



CPD CLIMATE WEEK 2025

Transforming Ambition into Action

18-21 October 2025, BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka

International Conference on

A World Beyond Crisis

Climate Solutions That Work

Organised by



সেন্টার ফর পলিসি ডায়ালগ (সিপিডি)
Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

In Collaboration with



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(From Left) *Ms Shirin Sultana Lira*, Programme Manager, Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh; *Mr Mohammed Sohel*, Director, BGMEA; *Dr Shah Abdul Saadi*, Deputy Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD), GoB; *Advocate Syeda Rizwana Hasan*, Hon'ble Adviser, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Interim Government of Bangladesh; *Ms Khushi Kabir*, Member, CPD Board of Trustees; *Dr Fahmida Khatun*, Executive Director, CPD; *Mr Md. Ziaul Haque*, Director Department of Environment, GoB; *Mr Ulrich Kleppmann*, Head of Development Cooperation, German Development Cooperation, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany; *Dr Ainun Nishat*, Advisor, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), BRAC University; *Mr Md Shamsuddoha*, Chief Executive, Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD) and *Ms Mousumi Perven*, Senior Climate Change Officer, Asian Development Bank (ADB).

1. Background of CPD Climate Week 2025

Climate change is the most pressing global challenge of our time, posing multidimensional threats to societies, economies, and ecosystems worldwide. For countries like Bangladesh, which are highly vulnerable to climate risks due to geographical, socioeconomic, and developmental factors, the challenge is acute. Natural disasters like floods, cyclones, rising sea levels, salinity intrusion, and temperature variability have profound implications on livelihoods, food security, human health, and economic growth. Moreover, the impacts of climate change exacerbate existing inequalities, because it disproportionately affects women, youth, marginalised communities, and other vulnerable populations.

Bangladesh has demonstrated remarkable resilience in addressing climate risks, with a history of innovative policies, disaster management strategies, and adaptation projects. The country has also actively engaged in international climate negotiations and commitments, including the Paris Climate Agreement, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and other multilateral climate frameworks. Despite progress, gaps remain in translating commitments into concrete action, ensuring equity and justice in climate responses, and fostering partnerships that amplify impact at national, regional, and global levels.

Recognising the pressing need for dialogue, coordination, and knowledge sharing, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised the first-ever CPD Climate Week 2025 in Bangladesh during 18-21 October 2025.

2. International Conference on 'A World Beyond Crisis: Climate Solutions That Work'

As part of the climate week, an international conference was organised on 18 October 2025. Under the broad theme of the international conference 'A World Beyond Crisis: Climate Solutions That Work', an inaugural session, an interactive opening plenary session and six parallel thematic sessions were held. The conference brought together a wide range of stakeholders from home and abroad, including government policymakers, think tanks, academia, experts, civil society organisations (CSOs), non-government organisations (NGOs), collective bargaining organisations (CBOs), the private sector, youth groups, development partners and the media, to discuss policy solutions, identify gaps, and develop actionable recommendations.

2.1 The Sessions of the Conference

Inaugural Session of the International Conference titled 'A World Beyond Crisis: Climate Solutions That Work' kick started the conference and the Climate Week 2025.

The opening plenary session was titled '**Road to COP30: How Can National Interests Be Aligned with Global Climate Goals?**'. Six parallel thematic sessions included:

- i. Operationalising NDCs in Climate Vulnerable Countries
- ii. Climate and Gender: Integrating Equity into Policies
- iii. Carbon Pricing and Carbon Markets in Bangladesh
- iv. Climate-smart Agriculture and Food Security
- v. Climate Finance Landscape, Policy and Governance
- vi. Achieving Debt Sustainability in the Face of Climate Change

A report titled 'Navigating Debt, Development and Disasters: Making Debt Sustainability Analyses Work for Bangladesh' was also launched during parallel session 6.

2.2 Output

A conference volume, containing the presentations made at various sessions along with the summaries of the plenary discussion, will be published duly.

2.3 Expected Outcomes

CPD Climate Week 2025 will generate tangible and intangible outcomes that will advance Bangladesh's climate agenda. These include:

- i. *Policy Recommendations:* A comprehensive set of actionable recommendations for policymakers to accelerate NDC implementation, climate financing, technology adoption, and resilience strategies.
- ii. *Knowledge Sharing:* Dissemination of best practices, innovations, and research findings to inform national and local climate actions.
- iii. *Enhanced Collaboration:* Strengthened partnerships across government, civil society, academia, the private sector and global experts.



(From Left) *Mr Owais Paray*, Senior Economic Advisor, UNDP; *Dr Syud Amer Ahmed*, Lead Economist, The World Bank; *H E Mr Christian Brix Møller*, Ambassador, Embassy of Denmark, Bangladesh; *Dr Fahmida Khatun*, Executive Director, CPD; *H E Mr Paulo Fernando Dias Feres*, Ambassador, Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil and *Dr Monzur Hossain*, Member (Secretary) of the General Economics Division.

iv. *Visibility and Awareness*: Greater public and media engagement on climate challenges, solutions, and equity considerations.

3. Overview of the Discussions and Recommendations

The discussions throughout the conference underscored a shared recognition that Bangladesh and other climate-vulnerable countries must urgently translate global climate commitments into nationally driven, inclusive, and well-financed actions. Speakers across sessions highlighted the interconnected nature of mitigation, adaptation, finance, governance, gender equity, and resilience-building, emphasising that climate solutions must be context-specific and anchored in strong institutions. A recurring theme was the need for evidence-based policymaking, improved data systems, and cross-sectoral coordination to operationalise NDCs and NAPs effectively. Participants also stressed the importance of mobilising climate finance through blended mechanisms, enhancing private-sector participation, strengthening local-level capacities, and ensuring that climate action integrates equity, justice, and the needs of vulnerable communities. Overall, the recommendations called for a holistic approach where national priorities align with global climate goals, backed by transparent financing and measurable implementation pathways.

3.1 Inaugural Session

Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director of CPD, chaired the inaugural session of CPD Climate Week 2025 and highlighted the urgency of addressing the accelerating climate crisis. She emphasised that Bangladesh is no longer anticipating climate impacts but experiencing them daily through heatwaves, cyclones, salinity intrusion, and erratic rainfall. She noted that these shocks affect livelihoods, health, food security and future generations. *Dr Khatun* underscored Bangladesh's record of resilience and innovation through early warning systems, community-

based adaptation and the integration of climate priorities into development planning. She stressed the need to turn climate commitments into measurable action and practical implementation. She pointed to the timeliness of Climate Week ahead of COP30 in Belém and observed that the themes discussed, including adaptation, carbon pricing, climate justice and debt sustainability, mirror global priorities. She also recognised the diverse participation of international experts and young people, and encouraged continued collaboration and ambition throughout the week.

Mr Owais Paray, Senior Economic Adviser at the United Nations Development Programme, observed that the theme of the week reflects optimism at a moment when the world stands at the edge of a climate precipice, with a narrow but still-open window for collective action. He noted that global warming is now an immediate reality, citing 2024 as the hottest year on record, the bleaching of coral reefs, severe biodiversity loss, and the rapid decline in monitored wildlife. He highlighted evidence from international studies showing the significant economic impact of climate change and stressed that technical solutions exist, though action should have begun decades earlier. He called for a green economic transformation driven by scalable solutions, green finance, and inclusive growth, while ensuring that workers and vulnerable groups are not left behind during technological and structural disruption.

Dr Syud Amer Ahmed, Lead Economist at the World Bank, outlined the scale of Bangladesh's climate challenges from both mitigation and adaptation perspectives. He noted that Bangladesh contributes less than half a per cent of global emissions, yet its development trajectory will be shaped by today's policy choices. He highlighted the country's high vulnerability, citing rising sea levels, salinity intrusion, frequent extreme weather events, and projections of up to 13 million internal climate migrants by 2050. He stressed that climate impacts threaten progress in income growth, human capital, and poverty reduction, while also increasing pressure on public finances. He referenced the World Bank's Country Climate and Development Report, which estimates that over 5 per cent of annual GDP will be required for priority climate actions. He emphasised the need for climate finance, carbon market readiness, institutional strengthening, and broad partnerships to support adaptation, resilience, and Bangladesh's long-term development goals.

H E Mr Christian Brix Møller, Ambassador of Denmark, noted Denmark's current presidency of the European Union and its commitment to supporting ambitious outcomes that advance Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. He recognised Bangladesh's strong record of resilience and its growing role in climate innovation, reflected in community-led responses such as salt-tolerant crops, floating schools, and flood-resilient farming systems. He outlined Denmark-Bangladesh partnerships that are already delivering concrete impact, including rainwater harvesting systems under Rain for Life, implemented by BRAC, which now provide safe drinking water to more than 100,000 people. He also referred to preparations for Bangladesh's first offshore wind project near Cox's Bazar, a major private investment demonstrating confidence in clean energy. He emphasised ongoing collaboration with the World Bank's IFC through initiatives supporting cleaner textile production and green finance, and underscored the emerging opportunities in carbon markets. He closed by recognising the essential leadership of youth in advancing a climate-resilient future.

His Excellency Paulo Fernando Dias Feres, Ambassador of Brazil, stressed that the climate crisis is an urgent and global reality, with rising temperatures, extreme weather and sea-level rise sharply felt in Bangladesh. He noted that although the window for action is narrowing, scalable and

practical solutions already exist. He highlighted the role of renewable energy, pointing to solar, wind and hydroelectric power as clean, increasingly affordable options that also create jobs. He referenced Brazil's predominantly hydro-based energy mix and rapid expansion of solar and wind investments, including household-level adoption and electric vehicles that feed surplus power back into the grid.

He emphasised the importance of sustainable transport, including electric mobility and improved public transit, and noted emerging technologies such as passenger-carrying drones. He underscored the value of nature-based solutions such as reforestation and wetland restoration, and suggested strong potential for Brazil–Bangladesh cooperation in sustainable agriculture and livestock once market access issues, including halal certification, are resolved. He highlighted the symbolic significance of COP30 in Belém and called for concrete global action. He concluded by stressing collective responsibility, community empowerment, education, and youth leadership as essential to securing a sustainable future.

Dr Monzur Hossain, Member (Secretary) of the General Economics Division at the Bangladesh Planning Commission, outlined key government priorities for strengthening climate-responsive planning. He noted that Bangladesh's Delta Plan requires revision to make it more actionable, people-oriented, and better aligned with time-bound monitoring. The Planning Commission's Delta Wing is complemented by a forthcoming Blue Economy Wing, reflecting the government's focus on adaptation. He highlighted the Delta Adaptation Framework, conceived as an interconnected set of policies, institutional arrangements and tools to support climate-risk management. Six national hotspot regions have been identified, covering coastal zones, erosion-prone areas, drought-affected regions, char lands and vulnerable urban centres. Investment planning is now concentrating on these hotspots, with climate-resilient projects prioritised for inclusion in the Annual Development



Dr Monzur Hossain, Member (Secretary) (top right) of the General Economics Division speaking at the Inaugural Session of the Climate Week 2025

Programme through the newly approved Delta Prism framework. Dr Hossain stressed the need for substantial financing, public-private partnerships and dedicated climate finance to scale investments. He emphasised institutional capacity building, improved data systems, stakeholder engagement and stronger local governance. He called for better coordination across government and the private sector, greater reliance on nature-based adaptation, and more inclusive planning to ensure sustainable development aligned with future climate risks.

