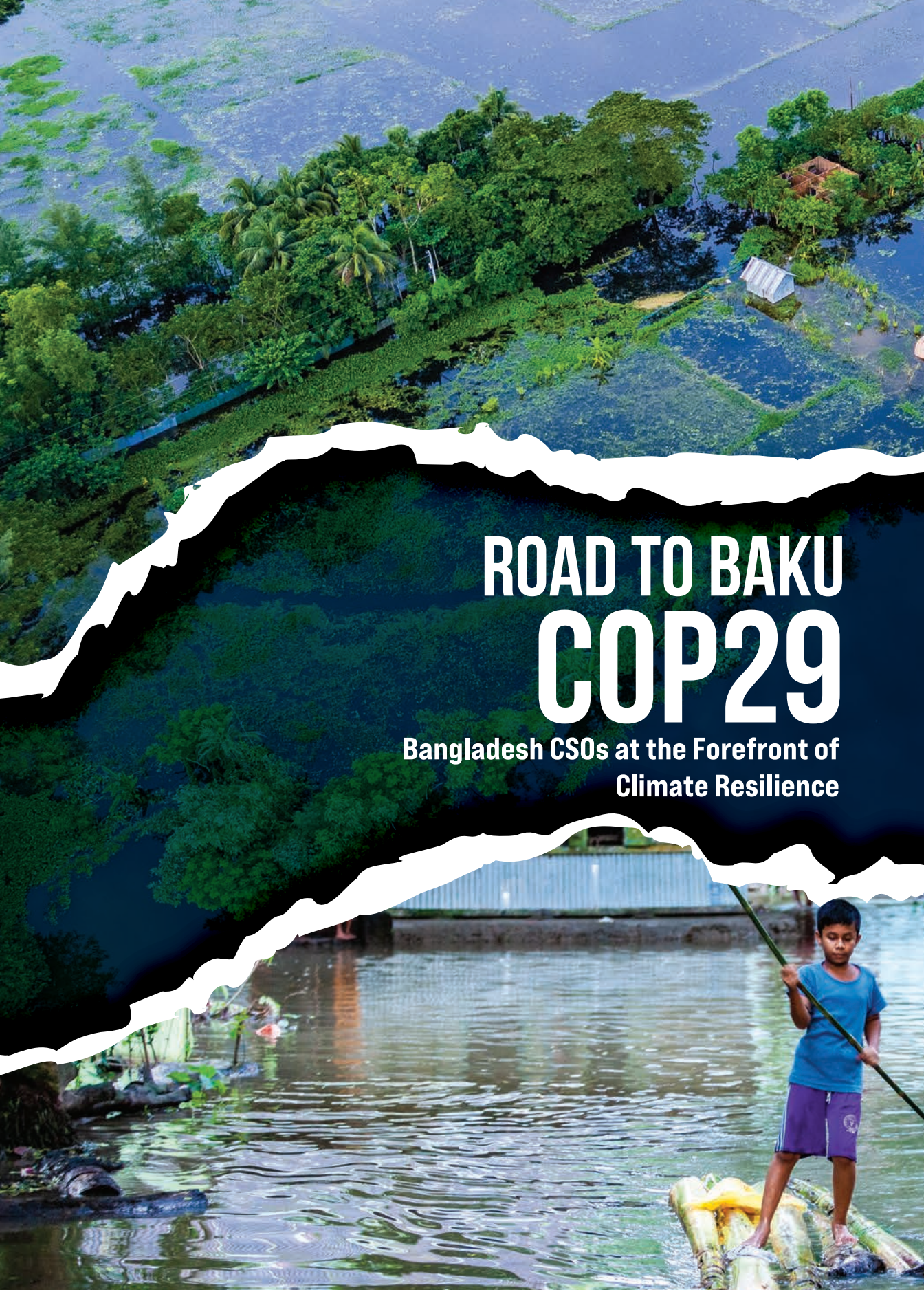

ROAD TO BAKU
COP29

Bangladesh CSOs at the Forefront of Climate Resilience

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SUPPORT ALLIANCE


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FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE


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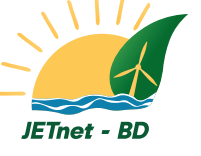
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Introduction

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Since the UNFCCC's inception in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, COP has met annually to assess progress in dealing with climate change and to negotiate commitments for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These meetings bring together nearly every nation, making COP the primary platform for international climate negotiations.

COP29 will take place in 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan, following the historic COP28, where major advancements on climate finance, adaptation, and the global stock take under the Paris Agreement were expected. As the climate crisis intensifies, COP29 is seen as a pivotal moment to build on existing commitments and accelerate action towards limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

Prospective Prime Agendas of COP29

Global Stocktake Results: COP29 will review the outcomes of the first-ever Global Stocktake from COP28, which evaluates collective progress towards meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement. This stocktake will shape new pledges and commitments to close the gap between current efforts and the goals needed to limit temperature rise.

Scaling Up Climate Finance: Ensuring that developed nations deliver on their promise to mobilize $100 billion annually in climate finance for developing countries will be a key issue. Discussions will focus on scaling up financial commitments to support climate mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage.

Strengthening Adaptation Measures: With climate impacts already being felt globally, COP29 will prioritize building resilience in vulnerable communities through enhanced adaptation strategies, funding for adaptation projects, and support for climate-resilient infrastructure.

Loss and Damage: Addressing the needs of countries like Bangladesh facing irreversible climate impacts will continue to be a critical agenda item. Following the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, COP29 may focus on refining mechanisms for its delivery and ensuring adequate resources are available.

Phasing Out Fossil Fuels: COP29 is likely to witness intensified negotiations on transitioning away from fossil fuels and accelerating the shift towards renewable energy, with a focus on the global energy transition and the phase-out of coal, oil, and gas subsidies.

Just Transition: A critical part of the discussions will be ensuring a fair and equitable transition for workers and communities impacted by the shift to a low-carbon economy. The Just Energy Transition agenda will be high on the list to ensure no one is left behind.

These agendas will shape the future of climate action and determine the international community's ability to respond to the pressing challenges of climate change and saving Mother Earth. Each COP builds on the agreements and progress of previous meetings, with the most notable outcome being the Paris Agreement, which has become the cornerstone of global climate efforts. COP28 will continue to push countries toward more ambitious actions to mitigate climate change and adapt to its inevitable impacts.

Indicators of Global Goals for Adaptation

The draft decision of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) on matters relating to the global goal on adaptation invites Parties and non-Party stakeholders to submit information on existing indicators for measuring progress towards the targets of decision 2/CMA.5. These indicators, covering local, national, regional, and global levels, should include methodologies, data readiness, and identified gaps for the potential development of new indicators.

