

Highlights



The 'Renewable Energy Policy (Draft) 2022' is a welcoming initiative since it is much broader and covers more aspects than its predecessor, 'Renewable Energy Policy 2008'.



When compared to the other relevant energy-related acts, plans and policies of the country, the revised draft has many deviations though for most of them, the lack is in the prior policy rather than in the revised draft.



India and Vietnam has taken a couple of measures which enable them to achieve their renewable energy goals. Most of those steps could be mirrored in case of Bangladesh.

Renewable Energy Policy (Draft) 2022 A Comprehensive Assessment

Khondaker Golam Moazzem and Mashfiq Ahasan Hridoy

1. Introduction and Objectives

The vision of the draft policy is to develop an efficient, sustainable, secure, affordable, competitive, and environment-friendly power system across the country. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) initially introduced the Bangladesh Renewable Energy Policy 2008 to promote the development and utilisation of renewable energy sources in the country. The policy was designed to support the country's energy security, reduce its dependence on imported fossil fuels, and promote sustainable development. Recently, the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) under the Power Division of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MoPEMR) has initiated to revise the RE Policy 2008. As part of the initiative, a policy report has been developed with the title 'Renewable Energy Policy (Draft) 2022'.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) reviewed the Renewable Energy Policy 2008 back in 2022 in its working paper titled 'Policy Instruments to Promote Renewable Energy in Bangladesh (Moazzem et.al)' choosing seven key indicators based on multiple global literature reviews. According to the CPD review, strategic planning, renewable energy financing, and net metering were absent, however, renewable portfolio standards, feed-in-tariffs, and grants and subsidies were moderately mentioned. Only the tax incentives received due attention in the policy document.

The goal of the revised draft is to enhance the proportion of renewable energy in the country's overall energy consumption. By 2040, it hopes to generate 40% of the country's energy (20,000 MW) from renewable sources.

There is no comprehensive study yet on how aligned or deviated this revised draft is compared to the relevant existing acts/plans of the country. Besides, it is yet to be measured against the other country's renewable energy policies. Thus, the aim of this study is to identify the shortcomings, qualities, and ways in which the Renewable Energy Policy of 2022 complements other pertinent policies regarding the country's renewable energy development, and how it stands against the relevant policies of other countries.

2. Methodology

To attain the objectives of the study, firstly, the Renewable Energy Policy (Draft) 2022 was compared against the previous policy of 2008. Secondly, it was compared against SREDA Act, Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan (MCP), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP), the 8th Five Year Plan (FYP), and

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to find the inter-policy alignments and deviations. Finally, some renewable energy-related initiatives adopted by India and Vietnam have also been analysed to get an idea of what is possible to do for the renewable energy sector of the country.

3. Key Features of Renewable Energy Policy (Draft) 2022

The new policy draft is more ambitious, broad, and covers fresh and extended issues than its predecessor. This draft has made some assumptions about how renewable energy targets mentioned in the draft can be achieved that includes GDP with a consistent growth rate, rapid development through foreign investments, good governance, more urbanisation, the introduction of electronic vehicles (EV), among others.

The new draft has a much clearer vision than the old document. It also discusses more renewable energy resources. One of the distinctive features of this revised draft is the idea of developing a renewable energy master plan in the future which will include resource analysis, potential project sites, and grid integration scope. A detailed institutional framework concerning power generation organisations like the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB), and (Infrastructure Development Company) IDCOL has been outlined. Issues like land allocation, and project allotment have also been characterised and roles have been allocated to various bodies. Multiple roles of the BERC have also been outlined, which unfortunately have no existence anymore.