Recommendations:

- Translate climate commitments into measurable actions by strengthening implementation mechanisms, ensuring that pledges lead to policies and policies to outcomes.
- Prioritise adaptation alongside mitigation by developing robust, community-centred frameworks that address Bangladesh's six identified climate hotspots.
- Scale up investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, knowledge systems, and institutional capacity, supported by improved data, monitoring, and evaluation tools.
- Mobilise diverse financing sources, including innovative and green finance, alongside public-private partnerships to meet the large investment needs for climate action.
- Strengthen national readiness for carbon markets to attract green investment, support industry competitiveness, and leverage international climate finance.
- Expand renewable energy deployment, including offshore wind, solar, and other clean technologies, to reduce emissions while supporting economic growth.
- Promote nature-based solutions, such as reforestation, wetland restoration, and ecosystem protection, to enhance resilience and create local co-benefits.
- Ensure inclusive green growth by preparing the labour force for economic and technological transformations, preventing communities or workers from being left behind.
- Foster multi-stakeholder partnerships involving government, private sector, civil society, youth, and development partners to scale solutions and share innovations.
- Strengthen local governance and community engagement to ensure that climate adaptation strategies reflect local priorities and benefit those most affected.
- Enhance knowledge exchange with international partners, drawing on successful global models and Bangladesh's own innovations to accelerate climate action.
- Increase focus on youth leadership, research, and innovation as a driving force for sustainable and long-term climate solutions.

3.2 Opening Plenary

Ms Khushi Kabir, Member, CPD Board of Trustees, emphasised the need for a holistic approach to climate action, urging that environmental protection must not be seen in isolation but rather in relation to energy, transport, and development sectors. She underscored that economic growth and environmental sustainability can and must complement one another, as sustainable development pathways are possible for countries like Bangladesh. Ms Kabir also stressed the importance of Bangladesh making its voice heard at global climate negotiations such as the COP, to ensure that its national realities and vulnerabilities receive due attention. She further highlighted that climate finance should not be viewed as a form of aid for 'victims', but as a rightful mechanism to enable developing countries to pursue sustainable development and resilience-building.

Mr Foqoruddin Al Kabir, Senior Research Associate, CPD, highlighted that climate change policies must be firmly grounded in the national context, reflecting the specific development realities of



Advocate Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Hon'ble Adviser, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Interim Government of Bangladesh, (fourth from left) speaking at the Opening Plenary Session.

countries like Bangladesh. Despite having one of the lowest per capita emission rates globally, Bangladesh continues to suffer among the worst impacts of climate change. He noted that the country has made significant progress since the 1990s in developing national climate-related policies, but many of these now require revision to keep pace with evolving global frameworks and local needs. Mr Kabir also stressed that the implementation of Bangladesh's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) will require substantial financial and technical resources, supported by both domestic initiatives and international cooperation. He also underscored that cross-cutting issues need to be integrated into national climate policies.

Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), reflected on the importance of aligning national climate commitments in the Global South with global climate goals, whilst still addressing domestic priorities such as livelihood protection, food security, and public health. Drawing lessons from the Millennium Development Goals, he pointed out that poverty reduction often came at the expense of environmental degradation, revealing the need for better policy alignment. He observed that even countries historically committed to the Paris Agreement, such as France, are facing challenges in meeting their targets. Dr Suleri argued that developing nations like Pakistan and Bangladesh cannot wait for leadership from others; rather, they must take proactive measures for their own people. He stressed the value of innovative financing tools such as carbon markets and emphasised community resilience and self-reliance as key to moving beyond a 'victim mentality'. He concluded by noting that Bangladesh's success in microfinance and community-based climate resilience offers valuable models for the wider South Asian region.

Mr Md Shamsuddoha, Chief Executive, Centre for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD), drew attention to the conflicting and interconnected dimensions of climate change adaptation, finance, and gender. He warned that the USD 300 billion pledged for climate finance worldwide remains insufficient, and that even this limited commitment is unevenly distributed.

He urged developing nations—especially Bangladesh—to advocate for fair, transparent financing systems that effectively support both climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. Mr Shamsuddoha also pointed out that the promised loss and damage finance has not yet been realised and called for a unified position at COP30 to accelerate action on emission reduction and climate justice. He emphasised the need to halt fossil fuel investments, ensure a just transition, and maintain vigilance on cross-border carbon adjustments that may negatively affect developing economies. Highlighting the persistent governance challenges that hinder access to climate finance, he called for improved institutional integrity and inclusion of loss and damage financing as a key agenda item for Bangladesh at COP30.

Ms Mousumi Perven, Senior Climate Change Officer, Asian Development Bank (ADB), discussed the pressing issue of inadequate financing for adaptation, noting that Bangladesh alone requires about USD 5 billion annually for this purpose. She emphasised that effective adaptation and mitigation require coordinated international efforts, capacity development, and the availability of credible data. At the upcoming COP, she suggested, Bangladesh must prioritise access to concessional funding and seek innovative ways to mobilise domestic resources. She also highlighted the need to attract private sector investment, arguing that public finance alone cannot meet the country's climate needs. Drawing from Bangladesh's strong track record in adaptation, Ms Perven proposed that the country could emerge as a regional leader in climate negotiations and capacity-building. At the same time, she reminded participants that Bangladesh's emissions, though still low, are increasing, underscoring the importance of balancing adaptation with mitigation.

Ms Shirin Sultana Lira, Programme Manager, Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh, emphasised that Switzerland strongly believes in decentralisation and localisation as central strategies for effective climate governance. She explained that Switzerland, as one of the first countries to submit its NDC 3.0, serves as an example of strong preparedness and accountability. Bangladesh, she



High-level policymakers, international development partners, climate experts, academics, researchers, students from various educational institutions attended the climate week.

noted, should come to COP30 equipped with solid evidence on how it is being affected by climate change, which will strengthen its negotiation position. She stressed that localisation is the key for Bangladesh to secure grants and effectively implement climate projects on the ground. Ms Lira also raised concerns about transparency and accountability regarding the implementation of climate-related projects, and called for greater investment in innovation, research, and capacity-building and urged that the national budget allocate more funding to research and development for sustainable climate solutions.

Mr Ulrich Kleppmann, Head of Development Cooperation, German Development Cooperation, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, highlighted the global responsibility to combat climate change, stressing that whilst developed countries bear greater responsibility, every nation must contribute. He noted that Germany contributes approximately USD 13.87 billion annually to international climate finance, which is around 14 per cent of the total pledged globally. This demonstrates its strong commitment to global cooperation. He emphasised that the world would be far worse off without the international climate frameworks created through COP and the Paris Agreement. Mr Kleppmann pointed out that Bangladesh could further encourage private sector participation by simplifying import regulations and reducing customs duties for renewable energy technologies. He concluded that addressing climate change requires unity, collective action, and the recognition that every country is part of a larger, interconnected system that must work together to ensure global sustainability.

Dr Ainun Nishat, Advisor, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), BRAC University, underlined that Bangladesh contributes only 0.47 per cent of global emissions but faces disproportionate vulnerability to climate impacts. He called for an urgent increase in renewable energy generation, noting global examples such as Australia's use of wave energy. He warned that Bangladesh's embankments remain fragile and poorly maintained, leaving the country exposed to catastrophic flooding. Dr Nishat stressed the need for meaningful participation in COP negotiations, where countries must come together to set measurable global mitigation targets. He also emphasised that technology transfer remains largely untapped due to bureaucratic inefficiencies and a lack of institutional capacity. Strengthening inter-ministerial coordination and ensuring that climate actions are country-driven, he argued, are essential for Bangladesh to effectively benefit from international technology and finance mechanisms.

Mr Md. Ziaul Haque, Director, Department of Environment, Government of Bangladesh, stressed the importance of aligning national perspectives with global priorities to ensure coherence between domestic adaptation efforts and international commitments. He mentioned that Bangladesh is preparing to be one of the first recipients of the Loss and Damage Fund by developing well-prepared and evidence-based project proposals. He underscored the global challenge of mobilising USD 300 billion annually for climate finance and argued that Bangladesh deserves priority due to its high vulnerability. He further highlighted that discussions at COP30 will determine the roadmap for achieving USD 1.3 trillion in global climate finance by 2035 and called for inclusive participation from all countries. Mr Haque emphasised the need for Bangladesh to green its industries and align its National Adaptation Plan with the new global indicators to measure and ensure progress.

Mr Mohammed Sohel, Director, BGMEA, outlined the progress made by Bangladesh's RMG sector towards reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, targeting a 30 per cent reduction by 2030. He proudly stated that the country now hosts over 260 certified green factories, each maintaining transparency and compliance with international sustainability standards. However,

he acknowledged the challenges of including small and medium-sized enterprises in these initiatives, given their limited financial and technological capacities. Mr Sohel emphasised the need for greater investment in research, innovation, and renewable technologies such as solar energy that can support smaller, clustered factories. He also stressed that improved inter-sectoral communication and coordination are necessary to achieve long-term sustainability goals across the manufacturing value chain.

Dr Shah Abdul Saadi, Deputy Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD), Government of Bangladesh, explained that Bangladesh, as part of the G-77 and China group, advocates for adaptation finance to be provided in the form of grants rather than loans, ensuring that developing countries are not burdened by debt. He argued that adaptation finance must at least double to meet growing challenges, and national goals must prioritise local needs. Dr Saadi highlighted Bangladesh's active implementation of 46 National Adaptation Plan (NAP) projects and 20 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) projects, mobilising a total of USD 4.8 billion. He also discussed the establishment of the Bangladesh Climate Development Partnership, a collaborative initiative involving public and private sectors, civil society, and academia to coordinate climate finance and policy actions. He concluded by recommending greater use of market-based financial tools such as green bonds to close the climate financing gap and strengthen inter-ministerial coherence.

Advocate Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Hon'ble Adviser, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Bangladesh, emphasised that addressing the climate crisis requires both external support and internal reform. She highlighted the issue of double counting in climate finance and emissions reporting, which creates inflated perceptions of progress without corresponding real-world reductions. She praised Bangladesh's latest NDC for being participatory and inclusive and urged the Ministry to create a clear work plan with actionable steps and timelines to ensure its implementation. She also announced a new partnership between the Bangladesh Water Development Board and the UK Met Office, which will enable real-time flood data sharing and strengthen early warning systems. She stressed that financial resources alone unable to solve the climate crisis; what is required is a fundamental transformation in development models, consumption behavior, and governance structures. She concluded by calling for better waste management, renewable energy expansion, improved public transport, and enhanced research-driven policymaking to align Bangladesh's development with climate resilience.

Recommendations:

- Ensure climate finance is treated as a right, not aid, with greater transparency and fairness in allocation.
- Strengthen institutional coordination for implementing NDCs and NAPs, integrating gender and social inclusion.
- Enhance participation of Bangladesh in global negotiations with evidence-based positions and strong data support.
- Promote private sector involvement and local innovation for renewable energy and sustainable industry transitions.
- Invest in research, capacity building, and inter-ministerial coordination to improve climate governance.

3.3 Parallel Sessions

Across the six parallel sessions, experts and practitioners explored a wide range of thematic issues, from NDC operationalisation and gender-responsive climate governance to carbon markets, climate-smart agriculture, financing mechanisms, and the emerging links between climate vulnerability and debt sustainability. Despite their diverse focus areas, the sessions revealed common challenges such as limited financing, data gaps, weak institutional coordination, and barriers to local implementation. At the same time, they showcased promising opportunities, including innovative financing tools, community-led resilience practices, sectoral decarbonisation pathways, and regional knowledge-sharing. Collectively, the parallel sessions reinforced the message that climate action must be multisectoral, inclusive, and grounded in both national ownership and international support, with clear strategies to scale successful local innovations into national policy frameworks.