In alignment with this, we have prepared a country position for COP29, focusing on the relevance, adaptability, and practicality of these indicators. Our submission emphasizes the need for flexibility in indicator application to reflect the unique challenges faced by countries like Bangladesh, particularly in the areas of coastal resilience, disaster management, and community-based adaptation strategies. This position outlines Bangladesh's priorities in advancing the global goal on adaptation, while calling for international support to bridge data and capacity gaps, ensuring inclusive and effective adaptation tracking.

Key Negotiation Priorities for COP29

a. Relevance of Indicators (Para 12a)

Bangladesh supports indicators for tracking adaptation progress but emphasizes the need for flexibility. Global indicators should reflect national priorities like coastal resilience and disaster management. However, they must allow for customization to accommodate local contexts.

b. Adaptation Focus and Data Use (Para 12b, 12c)

Indicators that enhance adaptive capacity are crucial for Bangladesh, but data limitations pose challenges. Bangladesh advocates for both qualitative and quantitative data, reflecting community-based and scientific approaches. International support is needed to improve data collection and ensure effective adaptation tracking.

c. Data Availability and Methodologies (Para 12d, 12h)

While Bangladesh supports data-driven indicators, data availability is a concern. The country calls for simple, transparent methodologies, with international assistance to build capacity for data collection and reporting, especially in under-resourced areas.

d. Local Context and Flexibility (Para 12e)

Global indicators must reflect local realities, such as the unique challenges faced by Bangladesh's coastal communities. Bangladesh advocates for a flexible approach that allows countries to tailor indicators to national needs while ensuring coherence with global standards.

e. Cross-Context Applicability and Simplicity (Para 12f, 12g)

Indicators should be applicable across different contexts but must be adaptable to each country's specific circumstances. Bangladesh also emphasizes the need for simplicity, ensuring indicators are easy for policymakers to interpret and use.

f. Disaggregated Data (Para 12i)

Bangladesh strongly supports the disaggregation of data by vulnerability factors like gender and socioeconomic status. However, collecting such data requires international support to build capacity, especially in vulnerable and marginalized areas.

g. Science and Traditional Knowledge (Para 12j, 12k)

Bangladesh advocates for a balance between scientific data and traditional knowledge in adaptation indicators. Both systems are valuable, particularly for addressing local adaptation challenges and ensuring a comprehensive view of progress.

h. Non-Comparative Use of Indicators (Para 12l)

Bangladesh agrees that adaptation indicators should not be used for direct comparisons between countries, given the diverse climate impacts each face. Instead, they should focus on self-assessment while promoting voluntary sharing of best practices.

Mitigation

Negotiating Mitigation actions under the Paris Agreement will be a critical issue in COP29. The parties of the UNFCCC will submit their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) by early 2025. Under the Paris Agreement, all party countries are required to submit new NDCs every five years with new commitments of emission-reduction targets and other measures to address mitigation actions. NDCs are considered the main strategic tool for the parties to jointly address the global climate crisis.

The parties of the UNFCCC decided to hold the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C to stop increasingly dangerous climate impacts. However, a recent UN report found current commitments put the world on track for a catastrophic 2.5-2.9 degrees C of warming by 2100. This indicates that the parties are not serious about mitigating their GHGs as committed in their NDCs. As decided by the parties most countries will achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. This decision on the mitigation actions to achieve 1.5 degrees C must be reflected in the upcoming new NDCs of the parties.

Based on the best available scientific assessment of climate change, the IPCC AR6 Report has shown that global warming is already underway which resulted in i) concentration of carbon dioxide unmatched for at least 2 million years, ii) glacier retreat unmatched for 2000+ years, iii) last decade warmer than any period for 125000 years, iv) sea level rise faster than any prior century for 3000 years, v) summer Arctic ice coverage smaller than any time in last 1000 years, vi) ocean warming faster than at any time since the end of the last ice age and vii) ocean acidification at the highest level of last 26000 years.

Bangladesh, LDCs and Group 77 and China must take a strong position to ascertain mitigation action by the developed country parties and major emitters to achieve the global goal of temperature rise. NDCs should not be a commitment on paper only but rather acting on the ground to move away from fossil fuels, transform transportation, food and agriculture, and more sectors to reduce GHG emissions significantly to move toward net-zero emissions. It has been seen in the past, that too many NDCs fell short of their potential to set out the ambition and actions needed for truly transformative climate action. Therefore, the country parties must develop their NDCs on the pace and scale of change they need to advance implementation to deliver the commitment they mentioned in the NDCs.

Considering the present situation of global warming, the country parties must focus on the following aspects of mitigation action implementation under the NDCs.

Key Negotiation Priorities for COP29

a. Strengthen 2025 and 2030 emissions-reduction targets and set 2035 targets aligned with 1.5 degrees C and net-zero emissions goals:

It is already found that mitigation actions taken under the current NDCs are inadequate to achieve the global goal of 1.5 degrees C. As the parties have agreed to achieve net-zero emissions by or around 2050, strong mitigation actions are necessary to reach the global goal of stopping ever-increasing temperatures.

IPCC research findings show that the dangerous impacts of climate change can be prevented by limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels. It suggested cutting global greenhouse gas emissions by 43% by 2030 and 60% by 2035, relative to 2019 and peaking the GHG emission before 2025. Now overarching issues are i) major emitters must take effective action in their emissions cuts than their present NDCs and ii) developed countries – historically the world's largest emitters- must take deepest reductions in their GHG emissions while providing committed new and additional finance to help developing countries accelerate climate action. In addition, all countries should set targets that include non-CO2 greenhouse gases such as methane in their updated NDCs.

b. Ambitious, time bound sectoral targets to accelerate systemwide transformation:

The parties of the UNFCCC should set sector-specific targets to achieve the goal of temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C. They must emphasize their emission reduction goals through national strategic planning and commitment i.e. NDCs. Present NDCs are far behind in achieving the global goal that signifies establishing ambitious, timebound targets for the energy system, food, agriculture, land management, etc. During COP29, Bangladesh should emphasize the just transition to zero-carbon energy- electrifying buildings, industry and transport and improving energy efficiency. This process has already been started in the COP28 through the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge. A country like Bangladesh can create further pressure to implement their pledges, particularly in the updated NDCs of the developed countries. Developed countries including major emitters have a responsibility to go furthest and fastest to achieve decarbonize targets to keep the 1.5 degrees C limit within reach.

