

Subject: Background on the issue of climate forced migrants and the key seminar organizer COAST.

Climate change displacement in international discourse

International Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) and other study reports have already forecasted growing number of climate forced migrants; it will be around 200 million by 2050 (N Meyers 2005) mostly in low lying developing and island countries. In Bangladesh it is forecasted that it will be 20 million in near future (Bangladesh Climate Change Strategic Action Plan, Government of Bangladesh 2009). It is an issue both in UNFCCC and WHS lead conference and discourses.

During 2012 to 2015 there were state lead initiatives in this regard (sometimes which has named as disaster displacements) facilitated by the Nansen Initiative with the leadership of government of Switzerland and Norway. It was bottom up discussion process among the state and non-state actors whole over the world by different regions, finally it was concluded in a Global consultation happened in Geneva in October 2015, a non binding statement has been declared from the global conference, all the information is available in the following link (<https://www.nanseninitiative.org/global-consultations/>),

United Nation High Commissioner of Refugee (UNHCR) included this issue in its annual dialogue, which was held in Geneva in December 2015 for root cause analysis. Prof Walter Kaelin and one of the Assistant High Commission moderated a session and while I myself Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of COAST / EquityBD acted as a panel member.

In both Cancun (para 14 f) and Paris Climate Agreement the issue has been acknowledged and agreed to have work out in future.

The issue has also been come up as a protracted crisis and also as a part of slow on set disaster in different national and regional conferences of World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). An online discussion has also been initiated by Prof Walter Kaelin in the WHS process. The issue has also been come in the WHS Geneva global consultation (October 2015). Thus it is mentioned in UN SG (United Nation Secretary General) report titled 'One Humanity: Shared Responsibility' (February 2016) <http://sgreport.worldhumanitariansummit.org/>, which has set the tune for WHS Istanbul. In the report it has set five core responsibilities (i.e., (i) political leadership to prevent and end conflicts, (ii) uphold the norms that safeguard humanity, (iii) leave no one behind, (iv) change people's live – from delivering aid to ending need, (v) invest in humanity. In section 88 it has clearly mentioned that to prepare for cross border displacement owing to disaster and climate change. In respect of agenda setting of WHS Istanbul there are high level roundtable related to this with the title of natural disasters and climate change.

In fact commitments of political leaders including civil societies' both in developed and developing countries are needed attention on this. As it is a matter of human displacement even it is disappearing of some small island nation states, as it is great casualty to the humanity and even it is a great security threat to the global harmony. It is also a question on how we can solve the problem on sustainable basis. So we need to invest in this regard and invest in humanity. There are several examples especially which have been brought by the Nansen Initiatives and led by the govt of Switzerland and Norway with active participation of Govt. of Bangladesh, especially a non binding

state level Declaration during October 2015 in Geneva, please see the summary of the statement, <https://www.nanseninitiative.org/global-consultations/>

1. The organizer's background and activism

Key coordinator of the seminar of 7th May 2016 in Dhaka, COAST (www.coastbd.net) working for coastal poor in Bangladesh has a strong footing in respect of networking, advocacy and campaign through its program component EquityBD (www.equitybd.net). It is part of various global network especially ICVA, CHS, ALNAP, APRRN, Social Watch, LDC Watch, GATJ and also in steering committee member of the Southern NGO network which is in formation stage. Since 2007 especially in United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Conference of Parties (CoP) Bali COAST doing campaign and public events for the rights of climate induced displaced / migrants. COAST is doing this campaign along with other regional and international network like APRN, JSAPMDD, SAAPE, (from Asia, PACJA (from Africa), Jubilee Debt Campaign and Global Justice Movement (from UK), and others. There were also active participation of Bangladeshi civil society climate campaign networks like BAPA, BIPNetCCBD, BCJF, CCDF, CSRL, CLEAN, CDP, FEJB, EquityBD and NCCB.

COAST has also received UN ECOSOC special consultative status very recently.

Such a campaign have had happened in UNFCCC CoPs Copenhagen, Cancun, Durban, Doha, Warsaw, and finally in Paris. In all these campaign seminars, government officials like Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee, Executive Director of Green Peace International, WHS Chief Mr Antonie Gerrad, Prof Walter Kaelin from the Nansen Initiatives, Representatives from UN office of Human Right Commissioner, Representative from Norwegian Refugee Council and others have participated as panel speakers. Those campaigns have received international media coverage too. Please see the report from last campaign seminar held on last 5th December 2015 at Paris in following link. <http://www.equitybd.net/?p=25189>.

COAST has developed several campaign materials in this regard and also continuing a web based signature campaign in this regard in French, English and also in Spanish, which is available in <http://equitybd.net/supportmigrants/index.php>.

COAST has also actively involved in the regional and global consultation / conference of the Nansen Initiative led by the govt. of Switzerland and Norway and also of WHS Process. COAST is also nationally active to pursue govt. of Bangladesh to prepare protection measures or an internal displacement policy in this regard. It is also closely working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of the Govt. of Bangladesh to continue the campaign leading to WHS Istanbul. COAST has prepared a short video in this regard too, please see the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hOrnvoXGa0>,

For further queries please contact: Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, reza.coast@gmail.com,

Mobile +8801711529792,

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