3.3.1 Parallel Session 1: Operationalising NDCs in Climate Vulnerable Countries

Dr Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Deputy Managing Director, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), opened the session by recalling the foundation laid by the Kyoto Protocol to limit global temperature increases. He explained that the new NDC 3.0 is primarily mitigation-focused and, whilst voluntary, carries legal and moral obligations for implementation. Bangladesh needs around USD 25 billion each year to implement its NDC targets; however, the climate finance currently available remains both insufficient and inconsistent in quality. He stressed that adaptation remains a persistent challenge, even as mitigation commitments grow stronger. Dr Ahmed pointed out that NDC 3.0 is the first to mobilise local resources, reflecting growing national ownership of the process. He concluded by emphasising that universities, the private sector, international



(From Left) *Dr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman*, Professor and Researcher, Independent University, Bangladesh; *Dr Atonu Rabbani*, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka; *Dr Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed*, Deputy Managing Director of PKSF and *Mr Shaikh Muhammad Mehedi Ahsan*, Assistant Professor (Adjunct), Department of Environmental Science and Management (DESM), Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

organisations, and the government must collaborate to ensure effective implementation, good governance, and inclusivity across all climate action initiatives.

Dr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, Professor and Researcher, Independent University, Bangladesh, discussed how NDC 3.0 differs from earlier versions by focusing on implementation rather than just target-setting. He explained that the new framework contains measurable conditional and unconditional goals, along with clearer financing requirements. Drawing from Vietnam's example, he illustrated how the inclusion of sectors such as health can enhance the comprehensiveness of national climate strategies. Dr. Rahman emphasised the need to integrate climate considerations not only at the national level but also throughout local governance structures to ensure a consistent approach.. He also underscored the crucial role of private sector participation, better data management, and academic engagement, suggesting that universities integrate environmental studies into their curricula to build awareness and support for NDC implementation.

Sabrin Sultana, Research Analyst, Change Initiative, discussed the challenges Bangladesh faces in balancing international commitments with limited financial support. She noted that the government is cautious about assuming additional domestic burdens, given the unpredictability of international finance flows. Bangladesh's current NDC 3.0 aims for a 9 per cent reduction in carbon emissions by 2035, but progress on conditional targets remains limited. She pointed out that the climate finance landscape is dominated by loans rather than grants, increasing fiscal stress on developing economies. She emphasised the importance of social inclusion, particularly of women and marginalised communities, in climate adaptation and mitigation projects. Finally, she urged improvements in data availability, incentives for foreign investment, and the promotion of locally driven innovation to ensure that NDC goals are achieved in an equitable and sustainable manner.

Bareesh Hasan Chowdhury, Legal Researcher, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), discussed how NDC 3.0 aligns with national policies, including commitments to a just transition and youth inclusion, but identified key gaps such as limited renewable energy deployment and the absence of a clear roadmap for phasing out outdated infrastructure. He criticized the focus on large-scale projects, pointing out that smaller, community-level initiatives often get inadequate attention.. Chowdhury also raised concerns about political interference in high-emission sectors like transport, which hinders the enforcement of environmental standards. He suggested that Bangladesh should focus on localised solutions, such as green public transport and domestic financing mechanisms, to improve implementation. He emphasised the importance of developing effective emission standards for vehicles and creating a more transparent carbon taxation framework to support sustainable growth.

Dr Atonu Rabbani, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, critically examined the statistical underpinnings of NDC 3.0, questioning the reliability of data and the accuracy of emission baselines. He noted that the 2035 Business-As-Usual (BAU) scenario may overestimate expected emissions, leading to lower-than-intended mitigation targets. *Dr Rabbani* argued that low per capita energy consumption remains a key obstacle to industrial and social development and that policies must balance sustainability with growth. He suggested modernising the national electricity grid, establishing a carbon credit market, and encouraging greener urban initiatives. Furthermore, he highlighted the potential of the RMG sector to lead in adopting green technologies, provided there is better coordination between private enterprises and public policy.

Shaikh Muhammad Mehedi Ahsan, Assistant Professor (Adjunct), Department of Environmental Science and Management (DESM), Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), discussed the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and public health, noting that pollution-related deaths and reduced life expectancy are growing concerns. He highlighted the dominant role of the private sector in emissions and pointed out that policymaking in Bangladesh is still not data driven. Ahsan emphasised that academics must engage more directly with political leaders to ensure the design of feasible, evidence-based policies. He emphasised the importance of implementing NDCs in a localised and coordinated manner, with specific targets assigned to each ministry. Mr Ahsan also called for the creation of credible organisations to certify private sector emission reductions and for better coordination between technical experts and policymakers to strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

Dr Shailly Kedia, Director, Sustainable Development and Outreach, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), discussed the Paris Agreement as a global framework that provides both direction and accountability for implementing NDCs. She highlighted that integrating NDC goals into national budgets is crucial for ensuring sustained financing and policy coherence. Drawing from India's experience, she recommended that Bangladesh adopt green-responsive budgeting and increase private sector involvement in climate financing. Dr Kedia also emphasised the importance of developing measurable indicators, such as vulnerability indices, to monitor adaptation outcomes. She concluded that coherence between national and subnational policies is key, and that the private sector, government, and development partners must work together to build resilient and financially viable climate strategies.

Dr Muhammad Asif Iqbal, Managing Director, Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC), Pakistan, reflected on Pakistan's experience with NDC implementation, emphasising that although the country contributes less than 1 per cent of global emissions, it faces significant climate-induced challenges, including frequent floods and heatwaves. He identified institutional fragmentation, limited political commitment, and weak data systems as the main barriers to effective NDC operationalisation. Dr. Iqbal emphasized that South Asian nations could significantly benefit from enhanced regional cooperation through adoption of shared low-cost technologies, data-sharing platforms, and capacity-building initiatives. He recommended establishing robust Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems to enhance accountability and gender-responsive budgeting to ensure inclusivity. His remarks highlighted the need for both national-level reform and regional collaboration to make NDC goals achievable across South Asia.

Dr Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), WTO, discussed the role of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)- a trade and investment capacity-building programme designed to help the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) strengthen their economic and institutional resilience. He outlined four interlinked areas essential for achieving climate-resilient development: clean and accessible energy, sustainable waste management and circular economy, resilience building, and climate finance. Dr Adhikari emphasised that access to clean and affordable energy remains a critical challenge in LDCs, whereas inadequate infrastructure hampers growth and adaptation efforts. He noted that sustainable waste management, particularly in the form of e-waste recycling, can be transformed from a purely environmental issue into a development opportunity, generating youth employment and promoting technological innovation. Citing global examples, he referred to Rwanda's Green Park, which has established a state-of-the-art recycling facility, and Vanuatu's post-cyclone reconstruction project, which not only rebuilt

critical infrastructure but also created jobs and revitalised tourism through upgraded ports. Regarding climate finance, *Dr Adhikari* reiterated that available funding is far from adequate and that countries like Bangladesh require significant financial support to address their climate vulnerabilities. He urged for stronger domestic resource mobilisation and improved fiscal systems to complement international assistance, thereby enhancing the sustainability of national adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD, concluded the session by summarising the discussions and highlighting key takeaways. She observed that whilst national and international policy frameworks on climate action have evolved significantly, the inclusion of low-income and marginalised communities remains limited. Dr Khatun stressed that climate policies must be formulated and implemented with a clear focus on equity and social justice, ensuring that vulnerable populations are not left behind in the transition to a green economy. She emphasised that it is time for all stakeholders—the government, development partners, private sector, and civil society—to design and execute climate policies that are inclusive, participatory, and sensitive to the needs of the most affected groups. Dr Khatun concluded by urging that future policies be accompanied by concrete implementation mechanisms, measurable outcomes, and robust accountability frameworks so that commitments translate into tangible improvements in resilience and livelihoods across communities most at risk from climate change.

Recommendations:

- Prioritise full operationalisation of NDC 3.0 through measurable and accountable frameworks.
- Mobilise domestic resources alongside international finance to achieve adaptation and mitigation goals.
- Encourage regional collaboration for technology transfer, capacity building, and MRV systems.
- Develop transparent carbon taxation and emission certification mechanisms for private sector compliance.
- Integrate universities and research institutions in monitoring and reporting for policy accountability.

3.3.2 Parallel Session 2: Climate and Gender: Integrating Equity in Policies

Professor Rounaq Jahan, Distinguished Fellow, CPD, began the session by emphasising that integrating gender into climate policies remains one of the most persistent equity challenges, as women continue to be underrepresented in both policy design and implementation. Despite the existence of Bangladesh's Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) since 2013, she questioned its true operationalisation across ministries and whether it represents genuine mainstreaming or mere tokenism. Drawing on her earlier work *The Elusive Agenda*, she reflected that whilst the concept of gender mainstreaming has existed for decades, its outcomes remain limited and often symbolic rather than transformative. She highlighted that resilience is typically discussed in the context of the extreme poor, overlooking the broader spectrum of women affected by climate shocks. Professor Jahan urged policymakers to integrate justice and gender perspectives into climate adaptation and mitigation dialogues and to develop monitoring frameworks that ensure women's ownership in land use, forestry, and access to finance. She urged scaling up effective disaster management practices and integrating gender sensitivity into all stages of policy to ensure women's needs are fully addressed.

Ms Banasree Mitra Neogi, Director, Rights and Governance Programmes, Manusher Jonno Foundation, observed that previous climate sessions often lacked a gender lens, despite the availability of strong policy frameworks. She noted that only a few initiatives in Bangladesh qualify as gender-sensitive or gender-responsive, and without these, it is impossible to achieve truly gender-transformative programming. Although community-based projects such as solar energy initiatives and early warning systems have generated positive results, transparency and scalability remain issues due to limited climate finance and inadequate budget responsiveness. She recommended that the government enhance capacity-building for ccGAP implementation, expand effective community-based programmes with explicit equality components, and strengthen gender budgeting to ensure accountability. Ms Neogi also highlighted the need for skill development and innovation to prepare local actors—especially women—for implementing gender-responsive climate actions. Overall, she underscored that closing the implementation gap through stronger institutions, gender mainstreaming, and financial inclusion is essential for sustainable progress.

Ms Farah Kabir, Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh, highlighted the long-standing exclusion of women and youth from mainstream climate action, despite their central role in resilience-building. She noted that Bangladesh established its Climate Trust Fund to reduce dependence on international finance, yet implementation and inclusivity remain weak. The continued absence of gender inclusion in national charters and the limited political attention to women's priorities reflect systemic shortcomings. She observed that many pilot projects have succeeded in promoting women's participation but rarely receive investment for scaling up. Ms Kabir stressed that ministries must integrate gender-specific climate actions through stronger intra-ministerial coordination, local-led adaptation strategies, and mandatory gender assessments for all climate programmes. She proposed decentralising technical and financial resources, developing zone-specific climate programmes, and ensuring that ccGAP becomes a mandatory mandate for local governments. She



(From Left) *Dr Faria Sultana*, Senior Assistant Professor, Department Head, American International University-Bangladesh; *Mr Sheikh Rokon*, Associate Editor, Daily Samakal, Secretary General, Riverine People; *Ms Banasree Mitra Neogi*, Director- Rights and Governance Programmes, Manusher Jonno Foundation; *Ms Farah Kabir*, Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh; *Professor Rounaq Jahan*, Distinguished Fellow, CPD; *Ms Nuzhat Jabin*, Country Director, Christian Aid Bangladesh; *Dr Farhana Rafiq*, Associate Professor, Dept of Economics, American International University-Bangladesh; and *Ms Sharmin Islam*, Gender Team Lead, UNDP.

also urged the government to play a stronger role internationally, particularly in securing loss and damage financing, and to mobilise youth participation in NDC processes.

