



# **Policy Brief on the National Seminar on Climate Justice in Bangladesh**

This policy brief is an outcome of a seminar on 'Climate Justice in Bangladesh', that was jointly organized by Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of South Asian Institution of Policy and Governance (SIPG) and the Department of Environmental Science and Management (ESM), North South University on 22 December, 2021.





**Climate Justice issue should be seen through the lens of biodiversity as well as city biodiversity.**

*Mr. Abul Kalam Azad  
Special Envoy of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF)  
Presidency, Bangladesh Government*



**We are destroying the sense of intergenerational equity due to climate change.**

*Professor Atiqul Islam  
Vice Chancellor  
North South University*



**Climate-induced displacement is an integral issue of climate justice. The displacement is creating a humanitarian catastrophe to the vulnerable people globally**

*Ambassador Shahidul Haque  
Former Foreign Secretary, GoB and  
Professorial Fellow, SIPG*



**Before holding the other countries accountable, we should address our own drawbacks with evidence so that it can be voiced up globally.**

*Mr. Mugeed Majumder Babu  
Chairman, Prokriti O Jibon Foundation*



**Intersocietal issues should be considered.**

*Mr. AKM Mamunul Rashid  
Climate Change Specialist of UNDP Bangladesh*

**Inequal distribution of resources in the developed and developing country is leading to the issue of climate justice.**

*Md. Jakariya, Ph.D.  
Professor, Dept. of Environmental Science and  
Management, North South University*



**The young generation will be forced to draw the Bangladesh map differently.**

*Ms. Syeda Rizwana Hasan  
Chief Executive of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers  
Association (BELA)*



**Imbalance in power connected to negotiation process on formation of climate change negotiations reflects climate injustice.**

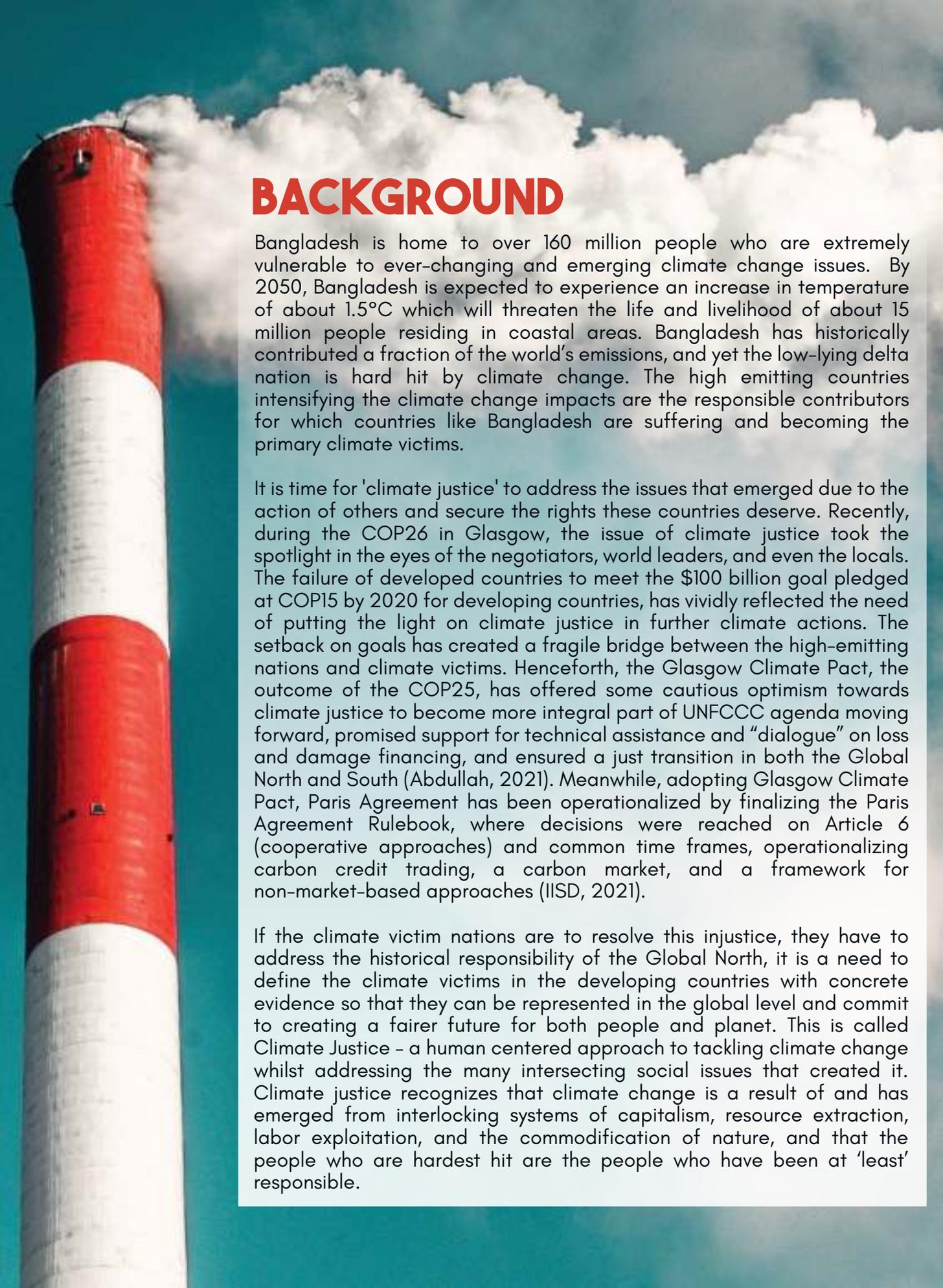
*Dr. Nurul Quadir  
Former Additional Secretary, GoB and  
Alternate Member CDM Executive Board, UNFCC.*