Another area to address is a shift to resilient food systems to ensure food security in a growing population, halt deforestation, and reduce emissions. It has been recorded from various research that agriculture, forestry and land uses account for nearly one-fifth of annual GHG emissions globally. Bangladesh along with LDCs must pursue the inclusion of ecosystem conservation within the Global Stocktake and the Global Goal on Adaptation target to attain climate-resilience food system conservation in the NDCs of all countries especially developed countries and major emitters. In addition, emphasis must be given to preserving carbon sinks and stores such as forests, peatlands, mangroves, oceans, wetlands, grasslands, etc. to protect ecosystems and biodiversity. Another area to address is that all countries should set targets to halve food loss and waste by 2023 to address emissions from food production and consumption. Also, this effort needs to be supported by lowering per capita consumption of emissions-intensive beef, lamb and goat from high-consuming regions such as the Americas, Europe and Oceania.

c. Strong resilience to address increasingly dangerous and irreversible impacts of climate change:

Climate vulnerabilities are increasingly intensifying and impacting in irreversible ways due to sea level rise, severe storms, floods, cyclones, heatwaves, wildfires, etc. that underpin the importance of building strong resilience. The next generation of NDCs must consider National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to extend support to build resilience in climate-resilient food and agricultural

production and distribution, climate-related health impacts, reduce climate impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity loss, etc. In such efforts, countries must be involved with local communities and follow the principles for locally-led adaptation.

Also, it is important for preparing integrated plans in NDCs and NAPs for scaling up research, investment, and deployment of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies to reduce emissions from hard-to-decarbonize sectors.

Loss and Damage is high concern for climate-vulnerable countries which need to be included in the updated NDCs. Particular focus can be given to improving access to climate information, financial support, technical and capacity building of disaster-risk reduction, humanitarian assistance, rehabilitation, migration and slow-onset events.

d. Enhance investment and strengthen governance to implement the NDCs:

Commitments under the NDCs must be implemented to achieve the global target of keeping pace with temperature rise. Coordinated efforts of the whole government- public, private sectors and civil society to work together to transform ambition into reality through various policies, strategies, institutions and finance. It is critical to facilitate consensus-building and integrate climate issues into mainstream planning, policy and financial allocation and investment.

Like other developing countries, Bangladesh requires both technological and financial support to realize the conditional commitment of the NDC. Bangladesh with other developing countries must raise its voice for financial flow as grant money from the UNFCCC processes such as Green Climate Fund, Global Environmental Facilities, Multilateral Trust Funds, other Climate Funds, donors, and philanthropists to implement NDC actions on the ground.

e. People-oriented NDC implementation approach to achieve Sustainable Development Goals:

NDCs will need to draw strong linkages to a wide array of issues that range from creating jobs, diversified livelihoods, protecting health, developing local economy and so on Updated NDCs must address all these issues to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. Involve people in all stages of development and implementation of NDCs would be the best option for inclusive and transparent implementation. This approach emphasizes the responsibilities of stakeholders from diverse sectors of the economy to be involved in the NDC implementation. A collective and inclusive decision-mak ing process will engender a suitable path of sustainable development without bringing discomfort to the lives and livelihoods of people

Article 6 - Unlocking the Potential of Market Mechanisms for Bangladesh in Implementing NDC Mitigation Ambitions

Bangladesh is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries globally, despite contributing less than 0.56% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The country is exposed to frequent natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, and rising sea levels, all exacerbated by climate change. Bangladesh has committed to ambitious climate goals under the Paris Agreement, formalized in its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for 2021. To achieve these goals, Bangladesh recognizes the critical role of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which provides mechanisms for international cooperation, carbon trading, and finance.

Bangladesh is already in the process of establishing its institutional framework for engaging in Article 6 transactions, including Article 6.2 (bilateral or multilateral trading of carbon credits) and Article 6.4 (a centralized market mechanism for carbon credits). However, to fully operationalize its participation in carbon markets, Bangladesh will need significant support in terms of capacity building, finance, and technology transfer.

Climate Vulnerability and NDC Commitments: Bangladesh ranks seventh on the Global Climate Risk Index, highlighting its extreme vulnerability to climate change due to rising sea levels, increasing salinity, and more frequent cyclones. The World Bank projects that, by 2050, climate change could displace 13.3 million Bangladeshis, making climate action an urgent priority.

Bangladesh has set ambitious targets under its 2021 NDC. The country aims to reduce GHG emissions by 21.85% by 2030 compared to a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario. This includes an unconditional reduction of 6.73% and a conditional reduction of 15.12%, contingent on international financial and technical support. The total cost of implementing these mitigation measures is estimated at US$176 billion, of which Bangladesh plans to provide US$32.26 billion from its domestic resources, with the remaining US$143.73 billion expected from international sources.

The Potential of Article 6 for Bangladesh: Article 6 of the Paris Agreement allows countries to cooperate in achieving their climate goals by enabling market-based (carbon trading) and non-market approaches. The key mechanisms include:

Article 6.2: Enables bilateral or multilateral trading of emissions reductions, known as Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs), allowing countries to meet a portion of their NDCs by purchasing credits from others.

Article 6.4: Establishes a centralized market mechanism, replacing the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), to generate carbon credits from specific projects for international trading.

Article 6.8: Promotes non-market approaches, encouraging cooperation in areas such as finance, technology transfer, and capacity building to help countries achieve their NDCs without relying on market mechanisms.

For Bangladesh, unlocking the potential of Article 6 mechanisms is essential for achieving its climate goals. The country can benefit in several ways:

Attracting Climate Finance: Participation in international carbon markets can provide a new revenue stream for Bangladesh by trading carbon credits, enabling the financing of expensive mitigation projects in sectors like renewable energy and infrastructure.

Transfer: By engaging in Article 6, Bangladesh can access advanced low-carbon technologies crucial for achieving its conditional NDC targets, particularly in renewable energy generation and energy efficiency.

Building Institutional Capacity: Bangladesh is in the process of establishing its Article 6 Institutional Framework, which will regulate the generation, trading, and reporting of carbon credits. This framework will allow Bangladesh to generate and trade emissions reduction units on international carbon markets. However, significant technical and regulatory challenges remain.

Support Required for Operationalizing Article 6 in Bangladesh: To fully operationalize Article 6, Bangladesh requires substantial international support in several areas-

Institutional and Regulatory Framework Development:

Bangladesh has already started the process of establishing its Article 6 Institutional Framework to facilitate emissions trading under Articles 6.2 and 6.4. However, this framework needs further development, particularly in the areas of:

Carbon Registry System: Bangladesh requires a robust national carbon registry to track carbon credits, ensure compliance with international standards, and avoid double-counting. Support is needed to design and implement this registry in alignment with UNFCCC standards.