Dr Faria Sultana, Senior Assistant Professor, Department Head, American International University-Bangladesh, focused on the intersectionality of gender and climate change, emphasising that women experience climate impacts differently based on socioeconomic status, occupation, and geography. She argued that gender considerations are still treated as an afterthought in policy design rather than being integrated into planning and evaluation mechanisms. Many policies, she noted, do not adequately address local realities or ensure that women's perspectives shape project design. *Dr Sultana* identified persistent challenges such as gender mainstreaming failures, limited gender-disaggregated data, weak implementation, and inadequate financing. She urged policymakers to acknowledge that integrating gender into budgets is insufficient unless the allocations are meaningful and transformative. Highlighting the exclusion of women from accessing economic resources and decision-making roles, she stressed that inclusive, data-driven, and well-funded gender-responsive frameworks are essential for sustainable climate governance.

Mr Sheikh Rokon, Associate Editor, Daily Samakal, Secretary General, Riverine People, emphasised that whilst the ccGAP is well-written, its success depends on effective grassroots implementation. He described how river erosion, salinity, and floods have severe gendered impacts, as women bear the brunt of displacement and resource scarcity. He observed that food and water insecurity following disasters often lead to gender-based violence and further marginalisation of women. Highlighting local innovation, he contrasted large-scale river management projects costing hundreds of crores with low-cost, nature-based 'bandalling' solutions using bamboo and Dhoinchha, which have proven effective yet face bureaucratic resistance. His studies show that women often prefer these community-based, sustainable approaches, whilst men and policymakers tend to support high-cost engineering projects. Mr Rokon recommended that women's voices and traditional knowledge systems be given due weight in project design and policy formulation. He concluded that incorporating women's perspectives at all levels and recognising indigenous knowledge would make climate solutions more inclusive and contextually appropriate.

Ms Shakti Gurung, Vice President, DPNet, Nepal, shared Nepal's experience in integrating gender into climate governance, noting that despite extensive policy frameworks such as the National Climate Change Policy 2019 and gender action plans, women remain underrepresented in decision-making roles. Nepal, she said, is transitioning from gender-aware to gender-transformative policies by empowering women-led civil society organisations to monitor government action and ensure accountability. She described how multi-stakeholder local engagements—linking authorities, communities, NGOs, and the private sector—have enhanced preparedness and resilience, including through early warning systems. Women-led community initiatives, such as running community kitchens during the earthquake, demonstrated strong leadership and adaptability. *Ms Gurung* emphasised that whilst Nepal has enough policies and mandates, the current priority must be effective implementation and translating commitments into ground-level results. Collaboration between CSOs, UN agencies, and the government has shown that coordinated, partnership-driven approaches can significantly reduce gender gaps in resilience and climate adaptation.

Dr Farhana Rafiq, Associate Professor, Dept of Economics, American International University-Bangladesh, emphasised that women disproportionately bear the burden of climate change due to their higher exposure to livelihood risks, health hazards, and resource scarcity. She explained

that pre-existing inequalities such as limited access to land, finance, and technology amplify the gender impacts of climate shocks. However, access to technologies like solar energy and mobile connectivity can enhance women's agency by reducing care work, improving communication, and strengthening their role in household and community decision-making. She noted that digital and financial tools such as mobile financial services can help women share experiences, build networks, and foster collective resilience. *Dr Rafiq* recommended that women not only gain access to but also ownership of technologies to increase their decision-making power. She further emphasised the importance of grassroots capacity-building and training programmes to reduce vulnerability and enhance adaptive capacity.

Ms Nuzhat Jabin, Country Director, Christian Aid Bangladesh, discussed how gender often becomes a 'tick-box' issue in climate discourse, where mainstreaming is claimed but not meaningfully pursued. She emphasised that intersectionality must extend to marginalised groups, including persons with disabilities and transgender individuals. Structural barriers such as low education levels, dependence on microcredit, and restrictive social norms hinder women's participation in decision-making. She pointed out that whilst climate discourse frequently focuses on coastal and flood-prone areas, drought-prone regions and their gendered impacts are often overlooked. Drawing on a pilot study by Christian Aid, she showed that combining small grants for loss and damage with financial literacy training improves repayment rates and savings, proving that financial inclusion leads to empowerment. She urged a shift from microcredit dependency to locally tailored financial instruments like insurance schemes and emphasised the critical role of the private sector in driving green innovation, resource mobilisation, and job creation.

Ms Sharmin Islam, Gender Team Lead, UNDP, highlighted that among UNDP's six signature solutions, gender equality stands as a goal. She noted that in Bangladesh's coastal areas, women suffer disproportionately from time poverty, care burdens, and increased exposure to gender-based violence, challenges further intensified by climate stress. She observed that persistent investment gaps in gender-focused climate actions hinder progress and that gender-responsive budgeting remains underutilised. She recommended enhancing the capacity of local governments, as they serve as first responders in crises, and encouraging ministries to address crosscutting issues collaboratively. She also called for stronger participation from both the public and private sectors to bridge the investment gap through tools such as insurance mechanisms. Additionally, she emphasised the need to engage men as partners in promoting gender equity, suggesting awareness programmes that sensitise men to the gendered dimensions of climate impacts.

Participants collectively underscored the need to integrate mental health, particularly for adolescent and pregnant women in disaster-prone areas, into climate resilience programmes. They highlighted persistent social barriers such as early marriage, male-dominated decision-making, and coordination failures among ministries. Many stressed that gender responsiveness must be embedded in climate finance frameworks, budgets, and governance systems. The discussion also revealed that data accessibility, participatory advocacy, and knowledge-sharing platforms are essential for informed policymaking. Stakeholders agreed that inclusive planning, listening to women, transgender individuals, and men at the grassroots is critical.

Professor Rounaq Jahan, Distinguished Fellow, CPD, concluded the session by emphasising that achieving genuine gender equality in climate action requires more than policy commitments—it demands women's leadership, decision-making power, and ownership of resources at all levels.

Without these foundational changes, she cautioned, efforts towards inclusivity will remain incomplete. She further highlighted that men's active engagement and support are equally essential to dismantling existing social and institutional barriers. Professor Jahan stressed that equal rights and equal opportunities for all members of society, regardless of gender, are the cornerstones of building a just, resilient, and sustainable future in the face of climate change.

Recommendations:

- Mainstream gender considerations into all climate policies, budgets, and monitoring systems.
- Institutionalise gender-responsive budgeting and enhance coordination between ministries.
- Ensure women's representation and leadership in all levels of climate governance and decision-making.
- Promote gender-transformative adaptation strategies, incorporating mental health and social protection aspects.
- Strengthen local-level implementation of ccGAP and community-based gender initiatives.

3.3.3 Parallel Session 3: Carbon Pricing and Carbon Markets in Bangladesh

Mr Keisuke Iyadomi, Senior Climate Change Specialist, The World Bank, presented a comprehensive overview of global carbon pricing mechanisms, emphasising their importance in reducing greenhouse gas emissions whilst generating revenue for sustainable development. He explained that instruments such as carbon taxes and emissions trading systems (ETS) can promote low-carbon transitions if tailored to national circumstances. With over 80 jurisdictions adopting such systems, covering nearly 28 per cent of global emissions, Bangladesh has a unique opportunity to design a model suited to its economy. He highlighted that developing economies like India and Brazil are already expanding



(From Left) *Mr Shaymal Barman*, Carbon Market Expert; *Mr Shashish Shami Kamal*, Assistant Professor, Department of Development Studies, Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP); *Mr Shafiqul Alam*, Lead Energy Analyst, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA); *Mr Alomgir Morshed*, CEO, IDCOL; *Mr Keisuke Iyadomi*, Senior Climate Change Specialist, The World Bank; *Mr Shams Zaman*, Country Managing Partner, PwC; *Dr Sakib Bin Amin*, Professor, Department of Economics, North South University and *Mr Tanul Chakraborty*, Head of Power Energy and Environmental Sustainability, Ha-Meem Group.

carbon pricing to hard-to-abate sectors, offering lessons for Bangladesh. *Mr Iyadomi* stressed that robust market design, transparent monitoring, and equitable revenue use are critical to maintaining public trust. He recommended that Bangladesh explore integrating agriculture and industry into a carbon market framework and align national policies with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement to attract international financing and promote cross-border cooperation.

Dr Sakib Bin Amin, Professor, Department of Economics, North South University, emphasised that effective carbon pricing must be grounded in sound economic analysis to balance environmental goals with growth needs. He noted that Bangladesh's market distortions and weak institutional capacity pose major challenges to implementing a carbon market efficiently. He underscored the importance of building governance systems, strengthening monitoring and enforcement, and increasing public awareness about carbon pricing. *Dr Amin* suggested that Bangladesh begin with the fossil fuel sector, its largest emitter, whilst simultaneously investing in renewable energy and technology upgrades. He recommended using public-private partnerships to identify decarbonisation priorities and gradually prepare industries for carbon pricing. He concluded that strong data systems, regulatory reforms, and education are essential to ensure that future carbon mechanisms are transparent, efficient, and economically viable.

Mr Tanul Chakraborty, Head of Power Energy and Environmental Sustainability, Ha-Meem Group, shared Ha-Meem Group's experience in emissions management, distinguishing between relative and absolute emission reductions. Whilst efficiency measures have lowered relative emissions, absolute emissions continue to rise due to production expansion. He highlighted technical constraints such as limited rooftop space for solar energy and reliance on boilers as major emission sources. *Mr Chakraborty* identified the absence of a clear carbon trading policy in Bangladesh as a key obstacle for the private sector. He explained that existing International Renewable Energy Certificates (IRECs) are restricted to domestic trade, limiting competitiveness and increasing costs. He recommended establishing a transparent carbon market with fixed base prices for credits to enhance predictability and fairness. He also called for stronger Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems using advanced technologies and argued that a credible market framework would not only reduce emissions but also attract international investors and lower financing costs.

Mr Shafiqul Alam, Lead Energy Analyst, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), discussed the importance of selecting a carbon pricing model suited to Bangladesh's economic and industrial structure. He argued that while cap-and-trade systems require a liquid market, Bangladesh's fragmented emissions profile makes a carbon tax more practical. He cautioned that imposing carbon taxes on subsidised sectors could lead to fiscal inefficiencies and recommended starting with pilot programmes in industries like brick kilns to test feasibility. *Mr Alam* stressed that clear mechanisms for allocating and utilising carbon revenue are vital for transparency. He also recommended conducting thorough impact assessments to evaluate potential cost pass-through effects on consumers. Emphasising inclusive stakeholder engagement, he advocated for long-term strategies that combine carbon taxation with incentives for energy efficiency, innovation, and gradual decarbonisation in high-emission industries.

Mr Shashish Shami Kamal, Assistant Professor, Department of Development Studies, Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP), emphasised the global shift towards green industrial policies and the importance of integrating carbon pricing with Bangladesh's broader development strategy.

He highlighted that whilst ETS and carbon taxes can promote sustainability, their design must account for asymmetric information and potential manipulation by firms. He warned that without stronger regulatory oversight, large corporations might establish barriers that hinder smaller firms from entering the market. *Mr Kamal* identified opportunities for Bangladesh to engage in bilateral carbon credit cooperation with countries like Australia and to explore blue carbon credits through the Sundarbans mangrove ecosystem. He recommended policy tools such as feed-in tariffs and joint ventures for green technology transfer to promote clean industrial growth. Addressing the lack of skilled labor, he urged that skill development be prioritised to ensure that green industrialisation translates into equitable and efficient outcomes.