4. Comparison between the Renewable Energy Policy of 2008 and the Revised Draft of 2022

Based on the key features and sections, several differences have been found between the two documents. For a better comprehension, a section-by-section analysis has been discussed below:

Table 1: Summary of the contrasts between Renewable Energy Policy 2008 and Renewable Energy Policy (Draft) 2022

Issues	Renewable Energy Policy of 2008	Renewable Energy Policy (Draft) 2022
Vision	Energy security	Environment friendliness
Objectives	Prioritises investments	Prioritises climate goals
Renewable Energy Resources	Solar, wind and biogas	Focused on other resources as well
Policy Period	None	10 years
Institutional Frameworks	No role of other organisations	Mentioned roles of IDCOL, PGCB, BERC, etc.
Programme and Project Development	None	Mentions RPO, REC, and Green Building Policy
Allotment of Projects	None	Pre-conditional requirements
Investment Facilitations	Micro-credit support systems	Micro-credit support systems
Fiscal Incentives	Exemption of charging 15% VAT	Waived VAT and import duties
Regulatory Policy	None	RPO and REC

Source: Authors' findings.

4.1 Vision

The Renewable Energy Policy of 2008 focuses on issues like fuel availability, emissions, and energy security. The revised draft has a broader vision that prioritises efficient, sustainable, secure, affordable, competitive, and environmentally friendly power systems. The new draft has a new, more distinct vision since it supports clean endeavours.

4.2 Objectives

The policy of 2008 encouraged both public and private investments. However, it missed the motivation to keep international commitments regarding climate goals. On the other part, the newly revised draft prioritises climate goals and private sector investments in line with promoting concepts like green energy and the energy storage market. Overall, the new draft's objectives clearly cover a wider range of topics, and the aim to uphold international norms and practices has been emphasised, as well.

4.3 Renewable Energy Resources

Not only has the newly revised draft covered more energy resources, but it also mentioned new technologies as well for the previously mentioned technologies. Resources like biofuel, waste-to-electricity, and regional trading of clean energy have been introduced. However, with all the new inclusions, there are some factors to be considered as well (Table 1).

4.4 Policy Period

The previous draft lacked any fixed period but the revised draft has set a policy period of 10 years or until a new policy has been announced. Setting goals for accomplishing the targets becomes a lot more realistic if a time range is established.

4.5 Institutional Frameworks

In the policy of 2008, the roles of the Sustainable Energy Development Agency (SEDA) have been outlined. SEDA came into reality in the name of SREDA in 2012. In the new draft, the roles of other organisations like IDCOL, PGCB, BERC, Power and Energy Research Council have also been outlined. Although the BERC’s function has been described, the agency recently lost its power apart from determining prices of LPG.

4.6 Programme and Project Development

Unlike the old policy, the revised draft plans to introduce Green Building Policy, and set Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO) and Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) as a regulatory obligation. Cross-border trading of renewable energy and the promotion of MW-scale solar parks has also been planned. The country already uses the RPO, REC, and Green Building Policy.

4.7 Allotment of Projects

This section has not been mentioned at all in the former edition. However, the pre-conditional requirements to be fulfilled by the renewable energy developers before any projects are allotted have been mentioned. Pre-conditional requirements must be completed before projects may be allocated, and this is closely adhered to in successful renewable energy-producing nations. Bangladesh should, therefore, start implementing these principles.

4.8 Investment Facilitations

A network of micro-credit support systems in rural areas for purchasing renewable energy equipment was promised in the previous policy and SREDA would consider providing subsidies to utilities for installing renewable energy projects. But according to the new draft, the network of micro-credit support systems in rural areas for purchasing renewable energy equipment has been established, and SREDA will develop the mechanism for providing subsidies. Also, a suitable incentive programme would be created to encourage the joint use of land

for solar energy installations, crop production, and water conservation.

4.9 Fiscal Incentives

Only the exemption of charging 15% VAT in all renewable energy equipment and related materials for production has been mentioned in the previous document. But per the new draft, VAT, and import duties on all renewable energy production equipment and related materials will be waived, the power producers’ captive use of electricity will not be subject to paying electric duty, and transmission and wheeling fees will not apply to EV charging stations for 10 years after they are established. In contrast, the GoB offers significantly larger financial incentives for non-renewable fuels. It will not be possible to persuade consumers and investors to switch to renewable energy sources until those benefits are taken away.