Regulatory Guidelines: International support is necessary to develop clear regulatory guidelines for validating and approving emissions reduction projects. This includes setting baselines, ensuring additionality, and verifying sustainability.

Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer:

For Bangladesh to engage effectively in carbon markets, significant capacity building is required at both the governmental and private-sector levels:

Training for Government Officials: Technical assistance is essential for government officials to understand the complex requirements of carbon markets, particularly in monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) processes and compliance with international carbon trading standards.

Engagement of the Private Sector: Encouraging private sector participation is critical. Bangladesh needs support to develop financial instruments and incentives to promote investment in emissions reduction projects, particularly in the energy, agriculture, and industrial sectors.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement: To ensure the success of carbon market activities, civil society and local stakeholders must be involved. Support is needed to build awareness and ensure that social and environmental safeguards are integrated into the framework

Financial Support for Mitigation Projects:

Given the substantial costs associated with NDC implementation, Bangladesh will require signifi cant financial assistance from developed countries, as committed under the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate finance. Specifically-

Financing Renewable Energy Projects: Bangladesh has vast potential for renewable energy, particularly in solar and wind power. However, the country lacks the necessary investment to scale up these projects. International climate finance is essential for project development and scaling.

Developing Carbon Market Infrastructure: Financial support is also needed to develop the infrastructure required for carbon markets, including the national registry system and MRV processes.

Technology Transfer and Innovation:

Technology transfer is critical for Bangladesh's efforts to decarbonize its economy and meet its NDC goals. Engagement through Article 6 offers an opportunity to access advanced technologies, but Bangladesh needs support to:

Enhance Renewable Energy Capacity: Investments are needed to increase Bangladesh's capacity to produce renewable energy. Support in accessing and implementing advanced solar, wind, and energy storage technologies is critical.

Adopt Cleaner Industrial Technologies: Bangladesh's industrial sectors, particularly textiles, steel, and cement, are major contributors to its GHG emissions. The country requires support to adopt cleaner, more efficient technologies to reduce emissions in these sectors.

Key Negotiation Priorities for COP29

At COP29, Bangladesh will focus on the following key points to advance its participation in Article 6:

a. Establishment of Clear Carbon Market Rules
Bangladesh calls for transparent and effective rules to govern Article 6 transactions, particularly on ITMO generation and trade. These rules must include strong safeguards to prevent double-counting and ensure environmental integrity.

b. Financial and Technical Assistance for Institutional Development:
Bangladesh will advocate for developed countries to provide financial and technical support to help establish its carbon trading infrastructure. This includes the development of a national registry system and MRV mechanisms.

c. Increased Climate Finance
Bangladesh will push for the mobilization of climate finance under the NCQG to support the development of mitigation projects, particularly in the renewable energy and industrial sectors. Bangladesh urges developed countries to meet their financial commitments to help developing nations operationalize Article 6.

d. Prioritizing Technology Transfer

Bangladesh will call for greater emphasis on technology transfer, particularly in low-carbon energy generation and industrial efficiency. This transfer is critical for enabling Bangladesh to meet its NDC goals and transition to a low-carbon economy.

e. Flexibility for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Most Vulnerable Countries (MVCs)

Bangladesh will advocate for flexible rules that recognize the unique circumstances of LDCs and the Most Vulnerable Countries, including simplified approval processes for emissions reduction projects and enhanced financial support.

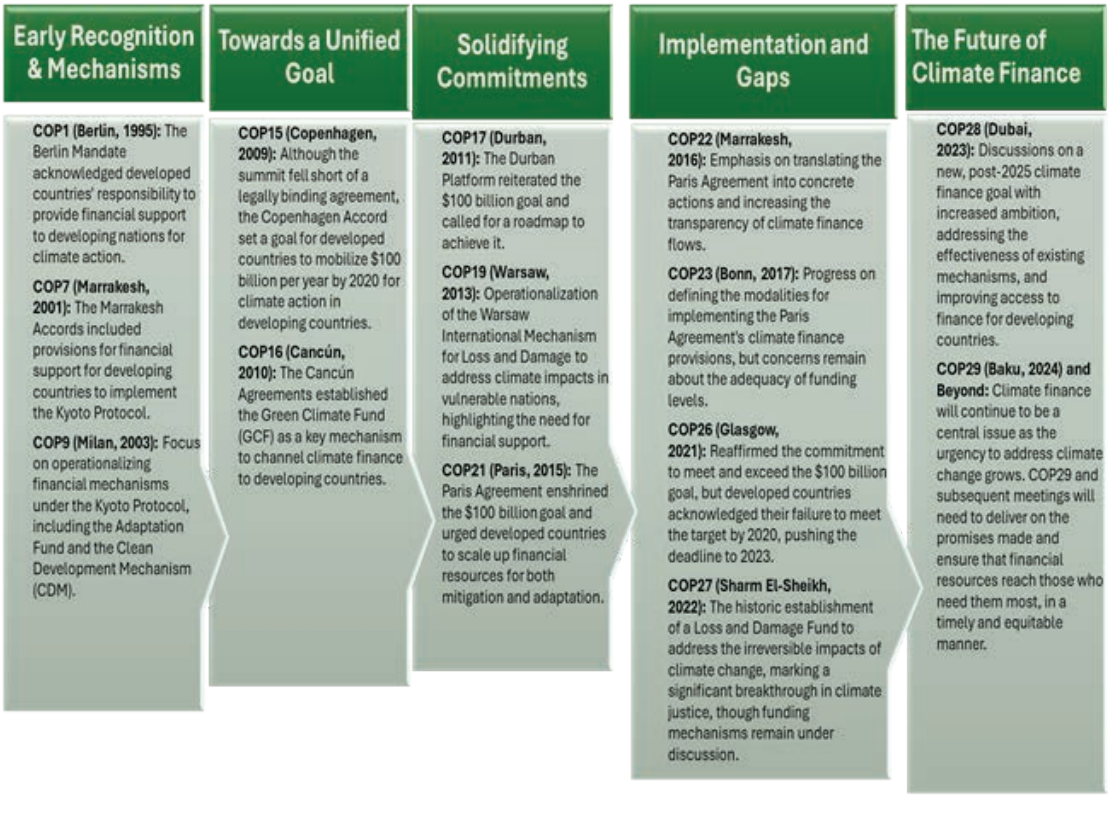
Bangladesh's engagement with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement is crucial for achieving its climate targets and mitigating the severe impacts of climate change. By leveraging international carbon markets and non-market approaches ,Bangladesh can access the financial ţechnical ąnd institutional support needed to meet its NDC commitments. At COP29, Bangladesh will focus on securing clear rules for carbon trading, mobilizing climate finance, and gaining support for capacity building and technology transfer.

