCCC (2015), Available at: https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf

³ GCF (2018), Available at: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/what-we-do/portfolio-dashboard>

participation, redress discriminatory practices and unjust distributions of power that impede progress towards sustainable development.

National Chapters of Transparency International (TI) in Bangladesh, Kenya, Maldives, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Rwanda, South Korea are working together in collaboration with the TI Secretariat to promote better anti-corruption policies, practices and systems in climate finance under the [Climate Finance Integrity Project \(CFIP\)](#). Under this initiative, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Transparency Maldives (TM) are implementing the [Climate Finance Policy Integrity \(CFPI\)](#) programme and [Climate Integrity Project](#) respectively which aim to contribute to achieving higher standards of 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. As part of its continued efforts to strengthen knowledge on climate finance integrity and expand its network with relevant stakeholders in the field, TIB and TM have planned to organize a 3-day Integrity Talk on **“Climate Finance Governance: Transparency, Accountability and Participation”** in Bangkok on 25-27 April 2018. The idea is to enable concerned TI chapters and other actors working in this field to share their experiences in climate finance work in their respective jurisdictions and to showcase their research, good practices and toolkits they use to fight corruption in climate finance and explore areas of regional collaboration and cooperation to amplify efforts to counter the challenges.

OBJECTIVES OF THE INTEGRITY TALK

The objective of the dialogue is share concrete experiences and results on transparency, accountability and integrity in climate finance governance with particular relevance to policy frameworks and institutional structures as well as practices in participating countries and to explore the potential scope of mutual learning and sharing for both national and regional benefits. It will specifically focus on:

- Current global and national climate finance architecture to facilitate dialogue among different stakeholder groups and identify ways to work together in the context of various challenges and opportunities of accessibility of vulnerable countries ensuring transparent, accountable and effective delivery consistent with commitments;
- Best practices and challenges in climate finance research, advocacy, monitoring & evaluation;
- Potential new entry points and verifiable indicators to measure success and strengthen transparency, accountability and integrity in climate finance governance;
- Accountability tools and processes for effective utilization of adaptation and mitigation finance; and
- Strengthen regional cooperation and collaboration to amplify national level climate finance governance work to the global level;

HOSTS OF THE CONFERENCE

TIB and Transparency Maldives (TM) are jointly organizing as co-hosts of the Integrity Talk in coordination with TI-Secretariat. The event is designed to best achieve the strategic goals of TIB and TM aligned to Transparency International’s Global Climate Governance Integrity Project financed through International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

The integrity talk, conducted in English, will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 25-27 April 2018. It will consist of plenary sessions as well as group discussions participated by relevant experts, practitioners and other stakeholders including high-level officials of the Government and public institutions of the participating countries. The draft detailed schedule of events are provided below.

PARTICIPANTS, PARTICIPATION COST AND VISA

This integrity talk aspires to bring together relevant policy makers and practitioners, researchers, experts, academics, public officials, project implementing entities, development partners, CSOs/NGOs, and think tanks working on climate finance governance at national, regional and international levels.

Participants will also join from TI-Secretariat and TI National Chapters of Bangladesh, Kenya, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Rwanda, South Korea and Sri Lanka from the following categories;

- (i) TI Chapter staff
 - (ii) Government official of respective country
 - (iii) Private sector and
 - (iv) CSO/NGO/academics.
- There is no registration fees for the invited participants. TIB and TM will jointly bear the cost of airfare, accommodation and foods for all participants as per relevant financial rules.
 - Participants are requested to obtain an appropriate entry visa in advance from Thai Embassy or Thai Consulate before entering Thailand.

SELECTION OF MODERATORS, PANELISTS AND GALLERY PRESENTATIONS

- **Moderators and Panelists:** TIB and TM will jointly appoint panel speakers and moderators and invite them accordingly. Confirmed panel speakers need to submit a presentation on the assigned/chosen topic which they will develop into a publishable full-blown paper within 4 weeks after the dialogue.
- **Climate Finance Governance Gallery:** Climate Finance Governance Gallery is designed as an exhibition for showcasing success stories, best practices (e.g publications, video and TV documentaries, printed poster, photos, flipchart, or cards to pin on pinboards, display brochures or other materials) achieved through implementation of climate finance governance and other climate change-related projects. These are expected to highlight project outcomes, triggered processes, learning points, successes and challenges.
- **Submission of Presentation and Gallery Materials:** All presentations for panel discussion and gallery materials must be send to organizers by 10 April 2018 through email: mahfuzul@ti-bangladesh.org and/or shaziya.ali@transparencymaldives.org. Online links of the materials for governance gallery is preferred. However, participants are also requested to bring all relevant materials along with them on success stories, best practices, etc., to be showcased.
- **Publication of Papers/Presentations and Gallery Materials:** By submitting presentations/papers for panel discussion and showcasing success stories, best practices in Governance Gallery, the participants will be understood to have consented that these will be published by the co-hosts on their website and by other means.

DEADLINE TO RESPOND

All participants are requested to confirm and send participants name including details (Name, Designation, Organization, email address and area of expertise in climate change) by 28 March 2018.

TENTATIVE VENUE

We will send you final confirmation about accommodation and conference venue shortly. However, the tentative accommodation of all participants will be in:

HOLIDAY INN BANGKOK SUKHUMVIT

1 Sukhumvit 22, Klongton, Klongtoey, Bangkok 10110, Thailand

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E-mail: BangkokSukhumvit.HolidayInn.com

CONTACT FOR PARTICIPATION, HOSTING SESSION OR FURTHER INFORMATION

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