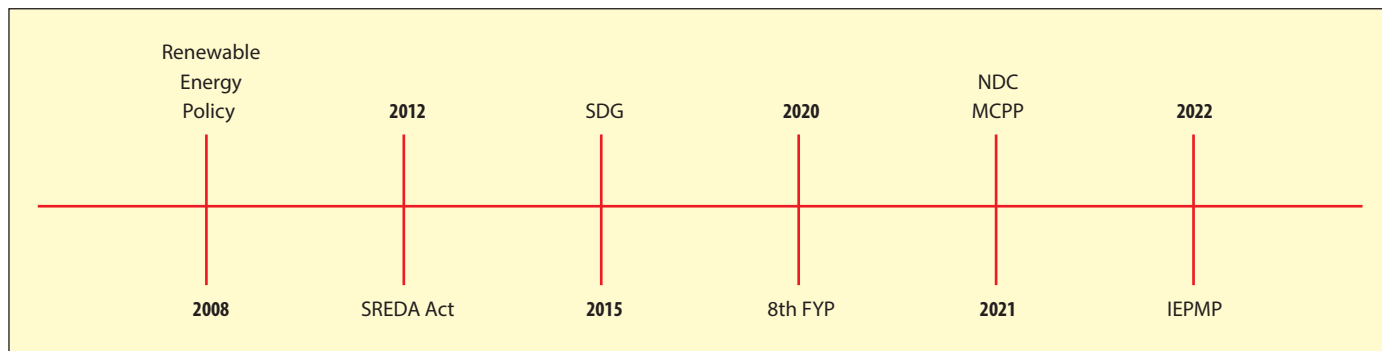
4.10 Regulatory Policy

Any kind of specific regulatory policy was absent in the 2008 policy. However, according to the revised draft, the RPO and REC will be introduced to the generation, distribution utility, and consumer levels. Project developers shall comply with the BERC regulations on forecasting, scheduling, and deviation settlement; and project developers will be responsible for connecting the generation station with the nearest grid sub-station, and connecting radially with a dedicated transmission line. Although the RPO and REC are valued practices, weakening BERC’s authority was a move in the opposite direction. Several nations, including India, are also engaged in the practice of linking the power station with the closest grid substation.

5. Major Alignments and Deviations with Other Renewable Energy Related Plans/Policies/Acts

Six documents cover the Renewable Energy perspectives in their mandate (Figure 1). Their alignment and deviations would indicate how much the Renewable Energy Policy 2022 (Draft) is considering these documents’ targets, goals, and objectives. This analysis of alignments/ deviations has been carried out with the following:

Figure 1: Relevant Renewable Energy related Plans/Policies/Acts



Source: Authors’ illustration.

SREDA Act, 2012, Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan (MCP) documents, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP), 8th Five Year Plan (FYP), and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

5.1 SREDA Act, 2012

The SREDA Act of 2012 and the Renewable Energy Policy (Draft) 2022 both emphasised cutting back on fossil fuel use to lower the risk of natural disasters (*The Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority Act, 2012*). Both documents are prepared to offer the required technical support for creating the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). Often, the CDM calls for significant financial and technical support. It is applauded that technical support may be offered within the nation rather than relying on foreign aid. Both documents are prepared to develop and put into practice energy-efficient building codes.

Inclusion of energy efficiency measures in building regulations is encouraged because it is one of the main elements in the transition to renewable energy. Both will confirm whether the land is appropriate for renewable energy resources and related technologies. Since land is one of the nation's scarce resources, its suitability and lifespan should be confirmed. Also, before implementation, the quality assurance of imported technologies must be evaluated. Both the act and the policy mention financial and technical support for renewable energy research, development, training, and demonstration. They will conduct actions to increase public motivation and awareness of renewable energy, as well as to promote its use.