Mr Shams Zaman, Country Managing Partner, PwC, outlined a phased approach for implementing carbon pricing in Bangladesh, beginning with industry-specific benchmarking and pilot projects. He stressed the need to reduce energy subsidies and strengthen leadership to implement politically challenging reforms. Awareness programmes and incentive structures should be introduced to encourage voluntary participation from industries, gradually evolving into a regulated market. He pointed out that the readymade garments and steel sectors hold high potential for decarbonisation and could lead by example. *Mr Zaman* also noted that export-oriented industries will face increasing external pressure to decarbonise, which could catalyse wider industrial transformation. He concluded that once pilot initiatives succeed, international support will follow, allowing Bangladesh to scale up its carbon pricing initiatives and establish a strong, market-driven decarbonisation model.

Ms Aparna Sharma, Programme Lead, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), shared India's experience in developing its Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), launched in 2023, which includes both compliance and voluntary mechanisms. She explained that India's focus on emission intensity rather than absolute reductions offers flexibility for emerging economies. By operationalising Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, India has facilitated bilateral cooperation and attracted climate finance inflows. Ms Sharma suggested that Bangladesh can learn from this approach while developing its own carbon pricing framework. She emphasised that successful implementation requires robust MRV systems, strong institutional coordination, and reliable data. Building national capacity with support from organisations such as the ADB and the World Bank will be crucial. She concluded that Bangladesh should design its carbon market in a way that ensures local communities benefit directly, thereby aligning climate action with inclusive development and national growth goals.

Mr Shaymal Barman, an expert in Carbon Market, discussed the international carbon market's growing significance, emphasising its role in mobilising climate finance under the Paris Agreement. He explained that Bangladesh's NDC commitments, particularly the conditional components, must be backed by credible domestic efforts to attract donor support. He noted that Bangladesh aims to position itself as a carbon credit seller through mitigation projects and that a national carbon registry is being developed to support this objective. *Mr Barman* advised that any carbon pricing policy must avoid burdening consumers and remain economically sustainable. He concluded that Bangladesh has strong potential in carbon credit generation and must focus on transparency, pricing fairness, and institutional readiness to succeed in both domestic and international carbon markets.

Mr Alomgir Morshed, CEO, IDCOL, shared IDCOL's experience in implementing projects eligible for carbon credits but noted that the current market lacks liquidity and predictability. He emphasised that Bangladesh's climate vulnerability positions it well for carbon market engagement,

provided that a national strategy is in place. Drawing inspiration from Malaysia's national carbon strategy, he recommended that Bangladesh develop a comprehensive policy framework to guide carbon market participation and attract international investors. He raised critical questions about institutional coordination, asking who within the country would lead, buy, and sell carbon credits. *Mr Morshed* proposed that the World Bank and key national agencies convene stakeholders, including the National Board of Revenue, to address policy gaps. He stressed that clear leadership, communication, and effective branding are essential to position Bangladesh as a credible and proactive participant in the global carbon market.

Recommendations:

- Develop a national carbon pricing strategy aligned with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
- Carbon pricing should be designed as a part of broader strategy to lower GHG reduction and ensure local benefits, affordability, effectiveness and equitable distribution.
- Create transparent and predictable carbon credit markets with robust MRV systems.
- Integrate carbon pricing into industrial and fiscal policies to attract green investment.
- Build national capacity for carbon accounting, pricing, and market participation.

3.3.4 Parallel Session 4: Climate-smart Agriculture and Food Security

Dr K.A.S. Murshid, Former Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), framed food security as a pillar of national security, noting that climate discourse must therefore fully integrate agricultural and food-system resilience in the face of rising protectionism and other global shocks. He observed that about three quarters of households depend on agriculture for livelihoods and that achieving mere self-sufficiency is insufficient unless it is clarified whether the goal covers all food types or selected categories. Key constraints include farmer access to finance, technology adoption and



(From Left) Professor Dr Jahangir Alam Khan, Former President, Bangladesh Agricultural Economists' Association; Dr Mohammad Khalequzzaman, Director General (Routine charge), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute; Dr K. A. S. Murshid, Former Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and Dr M Asaduzzaman, Former Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

maintenance, high levels of food loss and poor nutritional outcomes (excess carbohydrate intake), and transport and cold-chain gaps. To address these, he recommended reconceptualising national security to include food security, scaling climate-resilient technical solutions, balancing short-term farmer needs with long-term sustainability, improving finance and subsidy instruments to encourage uptake of new technologies, and investing in post-harvest systems and data to quantify and reduce food waste while promoting nutrition-sensitive agricultural policy.

Dr M. Asaduzzaman, Former Research Director, BIDS, stressed that the agricultural impacts of climate change have not been adequately debated and highlighted rising average temperatures, erratic water availability and structural features of Bangladeshi agriculture, e.g., high incidence of very small landholdings, which require tailored, place-sensitive policies. He flagged institutional and administrative bottlenecks that slow implementation of known solutions, ambiguous design of instruments such as parametric insurance, and inefficiencies in irrigation pricing. His recommendations included developing locally calibrated adaptation measures, refining parametric insurance design, piloting and scaling payment for ecosystem services schemes (including irrigation pricing reforms that reward sustainable practices), strengthening science-technology links for low-emission, resilient agriculture, and using collaborative knowledge platforms to share best practices across geographies.

Dr Khalequzzaman, Director General (Routine charge), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, highlighted Bangladesh's leading position in global rice production while calling attention to serious losses - both post-harvest and 'table loss' - and significant methane emissions from paddy cultivation. He noted the availability of climate-resilient rice varieties (about 30–38 varieties) and practical mitigation options such as direct seeding to reduce emissions but stressed farmer hesitancy to adopt new methods due to limited land and weak incentives. To tackle these issues, he recommended stronger outreach and training for both male and female farmers, targeted subsidies or awareness campaigns to accelerate adoption of low-emission planting techniques, investment in transport, cold-chain and storage infrastructure to reduce post-harvest and table losses, and policy support to align crop-pattern interventions with climate-smart production goals.

Dr Mokbul Morshed, Professor and Head of Department of Development and Sustainability (DS), Asian Institute of Technology, focused on the role of insurance as a risk transfer and resilience tool for smallholders, identifying two core obstacles- low farmer uptake (especially among older farmers who distrust or are unwilling to pay premiums) and private insurers' lack of profitability incentives. He emphasised the protection gap and noted that government incentives alone are insufficient to mobilise insurers. His recommendations included detailed studies and pilots to design profitable insurer participation models, bundled products that lower costs and enhance farmer benefits, targeted awareness and capacity building to increase demand for insurance among youth and women, and public-private partnerships or blended subsidies that ensure insurers see a viable business case whilst farmers receive affordable cover, ultimately making climate insurance a practical element of smallholder resilience packages.

Dr Kamrul Hassan, Professor, Department of Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, BAU, highlighted the twin concerns of food safety and nutrition, pointing out persistent child stunting and nutrient deficiencies (iron, zinc, vitamin A) alongside large food losses for fruits and vegetables (up to 24–40 per cent). He stressed that achieving food security requires both higher productivity and aggressive waste reduction, noting that food waste is concentrated in higher-income households and the restaurant sector. He advocated investments in post-harvest management (cold storage,

packaging), adoption of climate-smart production systems (vertical farming, hydroponics), research and technology such as gamma irradiation to reduce losses, and public campaigns to shift dietary patterns towards more nutritious intake- alongside productivity increases to close nutrition gaps.

Professor Jahangir Khan, Former President, Bangladesh Agricultural Economists' Association, traced the sectoral emissions profile - methane from rice and nitrous oxide from fertiliser, irrigation and machinery, and warned that falling outputs will exacerbate food insecurity. He argued for climate-resilient crop varieties (short-duration, stress-tolerant), improved water management and crop diversification, and measures to reduce emissions through efficient fertiliser use and solar irrigation. He highlighted long lags in research uptake and underfunding of agricultural R&D and called for increased allocation from resilience/climate funds to agriculture (currently less than 10 per cent of such funds), stronger institutional coordination, training for post-harvest management, and targeted financial incentives (cash support, interest-free loans, insurance) that prioritise women and vulnerable farming communities to maintain productivity and prevent displacement.

Dr Mahfuz Kabir, Research Director, BISS, emphasised that coastal agriculture remains chronically under-prioritised despite acute salinity intrusion, degraded resources and shifting rainfall/temp patterns that disrupt input-output relations. He noted troubling increases in pesticide use and misinformation about irrigation, and that whilst 'smart irrigation' and solar irrigation technologies deliver cost and environmental benefits, uptake remains low due to social misperceptions and supply constraints. He, therefore, recommended scaling up smart irrigation and solar solutions with deliberate awareness campaigns to correct misconceptions, targeted subsidies or financing to lower upfront costs (e.g., scaling solar power tiller manufacture), and community engagement to improve social acceptance while strengthening extension services to spread proven practices.

Mahabur Rahman, Head, Agriculture and Food Security (AFS), BRAC International, warned that arable land is shrinking (1 per cent per year), making productivity improvements essential, and noted that both rice and cattle contribute significantly to methane emissions whilst remaining vital for livelihoods. He described BRAC's practical interventions, from high-yield varieties to innovative logistics (e.g., using bananas to transport vaccines) and large female farmer outreach, and flagged finance access problems that BRAC addresses with crop insurance and early weather information. He recommended scaling demand-driven high-yielding varieties, expanding crop insurance and market linkages, strengthening women's inclusion in value chains, and ensuring early-warning and extension services are scaled to remote areas to sustain productivity without compromising environmental outcomes.

Dr Sikha Thapa Magar, Executive Director, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI), compared Bangladesh and Nepal, noting similar gains in agriculture but declining yields due to post-production marketing failures and climate shocks. She underscored storage and post-harvest losses as major constraints, advocated for simple, user-friendly technologies (drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting and storage) accessible to women, children and the elderly, and urged reducing middlemen exploitation by improving market access. Her recommendations included investing in storage improvements, gender-sensitive and labour-saving tools, local government budget allocations for agriculture with gender-responsive budgeting, and promoting farmer entrepreneurship through green, resilient value chain interventions that bypass exploitative intermediaries.

Dr Anil Kumar Das, Senior National Programme Specialist, FAO, explained FAO's role in supplementing national policy, highlighting that fisheries are often excluded from agricultural policy and that farmers lack bargaining power. He discussed FAO support to form producer organisations and scale resilient practices, from floating agriculture to gher/shoja systems and new climate information dissemination through DAE SMS/web systems. He recommended formalising fisheries within agriculture policy, scaling producer organisations to improve market bargaining, expanding climate information systems and SMS advisories, and continuing technical support for floating and gher farming to strengthen coastal and deltaic resilience.

Dr Amijath Babu, an Agriculture Economist, outlined systems-level innovations, including conservation agriculture, seed systems for cereals and algorithms to guide crop decisions, and emphasised integrating technologies as comprehensive packages rather than unconnected tools. He described promising steps such as- humidity thresholds, forecasting tools and farmer-to-farmer learning and proposed making algorithms farmer-friendly (audio Bengali outputs via AI), expanding extension training, piloting harvesters with sustainable business models, and scaling integrated innovation packages that bundle forecasting, agronomy, finance and market linkages for practical, accessible climate-smart agriculture.

Sumaiya T. Ahmed, Head of Sustainability, PRAN-RFL Group, showcased private-sector solutions, recounting PRAN's intervention in mango value chains to reduce waste via processing and cold storage and its 12,000-farm contract network including almost 8,000 women. She stressed the private sector's role in plastic waste management, emission reduction and inclusive value chains and recommended deepening partnerships for farmer upskilling, prioritising women's inclusion in value chains, investing in processing and storage to reduce market failures, and strengthening public-private collaboration to meet international market standards and scale agribusiness models.

