

“Climate Displacement: Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Climate Migrants” 10th November,

16.45 to 18.15 hours at Room Bearing, CoP 22, Marrakech.

Organized by Action Aid, APMDD, CAN South Asia, COAST, FOEI, and NRC.

1. Issue of Climate Induced Displacement

There are several scientific reports including report from IPCC mentioned that there will be increasing nature of climate-induced displacement all over the world, especially in Most Vulnerable Countries (MVC). It will be happened mostly because of sea water rise, glacier melting, submerge of low lying areas especially of coastal islands, due to salinity intrusion, increased nature of cyclone and other slow and rapid onset nature of disasters, water crisis and drought situation etc. Every second, one person is displaced by natural disasters related to climate change, as it was mentioned by PDD (Platform on Disaster Displacement). With global temperatures breaking new records and an average of at least 21.5 million people already being displaced each year by the impact and threat of sudden onset climate-related hazards. The number for slow onset is still unknown. Already today disasters displace more people than conflict and war worldwide. As climate change continues, it will likely lead to more frequent and severe natural hazards. The impact will be heavy. Displacement related to climate change is among the greatest challenges of the 21st century. Scientists warn that climate change is projected to increasingly affect displacement in the future, both internally and across border. In most of the vulnerable countries like Bangladesh and Philippines, the problem is vivid. Huge populations are already migrating to their cities, and the cities crammed with these populations, are creating new sort of problems for the governments of these countries.

2. The issue from the lenses of Human Right and Justice

It is already recognized and accepted that it is not the least developed and MVC countries are responsible for all these climate-induced problems, as these countries contribution in respect of carbon emission is negligible. While developed countries have the biggest contribution or they are the biggest emitters in this regard, they have accepted the notion as annex 1 parties in Kyoto Protocol (KP). In view of the human rights and justice framework which is originated from different UN charter including from UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Right), this is an injustice and there should be some responsibilities fix up and those displaced people should be given due protections.

3. The issue in the table, not specifically in the Paris Agreement but hope for placement in Loss and Damage

Since the beginning the issue of displacement have been brought in the UNFCCC discourse, it has been recognized in the Cancun Agreement (2010) para 14.f, mentioned for study, research and coordinate. But it has not come as an issue in the Paris Agreement, but in the COP 21 decisions where it was proposed to establish a Task force on displacement under WIM (Warsaw

Implementation Mechanism). This task force should start its work right after COP22 and deliver by COP24, also planned to be covered as an action Area in 5 year work plan for the WIM (2017-21).

4. Climate Displacement in Other Global Discourse for A Solution

The Nansen Initiative took up the issue, they have had a bottom up discussion with a support of group of states including Switzerland and Norway during the period of 2013 to 2015, and finally they have had a conference of 109 high level state officials and Ministers in Geneva and produced a non-binding state led declaration during October 2015. Later on as follow up of the initiatives they have launched PDD (Platform on Disaster Displacement) as a state lead initiative, led by Germany as the Chair, while Bangladesh as the Vice Chair, with the membership of several other countries including EU, France, Mexico and Canada.

Apart from this, the issue has come in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (Japan 2015) and summit called by UNSG (United Nation Secretary General) in September 2016 on large scale migration and refugees. Finally the summit adopted a resolution that the UN will start a discussion so that by the year 2018 there will be a framework on “Global Compact of Orderly, Regular and Safe Migration” the proposal has been initiated by Bangladesh.

5. The Side Event as Continuation of Right Group Activism and A Principle

Since Copenhagen CoP (Conference of Parties) 2009 civil society rights groups organizing such a side event, especially to pursue state parties, to mobilize support from fellow civil society groups and to explore different options for a just solutions in this regard. They are urging for revision of UN refugee protocol or to draw new UN protocol for the protection and promotion of the rights of Climate Induced Displacement.

This year Action Aid International, APMDD (Asia Pacific Movement for Debt and Development), Climate Action Network South Asia (CAN South Asia), Coastal Association for Social Transformation (COAST), Friends of the Earth International (FoEI) and NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council) have come forward to organize the side event.