The willingness of the populace to move away from carbon-based fuels is a prerequisite for the implementation of innovative technology methods like renewable energy. Public awareness-building efforts have been gradual but consistent, and thus, far in the nation. Both are willing to offer incentives in order to draw in and promote private investment in the real estate sector. Because they had both public and private investments, all the successful nations, including the Netherlands and Germany, were able to shift to renewable energy. With incentives, the path to investment for local investors should be profitable and simpler.

The International Climate Agreement targets are taken into consideration when developing the Renewable Energy policy, but this is not the case with the SREDA Act. The SREDA Act requires an 'Energy Audit', which is the assessment of energy efficiency by verification, monitoring, and analysis of machinery and appliances. However, the Renewable Energy Policy is devoid of any audit. In prosperous nations, audits are routinely conducted, and those who don't pass must pay a price. Lack of audits results in a lack of accountability for renewable energy generators and customers.

The SREDA Act, in contrast to the Renewable Energy Policy, does not include any tax exemptions related to renewable energy technologies and practices. Why an act that was formulated after the initial policy (Renewable Energy Policy 2008) was created would neglect a financial inducement like tax exemptions defies

logic. Discarding such incentives merely undermines the 2008 policy and makes developing the replacement plan more difficult.

5.2 Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, 2021

The Renewable Energy Policy (Draft) 2022 and MCP seek to lessen, replace, and ultimately eliminate old, expensive technology. The first technological step in moving toward renewable energy is replacing outmoded technology with new ones that are renewable. Both are eager to create a system to support cutting-edge technology. It is preferable to create our respective system using the resources at hand than exclusively relying on foreign systems. In terms of renewable energy transactions between neighbouring nations, both indicate the possibility of regional cooperation. Wind and hydro energy has been successfully used in Nepal and Bhutan. Considering GoB has solid relations with both nations, engaging in a renewable energy transaction is an option that we can consider. Both are concentrated on the grid's modernisation and improvement. The extra electricity must be sent into the main grid if the GoB plans to establish a small or nano grid. The existing grid needs to be improved for these cross-connections.

Both will offer tax incentives to buyers of electric vehicles (EVs). EVs are the mobility of the future, and people should adopt them before cars powered by fossil fuels are rendered useless. Thus, a tax break will ease the changeover.

Whereas MCP favors the generation of Green Hydrogen through Electrolysis Powered by Wind Energy (*Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan*), Renewable Energy Policy Draft 2022 prioritises the use of Regular Hydrogen Energy. Hydrogen fuel has not yet undergone extensive testing. Besides, fossil fuels are required for the creation of normal hydrogen. Under these two grounds, CPD advises against using hydrogen as an alternative fuel.

5.3 Nationally Determined Contributions, 2021

By 2030, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master Plan (EECMP), which is in line with the Renewable Energy Policy's objective, calls for a 10% energy efficiency in the industry subsector in the NDCs. The national grid would benefit greatly from achieving energy efficiency because a significant amount of power is wasted in industries, especially for those who live in remote areas. According to the NDCs, 5,925 solar irrigation pumps (producing 176.38MW) must be installed for agricultural use by 2030. This objective is in line with the policy's objective to implement solar irrigation. The irrigation season results in high electrical usage. In comparison to last year's 14,097 MW, it is predicted that this year it could reach up to 15,500 MW. Also, using solar-powered irrigation will significantly lower the need for diesel throughout the irrigation season. Solar irrigation pumps will significantly lower this demand burden, but they might not be significant enough.

By 2030, energy-efficient appliances should be used in residential and commercial buildings to reduce emissions by 5% and 12%,

respectively, in accordance with NDCs. This is mirrored in the background of Renewable Energy Policy, as well. Most countries have energy-efficient appliances, and those who are concerned about the environment, like the UK and Germany, use them frequently (e.g. washing machines). As they are a little more expensive than standard appliances, they have not yet been used extensively in Bangladesh. The GoB should prioritise exempting these products from taxes. The NDCs state that by 2030, there should be a 14% emission reduction through the use of non-fired bricks and sophisticated technologies, as well as a ban on fixed chimney kilns (FCK). The developed nations have already stopped using FCKs. These cutting-edge technologies should be evaluated from Bangladesh’s perspective, and if the evaluation is positive, they should be put into use.

