



Youth Conference on Climate Change
Barisal, Bangladesh
11-12 February, 2017

Barisal Youth Declaration

We, the youth and adolescents of Bangladesh, Members of the Parliament, policy makers, experts and concerned stakeholders attending the first Youth Conference on Climate Change (YCCC) during 11-12 February 2017 in Barisal, hosted by the Barisal Divisional Commissioner Office, Barisal, Department of Environment and UNICEF Bangladesh, are deeply concerned as-

The earth is at the highest risk of due to irreversible damages of our habitats caused by the drastic rising of the greenhouse gas emissions, thus endangering the lives of people. These emissions are destabilizing the global climate system, heating the Earth, acidifying the oceans, causing intrusion of saline water in the cropping lands, causing river and sea erosion and putting both humanity and all living creatures at irreversible risk of disasters.

Our Beloved Country is Vulnerable, We are here to protect her

We, the youth of Bangladesh, are aware that, despite one of the countries least responsible for climate change, our beloved country is one of the most vulnerable to its adverse impacts of climate catastrophe. Frequent climate induced disasters are making our lives and livelihoods very vulnerable. People are being forced to be displaced. Climate change is affecting our agriculture and biodiversity resulting in severe threats to our food security and nutrition. It is high time for all of us to stand by our beloved country; we should raise our common and strong voices about such vulnerabilities at all levels.

We demand special attention to protect vulnerable coastal areas, islands and its communities

We, the youth of greater Barisal, are evidently and deeply concerned that the children and adolescents remain deprived of minimum basic social services that disrupt their growth, development, protection and participation. Climate change is expected to further deteriorate the situation in remote islands and islets in the entire coastal zone of Bangladesh.

We are the Change Agent: Will fight against climate change impact

We, the youth of today, the future generation of tomorrow, eager to be the agent of change and fight against the climate change. Our greatest defense in this fight is mainstreaming climate understanding in education and actions so that future leaders are better prepared to catalyze positive change.

We will ensure the green planet

We recognize that climate change is not merely an economic or development challenge, but also a moral, cultural and political one that will be ultimately translated into a global humanitarian crisis. We therefore pledge to join together as the youth to bring about the transformational change needed to ensure that we will live together in a greener and safer planet.

We demand, we recommend: For a Safer Bangladesh, Green Planet

We thereby demand the following for equitable allocations of all resources as well as its effective utilization along with enhancing more capability of combating the climate change related challenges:

- Government, at both local and national levels as well as development partners should support, strengthen and empower the capacity of youth, existing regional and national youth networks and create opportunities to utilize their full potential for evidence-based advocacy towards community-based adaptation.
- We demand a strong international legally binding mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas and global warming. The high carbon emitting countries must take the lead to meet the goal defined in Paris Agreement.

- The developed countries should mobilize required adaptation funds for the developing countries as grant, but not loan. Moreover, the developed countries should mobilize climate change funds that can be invested in climate change adaptation activities as well as green innovations led by youth.
- Each ministry should allocate specific budget to address climate change challenges. Special allocations and specific projects should be adopted to address the vulnerable communities especially women, children and physically challenged people.
- In reflection of the Paris Agreement and following the Right to Information Act and the National Integrity Mechanism the Government should ensure transparency, accountability, community participation and integrity in project design, implementation and its monitoring. Multi-sectoral community-based approaches should be taken in all areas concerning climate change adaptation and disaster risk reductions.
- Climate change vulnerabilities and disaster related information need to be properly disseminated and easily accessible, understandable and communicable to all especially vulnerable communities.
- The government should take all necessary actions to manage the climate change induced displacement and migration in accordance with Cancun Adaptation Framework and the Paris Agreement on climate change.
- There should be a stronger involvement of vulnerable communities, especially the youth, women and people with disabilities, in policy making, and formulation of the strategies in the field of the climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Adaptation related investment must include capacity building in climate smart agriculture, especially in the saline prone coastal region.
- National governments should mobilize special budget allocation for building coastal infrastructures including environment-friendly permanent embankments, women and children friendly cyclone shelters and climate resilient urban infrastructures is must.
- Policy makers including leaders should hear our voices of concern on the common danger we are facing so that we all can work together in preserving the climate conditions upon which all our lives and livelihoods depend.
- Necessary steps should be adopted soon to put together the illegally encroached and filled up rivers, canals and water bodies free from the grabbers and also the sustainable navigation facilities in those water bodies should be ensured.

Youth Action Youth Mindset: Safer Environment Green Planet

We, the youth of Bangladesh realize that, climate change is posing serious risks for our lives, our communities, our country and for the globe. The time for talk has been over, let's go for action. We from the conference are committing to step forward with the following actions:

- We will engage and mobilize youth, youth groups and networks to raise voices against the impact of climate change and will work together for safer environment and the green planet.
- We will work with families, communities, Government, NGOs, private sector and other relevant stakeholders for community based local solutions to address the climate threats through effective mobilization and utilization of resources.
- We will work together with the government to implement the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategic Action Plan in reflections of the Nationally Determined Contribution.
- We, the adolescents and youth, commit ourselves– to change our habits, our choices, and the way we live our lives to learning with and teaching our families, friends, and others to conserve our natural resources and planet.
- We will establish linkages with global youth networks and communities using digital and social media and other possible ICT platforms for sharing our experiences, challenges and learning on climate change adaptation and mitigation.