The operationalization of Article 6 in Bangladesh is essential not only for achieving its mitigation goals but also for promoting sustainable development and ensuring the country's resilience to the escalating effects of climate change.

Climate Finance

Bangladesh, representing the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), will use COP29 to advocate for significantly increased climate finance, debt relief mechanisms, and just energy transitions. The nation faces a staggering climate finance gap, requiring an estimated $480 billion annually by 2030, far exceeding the currently pledged and underfunded $100 billion. This financial support is critical as climate change threatens to reduce Bangladesh's GDP by up to 9.8% by 2050 and caused $11.3 billion in damages in 2021 alone (World Bank, 2021).

Bangladesh will push for full implementation of debt relief frameworks, like the G20's "Common Framework," to free up resources for climate action. Additionally, they will advocate for phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, potentially unlocking over $500 billion annually for adaptation and renewables (International Energy Agency, 2021). A Global Renewable Energy Fund is also considered crucial for supporting just transitions in LDCs (IRENA, 2021). Bangladesh emphasizes the urgency for investment in sustainable agriculture and urban resilience as climate change increasingly threatens food security and urban populations. Their message for COP29 is clear: global cooperation is paramount to translate climate commitments into tangible financial support, enabling vulnerable nations to effectively combat the climate crisis.



Key Negotiation Priorities for COP29

Build on flagship initiatives such as the Paris Pact for People and Planet (4P), Bridgetown Initiative, Accra Marrakesh Agenda, G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, and African Leaders' Nairobi Declaration on Climate and Call to Action.

Moreover, accelerating the mobilization and deployment of climate finance from all sources, underscoring the importance of finance that is available, accessible, and affordable, particularly for the most vulnerable. Review the decisions of COP28 and emphasis should be given on the following issues:

a. Agreed Definition of Climate Finance:
Bangladesh should emphasize to define the climate finance aligning with the UNFCCC and Article 9.3 of Paris Agreement with the particular focus on grant-based finance aligning with the Polluters Pay Principle.

b. New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) and Enhanced Climate Finance Addressing Progressive Disasters:

Around $480 billion per annum in additional concessional (external public) finance is required to address climate actions by 2030. That means more than quadrupling the currently committed $100 billion 'new" and "additional" to ODA per annum or tripling ODA to just over 1 percent of OECD countries' 2022 gross national income, up from currently mobilization of 0.36 percent.

LDCs only get 3% of the global climate fund (CPI, 2023). Bangladesh should demand that at COP29, Parties agree on an ambitious New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) by reflects the needs of developing countries, with a major component of public finance provided by developed countries well above the minimum floor of USD 100 billion per year; prioritizing time-bound mobilization as well as disbursement of grant-based finance for adaptation and loss and damage, as well as highly concessional finance for mitigation of LDCs, SIDS and vulnerable developing countries and establishes a common definition of climate finance that is part of the transparency arrangements of the NCQG; incorporates fairness, equity, and justice considerations including the precarious debt situation of the vulnerable developing countries.

c. 100% Grant-based Adaptation Finance:
The global flow of funds is currently much less than the requirements, especially for climate adaptation. The CPI's Global Landscape on Climate Finance report shows that in 2019/2020 only 7% of climate finance was allocated for adaptation, in contrast to 90% for mitigation.

Different reports also illustrate that the provision of finance is far from meeting a 50:50 balanced allocation. Adaptation has been underfunded for a very long time and has not been considered a priority issue for developing countries. Most of the climate finance is loan (70%) even the adaptation finance. 100% access to grant-based finance for adaptation from 2025 to avoid further debt burdens.

Specific country-demand based Allocation of Adaptation Finance: Bangladesh along with LDCs should advocate for significant amount of adaptation finance (30%) should flow through the operating entities of the UNFCCC Financial Mechanism, the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund.Doubling of adaptation finance by 2025; and ambitious replenishment of the Green Climate Fund, significant contributions to the Adaptation Fund. COP29 should prioritize mechanisms for scaling up NAP implementation through technical and enhanced financial support, especially for the most climate-vulnerable LDCs. According

to a study conducted by ActionAid International in 2024, to avert climate catastrophe, developing countries need at least $1tn/yr in grant-based climate finance.

d. Debt Relief for the Vulnerable LDC and Grant-Based Finance:
Bangladesh along with the LDCs should raise the issue for full implementation of the "Common Framework for Debt Treatments Beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative". Adopt the Framework of the climate resilient debt clauses; consideration of debt-for-climate swaps; and sustainability linked bonds. Voluntary IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) should be rechanneled, subject to national legal frameworks, including through the Resilience and Sustainability Trust.

e. Reforms of MDBs and their Accountability:
Recognizing the Report of the G20 Independent Expert Group on Strengthening MDBs, the MDBs need to enhance operating models, improve responsiveness and accessibility, and increase financial capacity and need to work as a system, including through common country platforms, and collaborating with the multilateral funds to streamline access to finance, including local currency financing and making a difference in public adaptation finance.

f. Financial Supports to Implement Blue Carbon Initiative:
Coastal ecosystems like mangroves, saltmarshes, and seagrasses store carbon up to four times faster than tropical forests, with mangroves storing 50-90% of carbon in soil and saltmarshes and seagrasses storing 95-99%. Mangroves and saltmarshes sequester 6-8 tonnes CO2-eq./ha/yr, while seagrasses sequester 4 tonnes CO2 eq./ha/yr. In Bangladesh, the Sundarbans can sequester 2.2 million tonnes CO2-eq./year. Bangladesh could propose a Blue Carbon initiative focused on restoring and protecting mangroves, seagrass beds, and salt marshes. These coastal ecosystems store large amounts of carbon, provide natural flood defenses, and enhance biodiversity. Bangladesh should seek financial support in form of grant from international climate funds for blue carbon projects, which would also generate carbon credits and create sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities.

g. Nature Finance for Water Security and Climate Action Partnership:
Joint Rivers Commission has struggled to resolve transboundary water-sharing issues due to India's lack of commitment and Bangladesh's limited technical capacity, affecting millions Bangladesh could propose a regional Water Security and Climate Action Partnership to manage shared water resources, build resilient infrastructure, and deploy desalination technology. This initiative would mitigate water scarcity, address rising sea levels, and strengthen climate resilience, underscoring the urgent need for enhanced climate financing to support sustainable solutions in the region.

h. Just Transition Framework and Time-bound Financial Resources for LDCs:
Emphasize the need for time-bound just transition frameworks to generate more employment in transitioning industries and promote decent work in renewable energy sectors.