According to NDCs, 107,000 micro biogas plants should be built by 2030 for better manure management. The Renewable Energy Policy (Draft) 2022 also highlights the notion of the introduction of biogas facilities. The establishment of biogas plants is in line with the policy’s goals of boosting ‘green’ energy in the overall energy mix because manures are not only a waste concern but can also be turned into fuels with a high calorific value. Alongside the metropolitan areas, waste management is a problem for the

nation in the rural areas, as well. Nevertheless, biogas facilities will produce large amounts of carbon dioxide and methane. So, introducing them is not a sustainable option.

5.4 Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan, 2022-23

The Revised Renewable Energy Policy’s renewable targets (solar rooftops, solar irrigation, and solar parks) have been incorporated into the IEPMP. A 6 GW of Solar PV (Solar Park, Irrigation) without land use limitations is anticipated in 2050. Besides, a 12 GW of solar photovoltaic (PV) rooftop capacity is anticipated in 2050 for buildings. By 2050, 5 GW of onshore winds and 15 GW of offshore winds are anticipated. Instead of attempting to focus on every type of renewable energy, the GoB should concentrate on solar choices and effectively implement solar plans (for example, rooftop solar) and projects. Both publications recommend promoting the adoption of low-carbon technologies. Instead of switching to low-carbon technologies suddenly, it is preferable to start with the least expensive low-carbon technology in any given area. Further, the use of low-carbon technologies while producing electricity from coal encourages fossil fuels in any case.

Although the policy draft has fairly specific fiscal incentives for

A matrix illustrating all the indicators of all the reviewed documents is shown below:

Table 2: Matrix of all the discussed indicators over all the documents

No.	Indicators	SREDA Act, 2012	SDGs	8th FYP	NDCs	MCPP	IEPMP	RE Policy (Draft) 2022
1	Reduction of fossil fuels	Green	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Green
2	Assisting CDM	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Yellow
3	Efficient building codes	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green
4	Providing technical and financial assistance	Green	Green	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green
5	Creating public awareness and motivation	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Yellow
6	Encourage private investments	Green	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Green
7	Complying international climate goals	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Yellow
8	Energy audit	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
9	Tax exemption	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Yellow
10	Modernisation of technologies	Red	Green	Red	Red	Green	Green	Yellow
11	Regional cooperations	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green	Red	Green
12	Upgradation of the grids	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green	Green
13	Supporting Evs	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Yellow
14	Prioritising alternative fuels	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Red	Yellow
15	Reduction of GHG emissions	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Green
16	Prioritising energy efficiency	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Red	Green
17	Focusing low-carbon technologies	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Yellow

Source: Authors’ illustration.

various energy mixes, the IEPMP does not accurately reflect the policy framework for renewable energy subsidies. The IEPMP plans to include CCR for both hydrogen-based and coal-fired power generation. Due to the promotion of carbon-based fuels and their behaviours, this is unacceptable. A 40% renewables target has been set in both papers for the year 2041. However, the IEPMP claims that the target is 'up to 40%', which has led to uncertainty. According to the IEPMP draft final report version 4, clean energy is defined as a source of energy that does not emit carbon dioxide, such as nuclear power, renewable energy, ammonia-fired thermal power, and hydrogen-fired thermal power.