COAST has been actively raising this issue in past in each of the CoP and also in WHS Summit representing civil society organizations that have jointly organized mobilization of civil societies on the issue like, Action La Fame, ACT Alliance, Asia Pacific Refugee Right Network, Asia Pacific Women for Law and Development, Asia Pacific Research Network, Christian Aid, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolan, Bangladesh Indigenous Network for Climate Change and Bio Diversity, Bangladesh Climate Change Journalist Forum, Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihood, Climate Change and Development Forum, Forum of Environment Journalist in Bangladesh, Equity and Justice Working Group Bangladesh, LDC Watch, South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication, Jubilee South America, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, Coastal Development Partnership, Beyond Copenhagen Collective, and Parivi etc.

The side event is a continuation in this regard. Meantime the issue has been recognized in different UNHCR (United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees) dialogue and reports; it has been discussed in several of their annual dialogues with different stakeholders. IOM (International Organization of Migration) has done several studies in this regard. In pursuant of a principle generally all UN and civil

society organizations do not use the term “Climate Refugee” as it may jeopardize the understanding on “Refugee” which is defined by 1951 UN Refugee Convention, i.e. refugee means persons who have to flee because of political or state led persecution.

6. Objectives of the Side Events

Basically objectives of the side events is to discuss the issue with reference to some case studies done recently and again to bring all possible state and non-state stakeholders to identify possible future course of actions in this regard, primarily to Promote and Protect the Rights of Climate Migrants. In specific term the objectives should be,

- (i) To present recent case studies especially from South Asia and also with some references facts and figures from the Africa continent,
- (ii) To discuss present political and legal regimes in respect of migration in developed countries which has possible implications to climate displacement,
- (iii) To discuss the state of play in loss and damage / Warsaw International Mechanism and also in other international discourses especially in PDD and UN.
- (iv) To listen from different state parties who are in leadership position in climate negotiation especially in Loss and Damage discourse, including representation from developed country party, and also from UNHCR, and
- (v) To propose course of action and recommendations for all concern in this regard with rights perspective.

7. Methodology of the Side Event

Taking this in overview, following topic and respondent reflections have been thought out and communication is being done to fix speakers.

- (i) Presentation with scientific evidence on climate induce displacement,
- (ii) Presentation of South Asia case study,
- (iii) Presentation on the situation from Africa and Pacific,
- (iv) Political and legal situation on migration,
- (v) State of play in UNFCCC and in other international platforms (especially in PDD, UN Summit on Large Scale Migration and UNHCR)
- (vi) Respondent speakers from high level officials from Bangladesh, Africa, Pacific, PDD, UNHCR and Developed Country Delegation.
- (vii) Side event Co-Chairs summary on recommendations.

Presentation and respondent panel members will get 3 to 4 minutes in first slot, and then there will be around 15 to 20 minutes participants’ reflections through question, answer and comments. Finally important presentation and respondent panel members will have second slot of speaking for 2 to 3 minutes. For overall moderation and pointing recommendations by Co Chairs will have maximum 10 minutes.

From the organizers list Mr Harjeet Singh from Action Aid International, Mr Sanjay Vashist from CAN South Asia, Mr Asad Rehman from FOEI, Ms. Nina M. Birkeland from NRC will be speaking along with

Background Note

other speakers, as we are yet to finalize. Ms Lidy Nacpil of APMDD and Mr Rezaul Karim Chowdury from COAST will act as Co-Chair.

We are in compliance with UNFCCC request that we will not use any printed banners and papers, all presentations (if the speakers want to, it is not a necessary binding) will be presented digitally.

8. Communication

Anyone interested on this, can communicate with any of the organizers' representative, but we encourage communication with Mr Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Email : reza.coast@gmail.com, mobile : +8801711529792 / +212653687054, all information including reference paper will be available to download from www.coastbd.net and www.equitybd.net.