i. Addressing Loss and Damage and Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience:
Bangladesh experiences an average of 20 major natural disasters annually, resulting in significant economic losses and displacement Bangladesh with an estimated $11 3 billion in damages from natural disasters in 2021 alone. Bangladesh should advocate for increased international support for disaster risk reduction initiatives, emphasizing resilient infrastructure and community preparedness.

j. Redirecting Public Fossil Fuel Subsidy:
Bangladesh should demand for rechanneling at least 50% of public subsidy to fossil fuel by G20 by 2025 to reduce the climate finance gaps particularly for adaptation and addressing growing loss and

damages in the LDCs. Economic value of recent losses and damage due to floods would be around US$4-5 billion (Change Initiative, 2024).

k. Fostering International Climate Finance for Cooperation on Technology Transfer:
Many developing countries face barriers in accessing advanced technologies essential for climate action. Bangladesh should emphasize the importance of establishing a meaningful commitment of the global technology transfer mechanism to facilitate sharing of innovative solutions and the research expenses should generate from multilateral climate funds.

l. Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Bond:

Bangladesh and Other LDCs can introduce climate-resilient infrastructure bonds targeting urban areas and regions vulnerable to flooding and cyclones. These bonds would fund resilient housing, flood defenses, and early warning systems, attracting international investment through competitive yields and measurable climate adaptation outcomes. This highlights the critical need for climate financing to support immediate and targeted infrastructure improvements.

m. Enhancing Urban Climate Resilience:

Rapid urbanization has led to 40% of Bangladesh's population living in urban areas, expected to host 56% of its population living in urban areas by 2050. increasing vulnerability to climate impacts. Bangladesh should advocate for funding and technical assistance to develop urban resilience strategies that incorporate green infrastructure.

n. Climate Finance Transparency:

Significant lack of transparency and ambiguity on the accounting method of climate financing by different agencies are reported. Bangladesh may align its position with LDCs should demand for the quality implementation of climate finance commitment (no double counting, non-concessional loan, applying rio-marker, using Copenhagen principle) of developed country Parties to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing country Parties in accordance with decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 98;
Accounting of climate finance should be done under the guidance of the standing committee on finance and under the leadership of the UNFCCC secretariat. A unique registry system on climate finance by the UNFCCC is the growing need for ensuring transparency and accountability

Loss and Damage

Loss and Damage (L&D) resulting from climate change impacts has been a central agenda item since COP16 (Cancun, 2010), where a 'Work Programme' on L&D was established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework (Decision 1/CP.16, Para 28). Subsequent COP negotiations have progressively delivered key outcomes aimed at addressing L&D. These decisions include:

COP18 (2012): Agreement on the Convention's role in promoting the implementation of approaches to address L&D (Decision 3/CP.18, Para 5).

COP18 (2012): Decision to establish an international mechanism, outlining its functions and modalities (Decision 3/CP.18, Para 9).

COP19 (2013): Establishment of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage, formalizing institutional arrangements (Decision 2/CP.19, Para 1).

COP19 (2013): Clarification of the WIM's role under the Convention, including its key functions of enhancing knowledge, strengthening coordination, and providing support, including finance (Decision 2/CP.19, Para 5).

COP21 (2015): Inclusion of Loss and Damage as a standalone article (Article 8) in the Paris Climate Agreement, elevating its significance within global climate governance (Decision 1/CP.21, Paris Agreement).

Following the Paris Agreement, L&D negotiations diverged along two main tracks: institutionalizing L&D governance under the COP and CMA, and mobilizing resources within these structures. Developing countries pushed for separate governance under both the WIM/COP and PA/CMA with distinct financial mechanisms to address their unique needs. Conversely, developed countries advocated for consolidating L&D under the Paris Agreement to minimize potential compensation claims. In terms of finance mobilization, developed countries preferred keeping the discussions within the purview of WIM and its Executive Committee, aiming to avoid a separate agenda item for financing L&D under CMA negotiations.

This ongoing tension over governance and financing led to suboptimal outcomes for developing countries at COP25 (2019) and COP26 (2021), including:

COP25 (2019): Establishment of an expert group on enhanced action and support, and the creation of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage to assist with implementation efforts to avert, minimize, and address L&D (Decision 2/CMA.2, 2019 review, Para 43).

COP26 (2021): Introduction of the 'Glasgow Dialogue,' a series of discussions scheduled during the annual Subsidiary Body sessions (2022-2024) to explore potential L&D financing mechanisms.

Despite these advances, significant debate persisted between Annex I (developed) and Non-Annex I (developing) countries over the positioning of L&D in climate negotiations and the scope of financing. While adaptation and L&D are separated under the Paris Agreement (Article 7 for adaptation, Article 8 for L&D), many developed countries sought to subsume L&D under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, linking it with adaptation efforts and National Adaptation Plans.

Additionally, there was disagreement about blending L&D financing with humanitarian aid, a stance promoted by many developed countries.

Despite these challenges, COP27 (2022) delivered a historic breakthrough by establishing 'new funding arrangements' to address L&D. A Transitional Committee was formed, composed of 24 members representing both Annex I and Non-Annex I countries, tasked with developing operational arrangements for the new fund and presenting recommendations at COP28 (2023). The decision also included selecting a host/secretariat for the Santiago Network by 2023. However, aspirations of developing countries to establish the Santiago Network as an independent body with its own governance structure, potentially under an Advisory Body or Board, were tempered by the insistence of developed countries on limiting its institutional scope.

Post-COP28 Developments: At COP28 (2023), significant progress was made in operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) a key component of the global response to climate-induced losses, particularly for vulnerable nations. The Co-chairs' proposal from the Transitional Committee (TC) formed the basis of several pivotal decisions. Below are the key outcomes:

Approval of the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF): COP28 officially endorsed the creation of a dedicated Loss and Damage Fund (LDF), marking a landmark achievement in climate negotiations. The fund aims to provide direct financial support to climate-vulnerable developing countries, addressing both immediate and long-term impacts of climate change. This decision underscores a commitment to global equity by acknowledging the disproportionate burden faced by these countries.

Expansion of Funding Sources: One of the most critical outcomes was the broadening of the scope of financial contributions. While developed countries are expected to lead contributions, COP28 saw agreement on voluntary contributions from both developed and developing nations, depending on their capacity. This reflects a shift towards more inclusive climate finance mechanisms. Furthermore, innovative financial sources were incorporated, such as contributions from international financial institutions (IFIs), carbon markets, philanthropic organizations, and private sector engagement. These diversified funding channels are designed to increase the reliability of financial flows to the LDF, mitigating reliance on traditional donor countries.