5.5 8th Five Year Plan, 2020

Moving to the best value forms of power generation, transmission, and distribution is a key goal of both the 8th FYP and the Renewable Energy Policy (Draft) 2022. The GoB should give the best value renewable energy source top priority as a developing nation. Both documents are committed to attracting private and joint venture capital to the power sector. In the renewable energy projects of the Western European nations, joint venture investments are frequent. The GoB should, therefore, pay special attention to this. These documents indicate looking into alternatives for trading electricity with other nations, particularly Bhutan and Nepal. The achievement of Nepal was recognised in

India's draft national energy policy, as well. With their friendship, the GoB can contact them about trading wind and hydropower-generated electricity. The Renewable Energy Policy and 8th FYP, respectively, both imply and mention lessening reliance on imported fossil fuel. (8th Five Year Plan.)

5.6 Sustainable Development Goals, 2015

As per the SDG 7.1 indicator, by 2030 universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services should be ensured. It has been envisioned in the vision of the policy to develop affordable and reliable energy and the promotion of modern technology has been mentioned in the objectives. Increasing the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030, substantially is another indicator of SDGs. As per the renewable energy targets of the policy, by 2030, the targeted total generation of renewable energy is 20%. By 2030, doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency is another indicator. Though not mentioned, it is assumed that promoting new energy technologies will increase the energy efficiency of the country.

As per the SDG 39+1, ensuring access to electricity for 100% of the population is one of the indicators. The policy aims to ensure electricity for all and currently, it is 100% electrified. Another

A comparison of various initiatives of India and Vietnam with that of Bangladesh has been made below:

Table 3: A comparison of various initiatives of India and Vietnam with Bangladesh

Attributes	Renewable Energy Policy (Draft) of Bangladesh	National Energy Policy of India	Renewable Energy Policy of Vietnam
Reduction of GHG emissions	No fixed goal	45% below 2005 levels by 2030	45% below 2010 levels by 2030
Target % of renewables	40% by 2041	40% by 2023	15-20% by 2030
Employment	Not focused	Focused	Not focused
Protection of other natural resources	Slightly focused	Slightly focused	Focused
Tax incentives	Focused	Focused	Focused
Net Metering	Focused	Focused	Focused
Auction Guidelines	Mentioned	In practice	In practice
Electrification of Rural Areas	Only mentioned in the objectives	Prioritised	Prioritised
FiT Scheme	Not mentioned and practiced	In practice	In practice
Request For Quote and Request For Proposal	Only exist theoretically	In full practice	In full practice
Power Purchase Agreement	In practice	In practice	In practice
Renewable Energy Targets	Assumed	Set target	Set target
Sector wise Renewable Energy diversification	Mentioned to some extent	The responsibility of diversification has been given to the state governments	Mentioned to some extent
Investment sources	Not mentioned	Mentioned	Mentioned to some extent
Tariff structure	Discussed	Discussed	Mentioned to some extent

Source: Authors' findings.

indicator is to increase renewable energy share in total final energy consumption to 10% by 2030. The draft policy does not set any ambition of increasing the share of renewables in the total energy mix but currently, only 3.75% of the electricity generation mix is renewable.

6. A Cross-country Analysis of Renewable Energy Policies

For cross-country analysis, India and Vietnam were considered. India, Bangladesh's closest neighbour, has made significant advancements in its renewable energy sector. By the end of 2022, they aimed to generate 175 GW of renewable energy. They succeeded in producing 119 GW. In terms of industry and sociological advancements, Vietnam is frequently viewed as Bangladesh's adversary. Its real estate market is booming significantly which has drawn a lot of foreign capital.

India focused on large hydro-power which had been one of their significant provider of energy. Promotion of performance-linked incentives, the inclusion of feed-in-tariffs, determining the level of tariff supports based on marginal cost of power, introducing mini-grids and micro-grids for the rural areas, setting up renewable energy management centers in all states, promotion of mega solar power plants only on wastelands and non-agricultural tracts are some of the distinctive features of the renewable energy policy of India. They have separate guidelines for each of these features and plans to execute them.