Shamsun Naher Salam, Senior Programme Associate, WFP, stressed that food security is central to WFP's work, noting the acute need to reduce post-harvest losses to supply fresh food. She described WFP's aggregation centres and training partnerships with DAE to strengthen market linkages and institutional buying for smallholders. Her recommendations included scaling aggregation and agribusiness centres, expanding post-harvest technologies and training, creating stronger market linkages with institutional buyers, and strengthening fisheries training to diversify incomes and reduce losses across perishables.

Dr Mohammad Sakhawat Hosen, Director, Sustainable Economic Development, Friendship NGO, described Friendship NGO's holistic work in remote and riverine zones by forming farmers' clubs, delivering health and vaccination services, and promoting climate-friendly agriculture- whilst noting persistent low adoption of technologies, especially by women who face limited decision-making power. He recommended gender-sensitive outreach, strengthening input supply and market access in remote areas, scaling up farmers' clubs as vehicles for monthly climate training and market engagement, and designing interventions that increase women's economic participation to raise their contribution to GDP through climate-adaptive agricultural practices.

Participants urged policymakers to decide whether national self-sufficiency targets should cover all foods or selected categories, highlighted Bangladesh's poor nutritional profile and overreliance on rice, with implications for methane emissions.

Recommendations:

- Integrate food security and nutrition goals into climate policies and national security strategies.
- Invest in post-harvest management, storage, and transport infrastructure to reduce food loss.
- Promote smart irrigation, solar energy, and climate-resilient crops through targeted subsidies and training.
- Enhance farmer insurance schemes and access to finance for smallholders and women farmers.
- Strengthen public-private collaboration in agribusiness for inclusive and resilient food systems.

3.3.5 Parallel Session 5: Climate Finance, Landscape, Policy and Governance

Dr Suborna Barua, Professor, Department of International Business, University of Dhaka, presented a consolidated national estimate that aligns with the NAP, NDC and long-term development plans, concluding Bangladesh's annual climate finance need at roughly USD 29.29 billion versus an estimated domestic mobilisation capacity of about USD 2.76 billion, a gap of USD 26.5 billion (6.07 per cent of GDP). She underscored that closing this shortfall will require substantial private-sector engagement alongside public resources and recommended a blended finance strategy that leverages private capital, concessional finance, and national policy reforms to create bankable projects that can absorb both domestic and international climate funds.

Mr. Chowdhury Liakot Ali, Director, Sustainable Finance Department, Bangladesh Bank, highlighted that Bangladesh Bank aims to create financial demand aligned with national priorities, especially under the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The government has identified a USD 230 billion financing gap by 2030 across 113 NAP projects, which public funds alone cannot meet. To address this, Bangladesh Bank updated its Sustainable Finance Policy (2023) and expanding it beyond the Sustainable and Green Finance Taxonomies to include a Climate Finance Taxonomy.



(From Left) *Mr Sader M Asaduzzaman*, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP; *Mr Chowdhury Liakot Ali*, Director, Sustainable Finance Department, Bangladesh Bank; *Dr Suborna Barua*, Professor, Department of International Business, University of Dhaka; *Dr Shah Md. Ahsan Habib*, Professor [Selection Grade], Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) and *Mr Khondkar Morshed Millat*, Former Director of the Sustainable Finance Department, Bangladesh Bank.

He noted that banks must allocate 40 per cent of their total net outstanding as sustainable finance and 5 per cent as green finance, with 20 per cent for homeland business and 25 per cent for Cottage, Micro, and Small (CMS) sectors. As of June 2025, about 34 per cent of total sustainable finance has been disbursed, showing strong sectoral participation. To curb greenwashing, the central bank follows a white-list approach to define eligible green products. All financial institutions must also comply with the Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD) checklist under ESRM guidelines, which are being updated with input from multilateral development banks.

Bangladesh Bank also aligns with the government's renewable energy target of 30 per cent of power from renewables and a Deputy Governor-led task force has recommended ensuring 20 per cent renewable-based power generation and developing merchant power and ESCO model policies. These steps are expected to create major private-sector financing opportunities.

Mr. Ali added that the central bank is preparing the financial sector for the EU and UK Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms, which will tax high-emission sectors like cement whilst giving low-carbon exporters, such as apparel, a relative advantage. Bangladesh Bank is adopting IFRS S1 and S2 standards for climate-related disclosures to attract global investment, though measuring financed emissions remains a challenge.

He emphasised the need for blended finance and low-cost funding for non-bankable projects, noting that 10 per cent of CSR budgets are now reserved for a climate fund to subsidise interest rates. A Green Credit Guarantee Scheme for CMS and thematic sectors is being developed, offering policy relaxations in the new Master Circular. Finally, he stressed efforts to expand private-sector engagement in climate finance and mentioned ongoing work to develop a carbon trading policy for banks and financial institutions, signaling Bangladesh's readiness to enter emerging carbon markets.

Khondkar Morshed Millat, Former Director, Sustainable Finance Department, Bangladesh Bank, reflected on the long trajectory of Bangladesh Bank's CSR and environmental risk management efforts, whilst noting persistent market frictions for SMEs such as- unclear segmentation, information gaps, and weak uptake of circular guidelines. He argued that the principal barrier is not only finance availability but knowledge and access. Entrepreneurs often do not know eligibility or procedures to obtain collateral-free or guarantee-backed loans. His recommendations focused on capacity building, a unified SME database, moral suasion and continued policy guidance to operationalise circulars, and targeted interventions to improve information flows and bank-client linkages so climate finance reaches SMEs effectively.

Dr. Janak Raj, Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress, presented findings from a forthcoming study assessing climate finance requirements for nine G20 emerging market economies (EMEs), including the five BRICS nations and four others- Mexico, Argentina, Indonesia, and Turkey. Unlike previous top-down models, this research uses a bottom-up approach, estimating a total financing need of USD 2.22 trillion by 2030 or USD 250 billion per year which is significantly lower than earlier projections of USD 2-3.5 trillion. The reduction reflects cost savings from avoided fossil-fuel investments, as renewables and electric vehicles reduce infrastructure needs.

Sector wise, the power sector requires about USD 149 billion (USD 121 billion for generation and USD 28 billion for storage), whilst cement, steel, and road transport demand USD 1.11 trillion, USD 453 billion, and USD 459 billion, respectively. China alone accounts for USD 1.3-1.4 trillion of

this total, mainly due to its expensive fast-charging infrastructure. Excluding China, the combined requirement for the other EMEs is around USD 854 billion.

These investments could help abate roughly 32.9 billion tons of CO₂ at an average cost of USD 153 per tons, with lower marginal costs in power (USD 66 per tons), steel (USD 53 per tons), and cement (USD 49 per tons). He noted that EMEs together account for 30 per cent of global GDP and 50 per cent of total emissions in this group, underscoring their importance in global mitigation.

Currently, multilateral development banks (MDBs) provide about USD 20 billion annually to these economies, projected to rise to USD 31 billion by 2030, meeting only 9–10 per cent of total needs. Combined with IMF Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) funds, of which only USD 47 billion has been committed and USD 7–8 billion disbursed- the global total for climate finance to developing countries remains around USD 250 billion per year, far below requirements.

For Bangladesh specifically, annual inflows of around USD 7–8 billion contrast sharply with an estimated USD 55 billion annual need, reflecting a major financing gap. Dr. Raj concluded that despite lower revised estimates, climate finance for EMEs remains vastly insufficient, and both domestic readiness and international commitments must be strengthened to meet future mitigation and adaptation goals.

Dr Shah Md. Ahsan Habib, Professor (Selection Grade), Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), challenged simplistic notions of the finance gap as mere demand–supply mismatch, urging rigorous project design to prove funds are actionable and outcomes measurable. He highlighted structural differences between Bangladesh's financial sector and those in countries that offer long-term infrastructure finance, warning of asset-liability mismatches if instruments are poorly chosen. His recommendations included designing implementable projects that central bank and donors can trust, channeling long-term climate finance through commercial banks with appropriate risk-sharing instruments, embedding ESG with inclusion (E+S+G), and promoting cluster financing models to make green projects bankable for local lenders.

Mr. Sarder Asaduzzaman, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP, warned that ODA and grants are declining and that LDC graduation will further constrain concessional flows, stressing the urgency of readiness to absorb vertical funds. He described UNDP support for geotagging and climate finance tracking and emphasised the need for vulnerability-indexed resource allocation to ensure funds reach the most affected upazilas and unions. His recommendations were to strengthen country readiness (faster project start-ups), improve geo-tracking and climate budgeting, institutionalise climate audits, adopt equity indicators for fund distribution (including gender and regional targeting), and bolster climate diplomacy and local government capacity to negotiate and deploy finance effectively.

Dr Erandhati Pathiraja, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), contrasted mitigation finance (driven by private buyers and export industries) with the relative infancy of adaptation and loss-and-damage finance, urging careful selection among financing modalities (grants vs. low-cost loans) in debt-stressed contexts. Highlighting governance risks such as corruption, she recommended strengthened transparency and digitalisation to reduce misuse, prioritised low-risk loans and technical assistance, and the use of innovative tools (debt-for-nature swaps, carbon markets) where appropriate- all whilst building private-sector incentives for renewable investment to reduce import dependency and fiscal pressure.

Sabidin Ibrahim, Senior Sub Editor, Daily Bonik Barta, emphasised that Bangladesh should avoid over-dependence on grants and loans and instead prioritise self-sufficiency, noting vulnerabilities such as health risks and extreme heat episodes in coastal areas. He recommended stronger partnerships with other climate-vulnerable countries to amplify bargaining power, accelerate renewable sector development, and promote domestic resilience strategies that reduce future finance dependency.

Mahfuzul Haque, Senior Research Fellow, Climate Finance Governance, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), flagged persistent transparency and integrity problems in climate finance, noting that only a small fraction of aid qualifies as genuine climate finance and that Bangladesh has historically received limited grant-based adaptation funding. He warned that misuse is common and stressed the need for distinct tracking, specific budget codes, systematic monitoring and stronger business models for adaptation projects. His recommendations included developing mechanisms for transparent NCQG access, stronger local consultation, robust monitoring and independent audits, and developing viable adaptation business models, whilst ensuring funds prioritise coastal and highly vulnerable districts.

Syeda Afzalun Nessa, Head of Sustainability, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC), described private-sector sustainability products (sustainability-linked loans) and the critical role of blended finance and guarantees to mobilise private capital, especially for apparel decarbonisation needs. She recommended demand-led, sectoral financing strategies, verification through third-party engineering checks (to avoid greenwashing), use of blended instruments and guarantees to finance non-bankable projects, and the development of strong business models to ensure repayment and scalability. She also advocated tying sustainability KPIs to finance instruments and expanding sectoral analyses to unlock tailored private finance.

M. Mofazzal Hossain, Research Associate, Change Initiative, argued that adaptation is a public good requiring public finance systems rather than purely commercial banking solutions; he criticised the politicisation of international climate finance and the diversion of funds to fossil projects. He recommended channelising public funds towards long-term adaptation public goods, using innovative instruments (tokenisation, dollar-denominated bonds) to create fiscal space, prioritising impact over nominal flows, and reforming public finance management to track and maximise climate outcomes rather than simply inflows- whilst using Bangladesh's LDC representation to advocate for equitable international finance terms.