Finalization of Governance Structure: The governance of the LDF was cemented at COP28. A balanced board was established, comprising representatives from both developed and developing nations, ensuring equitable decision-making. The governance structure places emphasis on the needs of climate-vulnerable countries, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In terms of fund management, the World Bank was confirmed as the interim trustee for an initial four-year period, with its performance subject to an independent review. This decision was met with mixed reactions, given the World Bank's historical role in global finance and some concerns over its alignment with climate justice principles.

Operational Guidelines for the Fund: COP28 also saw the approval of key operational guidelines for the LDF, emphasizing flexibility, transparency, and equity. These guidelines ensure that countries with the highest vulnerability—such as LDCs, SIDS, and other climate-vulnerable

states—can access the fund without excessive administrative burdens. The guidelines aim to streamline application processes and ensure that funds are disbursed in a timely manner to address both rapid-onset disasters and slow-onset impacts such as sea level rise. Special provisions were included for technical and capacity-building support to help these countries manage the impacts of loss and damage more effectively.

Outstanding Issues: Despite these achievements, several critical issues remain unresolved, leaving room for further negotiations at COP29:

Obligatory Contributions Based on Historical Responsibility: A major point of contention at COP28 was the lack of consensus on mandatory contributions, particularly from developed countries with historical responsibility for the bulk of global emissions. While there was general agreement on voluntary contributions, developing nations, especially those in vulnerable regions, pushed for a system where contributions are obligatory and based on the "polluter pays" principle, reflecting historical emissions. This debate is expected to continue at COP29.

Non-Debt Nature of the Fund: Although COP28 expanded the financial instruments available through the LDF, the issue of ensuring non-debt-creating finance remains unresolved. Vulnerable countries have long emphasized the need for grants and concessional finance rather than loans, to avoid exacerbating debt burdens. However, no clear agreement was reached on this, and further discussions will be needed at COP29 to finalize the non-debt nature of LDF disbursements, especially in light of ongoing global financial challenges.

Concerns For COP29: As we approach COP29, critical challenges remain on the table regarding Loss and Damage (L&D) financing, governance, and climate justice. Despite the strides made at COP28, significant issues need to be resolved to ensure the fair and effective operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund and broader climate action frameworks. These concerns include:

Historic Responsibility and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC): The principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) has long been a foundational pillar of the UNFCCC framework, recognizing that developed nations, due to their historical emissions, bear a greater responsibility to provide climate finance. However, despite the progress at COP28, the lack of binding commitments from developed countries to contribute to L&D finance based on their historic responsibility remains a critical gap.

While voluntary contributions were encouraged, they fall short of the obligatory financial commitments based on historic emissions that many vulnerable nations seek. This lack of mandatory contributions undermines the principle of CBDR-RC and leaves the funding landscape uncertain and unreliable for countries most impacted by climate change. COP29 must focus on advancing discussions around a more equitable, obligatory financial mechanism, ensuring that countries with the highest historic emissions shoulder their fair share of the financial burden. Without concrete commitments, vulnerable nations may continue to struggle with unpredictable and insufficient financial support.

Non-Debt Financial Instruments: Another major concern heading into COP29 is the nature of financial instruments offered through the L&D Fund. While there was recognition at COP28

that a range of financial instruments, including grants, concessional loans, and guarantees, could be used, the reliance on debt-creating instruments is highly problematic for many vulnerable nations. These countries are already burdened by significant external debt and cannot afford to take on more financial liabilities to address climate impacts for which they are not historically responsible.

A key demand from developing nations is the need for clear commitments to non-debt financial instruments, particularly grant-based funding. This would ensure that climate-vulnerable countries can receive the financial support they need without exacerbating their economic vulnerabilities. At COP29, negotiators must push for a stronger emphasis on grants and other non-debt instruments to avoid creating further financial hardship for recipient countries. Additionally, discussions must address how debt sustainability will be factored into the L&D Fund's operational guidelines, ensuring that the fund contributes to long-term resilience rather than worsening financial instability.

Human Rights Considerations: Although COP28 made some progress in acknowledging the connection between climate change impacts and human rights violations, more work is needed to integrate comprehensive safeguards into the L&D Fund's framework. Climate change disproportionately affects marginalized groups, such as women, children, indigenous community, migrants, persons with disability and third gender exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and leading to a violation of fundamental rights such as the right to health, adequate housing, and access to water.

While COP28 made references to human rights, the lack of specific mechanisms or frameworks for protecting these groups remains a critical gap. At COP29, it is essential to build on this foundation by incorporating clear and enforceable human rights safeguards into the governance and operational guidelines of the L&D Fund. This includes prioritizing the rights of those most affected by climate-induced loss and damage and ensuring that the fund s activities do not inadvertently exacerbate existing inequalities or create new forms of harm Robust monitoring mechanisms should also be established to ensure that funded projects are aligned with international human rights standards and do not cause further marginalization or displacement.

Key Negotiation Priorities for COP29

As COP29 approaches it offers a pivotal moment to address remaining challenges in the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) and solidify a framework that is both just and effective. Below are the key policy asks that must be addressed to ensure the fund's success and alignment with climate justice principles:

a. Strengthening Historical Responsibility and CBDR-RC

Governance by CBDR-RC: COP29 must reinforce the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), ensuring that developed countries with greater historical emissions contribute proportionately to the Loss and Damage Fund.

Mandatory Contributions Framework: A binding framework for financial contributions, based on historic emissions and economic capacity, should be established. This will guarantee predictable, adequate, and reliable funding to meet the needs of vulnerable countries. The

voluntary nature of contributions introduced at COP28 must be expanded into a mandatory system to reflect fairness and accountability in global climate finance.

b. Avoiding Debt-Creation Mechanisms

Prioritizing Grants over Loans: The L&D Fund must prioritize grants, particularly for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and other vulnerable nations. Concessional loans or debt-based instruments can only be used as a last option, ensuring they do not exacerbate financial burdens for recipient countries already grappling with climate impacts. and the receiving countries will have the freedom to choose knowledge and technology.

Debt-Sustainability Safeguards: Clear mechanisms should be established to prevent vulnerable countries from accruing additional debt through climate finance. COP29 must set guidelines that ensure non-debt-creating instruments are the primary mode of financial support.

c. Human Rights-Centric Approach

Incorporating Human Rights Safeguards: The L&D Fund must adopt a human rights-based approach, ensuring that funded projects do not infringe on the fundamental rights of affected communities, including their right to life, health, water, and cultural preservation. This approach is vital to protecting the most vulnerable from further harm caused by climate-induced displacement, loss of livelihoods, and cultural erosion.