Vietnam has established high goals for the growth of renewable energy, hoping to reach 15-20% of renewable energy in its total electricity generation by 2030, and 25-30% by 2045. In the case of Vietnam, implementing the feed-in-tariff scheme which guarantees a fixed price for renewable energy generation, promoting the development of energy storage to support the integration of renewable energy into the grid, developing domestic renewable energy manufacturing industries, net metering policy, introducing Green Energy Certificates have been crucial steps for them to set a realistic renewable energy target and attracting a large number of foreign investments.

7. Concluding Remarks and Recommendations

The initiative to update the Renewable Energy Policy is commendable. In terms of content, the revised draft outperforms the Renewable Energy Policy (2008). Therefore, it should be an independent policy rather than a revised renewable energy policy given the breadth of coverage of sources, means, territories, and the shifting circumstances of climate change. The updated contexts of the other documents should be taken into account while considering the entirety of the new document. There are many shortcomings in the new policy as well as the SREDA Act of 2012, SDGs, 8th FYP, NDCs, MCPP, and IEPMP that need to be addressed.

When contrasted with prior discussed policies, the new policy should address any deficiencies (such as an energy audit). The updated draft has made an effort to highlight both established and emerging renewable energy sources. However, according to various scientific studies, some of the indicated sources (such as

hydrogen energy) are not appropriate for use in Bangladesh. By 2041, the new policy will generate 40% of its energy from renewable sources, as pledged by the prime minister. We think that other policies, like the IEPMP, should concentrate on these goals. The IEPMP contains some inaccurate statements concerning 'clean' and 'green' energy, but they shouldn't affect the revised policy.

We must concentrate on local and international finance issues in the renewable energy sector. The bond market should address green bonds at the local level. The GoB can ask ADB for assistance to speed up renewable energy projects including storage hydropower plants and investments in waste-to-energy on a worldwide scale. Bangladesh should take into consideration India and Vietnam's successful deployment of net metering, the FiT programme, competitive auctions, green energy funds, and solar parks.

The majority of policies, including the updated draft, do not phase-out carbon-based technology and fuel. Bangladesh should impose a stringent carbon price on all sectors. To increase SREDA's authority, Bangladesh should concentrate on institutional reformation. India has an entirely separate ministry for renewable energy, which could be difficult for the GoB. But they could at least allow SREDA full authority over renewables. In general, the Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources should switch to renewable energy sources from carbon-based ones.

Based on all these discussions, CPD recommends the followings:

1. The proposal should include provisions for the emission problem.
2. For solar energy, simply listing the possibilities is insufficient. It should state how to tap into these potential resources to get the most out of them.
3. If wind energy projects are feasible in Bangladesh, specialists should examine technical, biodiversity, and topographical features.
4. In addition to the insufficient supply, biomass should be avoided as an energy source because it produces a significant amount of CO₂.
5. Waste-to-electricity initiatives are greatly appreciated yet it's equally important to consider how such projects can affect the climate.
6. It is commendable that the policy takes regional trading into account. Nonetheless, the GoB should move quickly to complete these measures, especially before the summer.
7. In order to achieve all of the objectives mentioned in the draft, some short- and medium-term plans are also required.
8. The GoB has not yet looked into the possibility of MW-scale renewable energy parks and cross-border trading. Since India has had success in this area, Bangladesh might adopt some of its initiatives.
9. CPD believes that the GoB should allocate funding to the growth of the renewable energy sector and the promotion of RE enterprises through incentives and supports rather than subsidising LNGs and petroleum-based fuels.

REFERENCES

Climate Vulnerable Forum and Vulnerable Twenty Group. (2021). *Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan*.

General Economics Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission. (2020). *8th Five Year Plan*.

Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. (2014). *The Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority Act, 2012*.

Authors

Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem is the Research Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka, Bangladesh. He can be reached at: moazzem@cpd.org.bd

Mr Mashfiq Ahasan Hridoy is a Research Associate. He can be reached at: mashfiq@cpd.org.bd

Series Editor: *Dr Fahmida Khatun*, Executive Director, CPD.

March 2023