



**Reframing South Asian  
Regional Cooperation  
in the New Context**  
*National and Global Dimensions*

4-5 November 2023, Dhaka, Bangladesh



Generating Knowledge, Giving Voice, Challenging Injustice

Parallel Session B1  
**Climate Change and Resilience**  
Sunday, 5 November 2023 | 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Venue: Ballroom, Sheraton Dhaka

**Chair:** *Dr M Asaduzzaman*, Former Research Director  
Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Bangladesh

South Asia is, like most regions of the world, suffering more and more from the adverse impacts of Climate Change like extreme heat waves, droughts as well as heavy rain causing inundations, sea level rise, tropical cyclones and glacier melting to name the most important impacts. In August 2022, it was hit by the greatest disaster caused by climate change mankind has ever seen, namely the devastating rainfalls in Pakistan when more than a third of the entire country was inundated, almost 10 million people lost their homes and 1700 even their lives. The damage was estimated to more than USD 30 billion. The heatwaves are reaching since 2021 already temperatures which even threaten human survival, and thus are overstepping the limits of adaptation to climate change. By now, these temperatures are only reached locally and timely very limited but are projected to increase considerably leaving no chance for the poor which cannot protect themselves in air-conditioned rooms.

The region is, furthermore, one of the least resilient regions against climate change and at the same time still shows the highest number of undernourished persons worldwide. Bangladesh itself is the 7<sup>th</sup> most vulnerable country to the impacts of Climate Change according to the internationally recognized Global Climate Risk Index published by German Watch, Pakistan is no. 8 and Nepal no. 10 on the list while India and Afghanistan are also part of the 20 most vulnerable countries to the adverse effects of climate change.

Given that huge threats resulting from the adverse effects of climate change to the entire region, it is time for the region to put aside all its internal tensions and frictions and join hands in the combat against climate change. In addition, the access to climate finance including the contribution of the private sector is imperative considering the fact that the funding necessary to win the combat against climate change outstrips by far the funding available in the region and even that what can be provided by bilateral and international development partners.

Panelists of this session will dwell on these issues and try to respond to the following questions.

**Guiding Questions for the Panellists**

1. What are the most important challenges arising from climate change in the region?
2. What are the possible solutions for improving the resilience against climate change?
3. Could Climate Change be a new driver for regional cooperation amid its menace leaving behind the frictions between the different countries of South Asia?
4. What are the regional synergies for and advantages of the regional cooperation on climate change?
5. Could regional cooperation on climate change even provide the opportunity to improve the economic situation?
6. What will the position of your country for COP 28?
7. How can the region better access finance, what is the role of the private sector?

***Session supported by***