**'Right-based' approach must be included in the climate change laws of Bangladesh.**

*Mr. Golam Monowar Kamal  
Executive Director at Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)*





## BACKGROUND

Bangladesh is home to over 160 million people who are extremely vulnerable to ever-changing and emerging climate change issues. By 2050, Bangladesh is expected to experience an increase in temperature of about 1.5°C which will threaten the life and livelihood of about 15 million people residing in coastal areas. Bangladesh has historically contributed a fraction of the world's emissions, and yet the low-lying delta nation is hard hit by climate change. The high emitting countries intensifying the climate change impacts are the responsible contributors for which countries like Bangladesh are suffering and becoming the primary climate victims.

It is time for 'climate justice' to address the issues that emerged due to the action of others and secure the rights these countries deserve. Recently, during the COP26 in Glasgow, the issue of climate justice took the spotlight in the eyes of the negotiators, world leaders, and even the locals. The failure of developed countries to meet the \$100 billion goal pledged at COP15 by 2020 for developing countries, has vividly reflected the need of putting the light on climate justice in further climate actions. The setback on goals has created a fragile bridge between the high-emitting nations and climate victims. Henceforth, the Glasgow Climate Pact, the outcome of the COP25, has offered some cautious optimism towards climate justice to become more integral part of UNFCCC agenda moving forward, promised support for technical assistance and "dialogue" on loss and damage financing, and ensured a just transition in both the Global North and South (Abdullah, 2021). Meanwhile, adopting Glasgow Climate Pact, Paris Agreement has been operationalized by finalizing the Paris Agreement Rulebook, where decisions were reached on Article 6 (cooperative approaches) and common time frames, operationalizing carbon credit trading, a carbon market, and a framework for non-market-based approaches (IISD, 2021).

If the climate victim nations are to resolve this injustice, they have to address the historical responsibility of the Global North, it is a need to define the climate victims in the developing countries with concrete evidence so that they can be represented in the global level and commit to creating a fairer future for both people and planet. This is called Climate Justice - a human centered approach to tackling climate change whilst addressing the many intersecting social issues that created it. Climate justice recognizes that climate change is a result of and has emerged from interlocking systems of capitalism, resource extraction, labor exploitation, and the commodification of nature, and that the people who are hardest hit are the people who have been at 'least' responsible.

# CHALLENGES

- Bangladesh is most vulnerable to climate change impacts as it is predicted to lose 11 percent of its land if sea level rises by 2050 according to IPCC report.
- Existing climate change adaptation measures in Bangladesh are becoming ineffective due to the intensity of climate change impacts. Most of the indigenous and traditional knowledges are not properly identified.
- There is a lack of stakeholder corporation for combating climate change impacts.
- No adequate data or research which could provide evidence for the claim for compensation.
- Imbalance in power connected to the negotiation process on the formation of Climate Change negotiation.
- There is no proper definition for the climate vulnerable people.
- There will be an elevating issue regarding displacement of people due to climate change, for which necessary strategies are still yet to be taken.

# RECOMMENDATION

- Environment should be a central part in the model of any development.
- 'Right-based' approach and laws should be more activated and promoted in Bangladesh regarding climate change issues.
- The existing laws regarding climate change and displacement issues should be revised.
- Nature-based solution should be promoted.
- We need to address all the maladaptation occurring in the local-level to present with evidence in the global level.
- The climate migrants or the climate vulnerable communities should be categorized under specific guidelines with appropriate terminology so that they can get compensation from the developed countries for their losses.
- A Climate Justice Center should be established in different physiographic regions of the country which will include local government institutions, academic institutions, development organizations and most importantly local community in the team. In this way, local indigenous adaptation practices can be addressed in scientific point of view in order to make it resilient. It will also equip future generation through participation in evidence-based research and activities.
- Since Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka are facing almost similar kind of climatic threats, we can think of setting up a Regional Hub to coordinate different types of research and innovative activities collectively to ensure justice. Bangladesh is already an example to international community as the country of adaptation—similarly we can also take lead in ensuring Climate Justice for all vulnerable communities of the world.

# RECOMMENDATION

- We need to ensure justice for other species by securing their habitats –we should not forget that human existence is highly dependent on different ecosystems. Therefore, development and environment should not be treated in isolation. In this particular context, we should give emphasis on ecosystem valuation techniques so that we can ensure justice to environment and different threatened species by looking at their value and contribution.
- Carbon-neutral initiatives should be promoted in order to tackle the micro-climatic fluctuation which are already visible in Dhaka and in other big cities of Bangladesh.
- Establishing ToT (Training of Trainers) for climate change and justice awareness which will give the youth generation an opportunity to train themselves better in this particular issue.

In conclusion, we look forward to create evidence-based research which will help the country to come forward with emerging advocates of climate justice, tools, and techniques that the youth/researchers can pursue globally and build a new generation of research initiatives that will directly supplement the 8th five-year plan, SDG, and vision 2041.



**SIPG**



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