Recommendations:

- Close the national climate finance gap through blended finance, private sector engagement, and innovative instruments.
- Improve transparency, monitoring, and accountability of climate funds at all levels.
- Adopt vulnerability-based and gender-responsive budgeting for equitable resource allocation.
- Expand digital tracking and climate audits to ensure efficient use of funds.
- Encourage sustainable banking practices and climate-related financial disclosure standards.

3.3.6 Parallel Session 6: Achieving Debt Sustainability in the Face of Climate Change & Report Launch: 'Navigating Debt, Development and Disasters: Making Debt Sustainability Analyses Work for Bangladesh'

Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD, opened the session by highlighting that the newly launched report—developed under the global Task Force on Climate, Development, and the International Financial Architecture—integrates climate risks and transition financing needs into Bangladesh's Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA). She noted that Bangladesh's debt sustainability is increasingly shaped by climate-induced disasters and weak domestic resource mobilisation, which together heighten fiscal stress and external debt risks, particularly as the country prepares to graduate from LDC status in 2026. The discussion, she said, aims to explore how climate vulnerability intersects with fiscal capacity and to identify the necessary policy and financial reforms for long-term resilience.

Ms Afrin Mahbub, Research Associate, CPD and keynote presenter, elaborated on the study's findings, co-authored with Dr Khatun and colleagues. She explained that whilst Bangladesh's debt remains technically sustainable, liquidity pressures are intensifying due to rising non-concessional borrowing, shorter grace periods, and growing external vulnerabilities. Using the IMF–World Bank LIC-DSF framework, the paper stress-tested four scenarios, namely—climate losses, CBAM export shocks, rising interest rates, and loan-to-grant conversions. Results revealed that solvency risks are low, but liquidity risks are moderate to high, particularly when debt servicing ratios breach thresholds even in baseline conditions. The study recommends converting climate loans into grants, integrating climate shocks into DSA projections, expanding the tax base, avoiding



(From Left) *Mr Sajjadur Rahman*, Deputy Editor, The Business Standard; *Dr Sadiq Ahmed*, Vice Chairman, Policy Research Institute (PRI); *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD); *Dr Fahmida Khatun*, Executive Director, CPD; *Mr Enamul Huque*, Managing Director, Country Chief Risk Officer, Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh; *Mr Asjadul Kibria*, Planning Editor, The Financial Express; *Ms Afrin Mahbub*, Research Associate, CPD and Mr Syed Yusuf Saadat, Economist, UNDP.

variable-rate borrowing, and utilising instruments like the Loss and Damage Fund to strengthen fiscal resilience and sustainability.

Dr. Kevin P. Gallagher, Director of Boston University's Global Development Policy Center, emphasised that effective debt management requires not only mobilising finance but ensuring its productive use. He noted weaknesses in the current LIC-DSA framework, which overlooks CBAM impacts, multiplier effects of public investment, and loss-and-damage financing. Gallagher urged MDBs to expand concessional lending and align support with national priorities rather than institutional interests. He called for a fifth DSA scenario reflecting varying investment and interest-rate conditions and suggested Bangladesh collaborate with SAARC countries to build a regional climate-integrated DSA framework. He also endorsed pause clauses in debt repayment during disasters and stressed that financing must remain affordable, with the cost of capital below projected growth rates.

Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD, underlined the need to understand the marginal impact of climate change on debt sustainability and to assess whether Bangladesh's 4–5 per cent climate budget share is adequate given the actual cost of disasters. He pointed to the lack of mechanisms to evaluate how effectively climate funds are spent and stressed that transparency, outcome measurement, and linking expenditures to disaster costs are critical. Professor Sobhan recommended distinguishing between domestic and external sources of climate finance, assessing borrowing costs post-LDC graduation, and exploring new financing avenues from Asia and emerging economies, rather than relying solely on traditional donors.

Mr. Jwala Rambarran, Senior Advisor, Financial Futures Center, discussed the declining access to concessional funds as Bangladesh graduates from LDC status. He highlighted the potential of innovative instruments, such as debt-for-nature swaps and debt pause clauses- to enhance fiscal resilience, drawing on experiences from Grenada and Barbados. Rambarran recommended adopting pre-arranged, anticipatory financing rather than post-disaster response, noting that every dollar invested in early resilience can save about five dollars in avoided losses.

Mr. Asjadul Kibria, Planning Editor, The Financial Express, praised the report's climate-related budget estimation but urged future research to include sectoral breakdowns and to improve the utilisation and efficiency of climate funds. He expressed concern that Bangladesh's post-graduation status may limit access to grants, making effective fund management even more crucial.

Mr. Sajjadur Rahman, Deputy Editor, The Business Standard, highlighted the importance of private sector involvement in mobilising and implementing climate finance. He recommended integrating climate stress tests into DSA frameworks and expanding blended finance mechanisms to leverage both public and private investments. He also supported exploring climate finance swaps to simultaneously reduce debt burdens and fund adaptation efforts.

Dr. Howard Haughton, an expert in finance and risk management, critiqued the current LIC-DSA and Medium-Term Debt Strategy (MTDS) frameworks for their failure to incorporate climate risks or interlinkages between liquidity and solvency. He recommended integrating DSA and MTDS through dynamic simulation-based modelling to better capture correlations among interest rates, reserves, GDP, and debt. Haughton urged the inclusion of catastrophe-related debt clauses and

scenario-based assessments of climate shocks, noting that climate disasters increase capital costs even in resilient economies. He stressed that governance reform and policy discipline are vital to maintaining fiscal prudence and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Dr. Sadiq Ahmed, Vice Chairman, PRI, stressed that domestic rather than external debt poses the greater sustainability challenge for Bangladesh. He observed that domestic debt has risen to 23 per cent of GDP, raising interest costs, whilst external debt remains manageable at around 15 per cent. Climate adaptation pressures are expected to further increase domestic borrowing due to weak tax mobilisation. Dr. Ahmed argued that relying on international climate funds is unrealistic, because Bangladesh received only USD 461 million over 15 years and called for environmental fiscal reforms, including carbon taxes and integrating green growth across all public investments. He warned that waiting for external funds would only delay essential adaptation.

Mr. Enamul Huque, Managing Director and CRO, Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh, noted the growing fiscal gap, with tax-to-GDP at 6.6 per cent and expenditure at 12.6 per cent. He cautioned that bank mergers, estimated to cost USD 1.8 billion, could strain fiscal capacity. Huque advocated debt-for-nature swaps and Just Energy Transition-style partnerships to mobilise liquidity, whilst improving project efficiency and measuring resilience outcomes. He also emphasised that graduation from LDC status will reshape Bangladesh's financing landscape, demanding a careful transition strategy.

Mr. Syed Yusuf Saadat, Economist, UNDP, reiterated that climate change has become a macro-financial challenge, reinforcing debt vulnerability through higher borrowing needs and recurrent shocks. He criticised the global financial system's loan-heavy climate finance structure, where countries 'pay twice' - once for damages and again for recovery. Saadat urged Bangladesh to engage with MDBs to reform these systems while simultaneously strengthening domestic fiscal bases, tax reform, and institutional capacity to build self-reliance in addressing climate-debt challenges.

Dr. Rishikesh Ram Bhandary, Assistant Director, Boston University's Global Development Policy Center, concluded the session by emphasising the integration of both physical and transition climate risks into macroeconomic analysis. He praised the CPD paper for advancing this approach and urged a whole-of-budget framework where all public spending aligns with climate resilience objectives. He underscored the importance of high-quality, granular climate-fiscal data and committed to continued Task Force collaboration with CPD to advance the climate-debt agenda over the coming years.

Recommendations:

- Integrate climate risks and disaster shocks into debt sustainability analyses and fiscal frameworks.
- Advocate for debt-for-nature swaps, pause clauses, and concessional loans for climate-vulnerable economies.
- Enhance coordination between central bank, finance ministry, and development partners for resilient debt management.
- Strengthen domestic resource mobilisation and tax reforms to reduce fiscal dependence.
- Develop a regional platform for climate-debt analytics and knowledge sharing in South Asia.

Annexure 1

Programme Schedule

Inaugural Session

International Conference on A World Beyond Crisis: Climate Solutions That Work

Saturday, 18 October 2025, from 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Venue: Auditorium, BRAC Centre Inn, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka

Time	Activity
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Registration
9:30 am – 9:40 am	Welcome Remarks by the Chair <i>Dr Fahmida Khatun</i> Executive Director Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)
9:40 am – 9:55 am	Remarks by the Guest of Honour <i>Dr Syud Amer Ahmed</i> Lead Economist The World Bank
9:55 am – 10:25 am	Remarks by Special Guests <i>H E Mr Christian Brix Møller</i> Ambassador Embassy of Denmark, Bangladesh <i>Dr Monzur Hossain</i> Member (Secretary) General Economics Division Bangladesh Planning Commission <i>H E Mr Paulo Fernando Dias Feres</i> Ambassador Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil
10:25 am – 10:30 am	Closing Remarks by the Chair

*Opening Plenary session***Road to COP30: How Can National Interests Be Aligned With Global Climate Goals?**

Saturday, 18 October 2025, from 10:30 am – 1:00 pm

Venue: Auditorium, BRAC Centre Inn, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka

Time	Activity
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Welcome Remarks by the Chair <i>Ms Khushi Kabir</i> Member, CPD Board of Trustees
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Keynote Presentation by <i>Mr Foqoruddin Al Kabir</i> Senior Research Associate, CPD
11:00 am – 12:10 pm	Remarks by Distinguished Discussants <i>Mr Md Shamsuddoha</i> Chief Executive Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD) <i>Mr A S M Marjan Nur</i> Climate Change Policy Manager British High Commission <i>Ms Mousumi Perven</i> Senior Climate Change Officer Asian Development Bank (ADB) <i>Ms Shirin Sultana Lira</i> Programme Manager Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh <i>Mr Ulrich Kleppmann</i> Head of Development Cooperation German Development Cooperation Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany <i>Mr Mohammed Sohel</i> Director, BGMEA <i>Mr Md. Ziaul Haque</i> Director Department of Environment, GoB <i>Dr Shah Abdul Saadi</i> Deputy Secretary Economic Relations Division (ERD), GoB

Time	Activity
	<p><i>Dr Ainun Nishat</i> Advisor Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) BRAC University</p> <p><i>Professor Dr AK Enamul Haque</i> Director General Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)</p> <p><i>Mr Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad [ONLINE]</i> Distinguished Fellow Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)</p> <p><i>Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri [ONLINE]</i> Executive Director Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)</p> <p><i>Ms Suruchi Bhadwal [ONLINE]</i> Director, Climate Change and Air Quality TERI - The Energy and Resources Institute</p>
12:10 pm – 12:45 pm	Open Floor Discussion
12:45 pm – 12:55 pm	Remarks by the Chief Guest <p><i>Advocate Syeda Rizwana Hasan</i> Hon'ble Adviser Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Interim Government of Bangladesh</p>
12:55 pm – 1:00 pm	Closing Remarks by the Chair

*Parallel Session 1***Operationalising NDCs in Climate Vulnerable Countries**

Saturday, 18 October 2025, from 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Venue: Meeting Room 3, BRAC Centre Inn, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka

Time	Activity
02:00 pm – 02:05 pm	Welcome Remarks by the Chair <i>Dr Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed</i> Deputy Managing Director Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
2:05 pm – 2:20 pm	Keynote Presentation by <i>Ms Sabrin Sultana</i> Research Analyst, Change Initiative
02:20 pm – 03:30 pm (7 Min)	Remarks by Distinguished Discussants <i>Mr Bareesh Hasan Chowdhury</i> Legal Researcher Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) <i>Mr Pinaki Roy</i> Chief Reporter, The Daily Star <i>Dr Kazi Mahmudur Rahman</i> Professor and Researcher Independent University, Bangladesh <i>Dr Atonu Rabbani</i> Professor Department of Economics University of Dhaka <i>Mr Shaikh Muhammad Mehedi Ahsan</i> Assistant Professor (Adjunct) Department of Environmental Science and Management (DESM) Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) <i>Dr Shailly Kedia</i> [ONLINE] Director, Sustainable Development and Outreach The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) <i>Dr Muhammad Asif Iqbal</i> [ONLINE] Managing Director Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC) Pakistan <i>Dr Ratnakar Adhikari</i> [ONLINE] Executive Director Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), WTO
3:30 pm – 4:10 pm	Open Floor Discussion
4:20 pm – 4:30 pm	Closing Remarks by the Chair

Parallel Session 2

Climate and Gender: Integrating Equity in Policies

Saturday, 18 October 2025, from 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Venue: Meeting Room 1, BRAC Centre Inn, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka

Time	Activity
02:00 pm – 02:05 pm	Welcome Remarks by the Chair <i>Professor Rounaq Jahan</i> Distinguished Fellow Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)
02:05 pm – 03:00 pm (7 Min)	Remarks by Distinguished Discussants <i>Ms Banasree Mitra Neogi</i> Director- Rights and Governance Programmes Manusher Jonno Foundation <i>Ms Farah Kabir</i> Country Director ActionAid Bangladesh <i>Dr Faria Sultana</i> Senior Assistant Professor, Department Head American International University-Bangladesh <i>Mr Sheikh Rokon</i> Associate Editor, Daily Samakal Secretary General, Riverine People <i>Ms Shakti Gurung [ONLINE]</i> Vice President DPNet, Nepal <i>Dr Farhana Rafiq</i> Associate Professor, Dept of Economics American International University-Bangladesh <i>Ms Nuzhat Jabin</i> Country Director Christian Aid Bangladesh <i>Ms Sharmin Islam</i> Gender Team Lead, UNDP
3:00 pm – 4:10 pm	Open Floor Discussion
4:20 pm – 4:30 pm	Closing Remarks by the Chair

*Parallel Session 3***Carbon Pricing and Carbon Markets in Bangladesh**

Saturday, 18 October 2025, from 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm
 Venue: Auditorium, BRAC Centre Inn, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka

Time	Activity
02:00 pm – 02:05 pm	Welcome Remarks by the Moderator <i>Mr Keisuke Iyadomi</i> Senior Climate Change Specialist The World Bank
2:05 pm – 3:00 pm	Keynote Presentation By <i>Mr Keisuke Iyadomi</i> Senior Climate Change Specialist The World Bank <i>Mr Mirza Shawkat Ali</i> Director, Climate Change & International Convention Department of Environment
03:00 pm – 04:00 pm (7 Min)	Remarks by Distinguished Panelists <i>Dr Sakib Bin Amin</i> Professor, Department of Economics North South University <i>Mr Tanul Chakraborty</i> Head of Power Energy and Environmental Sustainability Ha-Meem Group <i>Mr Shafiqul Alam</i> Lead Energy Analyst Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) <i>Mr Shashish Shami Kamal</i> Assistant Professor Department of Development Studies Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP) <i>Mr Shams Zaman</i> Country Managing Partner, PwC <i>Dr Mohammad Emran Hasan</i> Head of Climate Justice and Natural Resources Rights Oxfam in Bangladesh <i>Ms Aparna Sharma [ONLINE]</i> Programme Lead Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

Time	Activity
	<i>Mr Shaymal Barman</i> Carbon Market Expert
	<i>Mr Alomgir Morshed</i> CEO, IDCOL
	<i>Dr Nurun Nahar Chowdhury, NDC</i> Additional Secretary (Development Wing) Energy & Mineral Resources Division, GoB
4:00 pm – 4:25 pm	Open Floor Discussion
4:25 pm – 4:30 pm	Closing Remarks by the Chair

*Parallel Session 4***Climate-smart Agriculture and Food Security**

Saturday, 18 October 2025, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Venue: Meeting Room 1, BRAC Centre Inn, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka

Time	Activity
05:00 pm – 05:05 pm	Welcome Remarks by the Chair <i>Dr K. A. S. Murshid</i> Former Director General Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)
05:05 pm – 06:30 pm (6 Min)	Remarks by Distinguished Discussants <i>Dr Mohammad Sakhawat Hosen</i> Director – Sustainable Economic Development Friendship NGO <i>Ms Shamsun Naher Salam</i> Senior Programme Associate World Food Programme (WFP) Bangladesh <i>Dr Anil Kumar Das</i> Senior National Programme Specialist, FAO <i>Ms Sumaiya T. Ahmed</i> Head of Sustainability, PRAN-RFL Group <i>Dr Mokbul Morshed [ONLINE]</i> Professor and Head of Department of Development and Sustainability (DS) Asian Institute of Technology <i>Dr Mohammad Mahfuz Kabir</i> Research Director Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) <i>Mr Mahabur Rahman</i> Head, Agriculture and Food Security (AFS) BRAC International <i>Dr Shikha Thapa Magar [ONLINE]</i> Executive Director Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) <i>Professor Dr Jahangir Alam Khan</i> Former President Bangladesh Agricultural Economists' Association

Time	Activity
	<p><i>Dr T.S Amjath Babu</i> Agricultural Economist (Modelling and Targeting) Sustainable Agrifood Systems Program (SAS) International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)</p>
	<p><i>Dr M Asaduzzaman</i> Former Research Director Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)</p>
	<p><i>Dr Md. Kamrul Hassan</i> Professor, Department of Horticulture Faculty of Agriculture, BAU</p>
	<p><i>Dr Mohammad Khalequzzaman</i> Director General (Routine charge) Bangladesh Rice Research Institute</p>
06:30 pm – 06:50 pm	Open Floor Discussion
6:50 pm – 7:00 pm	Closing Remarks by the Chair

*Parallel Session 5***Climate Finance, Landscape, Policy and Governance**

Saturday, 18 October 2025, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Venue: Meeting Room 3, BRAC Centre Inn, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka

Time	Activity
05:00 pm – 05:05 pm	Welcome Remarks by the Chair <i>Dr Suborna Barua</i> Professor, Department of International Business University of Dhaka
05:05 pm – 06:30 pm (7 Min)	Remarks by Distinguished Discussants <i>Mr Mahfuzul Haque</i> Senior Research Fellow, Climate Finance Governance Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) <i>Mr M. Mofazzal Hossain</i> Research Associate, Change Initiative <i>Mr Sabidin Ibrahim</i> Senior Sub Editor Daily Bonik Barta <i>Dr Shah Md. Ahsan Habib</i> Professor [Selection Grade] Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) <i>Mr Mohammad Hamidul Islam Chowdhury</i> Head of Project Climate Change and Sustainable Urban Development Cluster, GIZ <i>Ms Syeda Afzalun Nessa</i> Head of Sustainability The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited <i>Mr Sarder M Asaduzzaman</i> Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP <i>Mr Khondkar Morshed Millat</i> Former Director of the Sustainable Finance Department Bangladesh Bank <i>Mr Chowdhury Liakot Ali</i> Director, Sustainable Finance Department Bangladesh Bank

Time	Activity
	<p>ONLINE:</p> <p><i>Dr Janak Raj</i> Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress</p> <p><i>Dr Erandhati Pathiraja</i> Research Fellow Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS)</p>
6:30 pm – 6:50 pm	Open Floor Discussion
6:50 pm – 7:00 pm	Closing Remarks by the Chair

Parallel Session 6

High Level Dialogue on Achieving Debt Sustainability in the Face of Climate Change
&
Report Launch: “Navigating Debt, Development and Disasters: Making Debt Sustainability Analyses Work for Bangladesh”

Saturday, 18 October 2025, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
 Venue: Auditorium, BRAC Centre Inn, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka

Time	Activity
05:00 pm – 05:05 pm	Welcome Remarks by the Chair <i>Dr Fahmida Khatun</i> Executive Director, CPD
5:05 pm – 5:20 pm	Keynote Presentation by <i>Ms Afrin Mahbub</i> Research Associate, CPD
5:20 pm – 5:30 pm	Special Remarks by <i>Dr Kevin P. Gallagher</i> Professor, Boston University Pardee School of Global Studies, Director, Boston University Global Development Policy Center
5:30 pm – 5:35 pm	Launching of the Report and Photo Session Navigating Debt, Development and Disasters: Making Debt Sustainability Analyses Work for Bangladesh
5:35 pm – 5:45 pm	Special Remarks by <i>Professor Rehman Sobhan</i> Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)
5:45 pm – 6:45 pm (7 Min)	Remarks by the Panellists <i>Dr Sadiq Ahmed</i> Vice Chairman Policy Research Institute (PRI) <i>Mr Enamul Huque</i> Managing Director Country Chief Risk Officer Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh <i>Mr Sajjadur Rahman</i> Deputy Editor, The Business Standard <i>Mr Asjadul Kibria</i> Planning Editor The Financial Express

Time	Activity
	<p><i>Mr Syed Yusuf Saadat</i> Economist, UNDP</p> <p>ONLINE</p> <p><i>Dr Rishikesh Ram Bhandary</i> Assistant Director, Global Economic Governance Initiative Boston University Global Development Policy Center</p> <p><i>Dr Howard Haughton</i> Author, Leadership & Governance, Diversity & Inclusion, Finance and Risk Management expert</p> <p><i>Mr Jwala Rambaran</i> Senior Advisor, Financial Futures Center Distinguished Fellow, Climate Works Foundation</p> <p><i>Dr Daniel Titelman</i> Non-Resident Senior Fellow Global Economic Governance Initiative</p>
6:45 pm – 6:55 pm	Open Floor Discussion
6:55 pm – 7:00 pm	Closing Remarks by the Chair

Annexure 2

Media Coverage

1. *Daily Star* : <https://tinyurl.com/yaw6aksr>
2. *The Business Standard 1* : <https://www.tbsnews.net/environment/climate-change/bangladesh-must-fund-its-own-climate-future-experts-1263936>
3. *The Business Standard 2* : <https://publisher.tbsnews.net/economy/rehman-sobhan-calls-clear-inclusion-climate-costs-bangladesh-debt-planning-1263706>
4. *The Business Standard 3* : <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/resilience-transformation-speakers-cpd-climate-meet-call-measurable-action-1263306>
5. *The Financial Express* : <https://tinyurl.com/47dm29hp>
6. *Observer* : <https://www.observerbd.com/news/549469>
7. *Dhaka Tribune* : <https://tinyurl.com/ycydar6t>
8. *Dhaka Tribune* : <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/394297/cpd%E2%80%99s-climate-week-opens-with-a-call-to-act-not>
9. *Bangladesh Today* : <https://tinyurl.com/4jshsvye>
10. *Prothom Alo* : <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/ueatwsfi63>
11. *Bonik Barta* : <https://bonikbarta.com/bangladesh/zQ3MLSzNvpPBcR3>
12. *Bangladesh Protidin* : <https://tinyurl.com/hncc2tzm>
13. *Samakal* : <https://tinyurl.com/2ncvvt9c>
14. *Janakantha* : <https://www.dailyjanakantha.com/economy/news/866123>
15. *Jai Jai Din* : <https://tinyurl.com/4ujfhs6r>
16. *Kaler Kantha* : <https://www.kalerkantho.com/online/national/2025/10/18/1593476>
17. *BSS 1* : <https://www.bssnews.net/bangla/national/245269>
18. *BSS 2* : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/322538>
19. *BSS 3* : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/322507#:~:text=Member%20of%20the,CPD>
20. *Janakantha* : <https://tinyurl.com/5e54h2b9>
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