Focus on Marginalized Groups: COP29 should endorse operational guidelines that prioritize projects addressing the socio-economic vulnerabilities of marginalized communities, such as women, children, indigenous community, person with disability, third gender including seagoing traditional fishers and marginalized farmers and community suffering from the effects of displacements. Human rights protections must be embedded in the LDF's governance and monitoring systems.

d. Enhanced Scope for the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD)

Independent Governance Structure: COP29 must finalize the full operationalization of the Santiago Network (SNLD), with an independent governance structure, including an Advisory Board, as requested by developing nations. This will strengthen the network's ability to address loss and damage comprehensively and efficiently.

Addressing Long-Term Impacts: The SNLD's mandate should go beyond immediate disaster response, incorporating the capacity to address long-term and slow-onset climate events such as sea-level rise, desertification, and ecosystem collapse. The network should also support both economic and non-economic losses, ensuring a holistic response to climate-induced damage.

e. Innovative Finance Mechanisms

Exploring New Finance Sources: To expand the financial base of the L&D Fund, COP29 must explore innovative funding sources, such as levies on fossil fuel extraction, international aviation, and maritime transport. These mechanisms will ensure additional revenue streams and broaden the financial scope of the fund.

Private Sector Contributions: A formal mechanism to ensure contributions from private sector actors, particularly those responsible for significant emissions, should be included. This would ensure that multinational corporations, especially fossil fuel companies, are held accountable for their historical and ongoing role in climate change.

f. Addressing Secondary and Tertiary Impacts

Socio-Economic Impacts of L&D: COP29 must recognize and address the broader socio-economic impacts of loss and damage, including increased poverty, inequality, involuntary migration, and gender-based violence. The L&D Fund should allocate resources to tackle these cascading effects, with particular attention to marginalized and indigenous communities, ensuring their voices are heard in the design and implementation of projects.

Resource Allocation for Vulnerable Groups: Specific funds should be set aside to address the needs of groups disproportionately affected by climate-induced loss and damage, including women, children, elderly, and marginalized populations. This ensures an equitable distribution of resources that fosters resilience among those most at risk.

g. Transparency and Accountability

Ensuring Participatory Governance: The governance structure of the L&D Fund must guarantee transparent and participatory decision-making processes. Civil society organizations, particularly those from vulnerable countries, should have an enhanced role in overseeing the fund's allocations and ensuring that resources are used effectively and fairly.

Monitoring and Reporting: COP29 should also establish clear monitoring and accountability mechanisms to track the distribution and impact of L&D finance. This will build trust and ensure that funds are used to support those most affected by climate change, without corruption or misallocation of resources.

h. Private Sector Accountability

Holding Corporations Accountable: COP29 must introduce frameworks for private sector accountability, ensuring that corporations responsible for significant greenhouse gas emissions, such as fossil fuel companies and large-scale polluters, contribute to the L&D Fund. This includes mechanisms to levy financial contributions from these entities and hold them accountable for their role in causing climate impacts.

COP29 represents a critical juncture for advancing the Loss and Damage Fund and addressing the remaining challenges in climate finance and governance. The success of the LDF will hinge on ensuring fair, transparent, and sufficient financial contributions, guided by the principles of climate justice, historical responsibility, and equity. The policy asks outlined above aim to secure these principles and prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable communities, ensuring that loss and damage finance does not perpetuate existing inequalities but instead fosters resilience and justice in a climate-impacted world.

Water Justice

As Bangladesh confronts the escalating challenges posed by climate change, it is crucial to advocate for specific policies that prioritize water justice. The following demands outline a framework for addressing the multifaceted water crisis affecting marginalized communities, particularly in coastal, char, and drought-prone areas.

Key Negotiation Priorities for COP29

a. Prioritise Water Security

Water security must be recognized as a fundamental human right. In Bangladesh, access to clean and safe drinking water, sanitation, and irrigation for climate resilient sustainable agriculture is essential. The government should prioritize the protection of water resources in all climate adaptation and resilience-building efforts. This includes ensuring that marginalized communities, particularly those in coastal and drought-prone regions, have equitable access to these vital resources.

b. Address Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources

The impacts of climate change, such as salinity intrusion, over-extraction of groundwater, and industrial pollution, have intensified water scarcity and contamination in Bangladesh. Immediate action is required to combat these issues. This includes increasing climate finance focused on grant-based funding for water-resilient infrastructure, such as rainwater harvesting systems, flood protection measures, and salinity-resistant agricultural practices. Additionally, research and technology transfer for developing salt-tolerant crops must be prioritized.

c. Protect Vulnerable Populations

Rising sea levels and increased salinity are devastating livelihoods in Bangladesh's coastal regions. The plight of "water-induced migrants" need be officially recognized, and international frameworks should be adopted to protect climate migrants. Financial and technical support is essential to address the humanitarian impacts of displacement and to create sustainable livelihood options for affected populations. Furthermore, women, who bear the brunt of water scarcity, should be empowered through gender-responsive water and climate policies that prioritize their leadership in decision-making processes.

d. Enhance International Cooperation and Water Governance

Bangladesh's rivers and wetlands are critical for the survival of both rural and urban populations. Climate-induced changes in river flows, combined with unregulated dam construction and industrial pollution, threaten these ecosystems. It is essential to advocate for regional cooperation on water resource management and transboundary water governance. This includes focusing on river restoration and the protection of wetlands as integral components of global climate discussions. Developed countries must be held accountable for their historical contributions to climate change and should fulfill their commitments under the Paris Agreement to provide financial support for loss and damage.

e. Promote Sustainable Water Management

Sustainable water management practices must be promoted to enhance local resilience to climate impacts. This includes investing in community-led and nature-based solutions that prioritize the needs of vulnerable populations. Capacity-building programs should be scaled up to facilitate knowledge-sharing and local solutions for effective water management. Advanced technologies for early warning systems, efficient water use, and climate-smart agriculture must be accessible to climate-vulnerable countries like Bangladesh.

f. Foster Innovation and Technology Transfer for Water Resilience

To effectively address the challenges posed by climate change on water resources, Bangladesh must advocate for the removal of barriers to technology transfer from developed nations to climate-vulnerable countries. This includes promoting access to advanced technologies for early warning systems, efficient water use, desalination, and climate resilient agriculture. Moreover, fostering innovation within local communities is crucial. Capacity-building programs should be expanded to enhance local knowledge-sharing networks and empower communities to develop and implement effective water management solutions. Investments in research and development for sustainable water technologies should be prioritized to ensure that Bangladesh can adapt to changing climatic conditions while protecting its water resources.

At COP29, Bangladesh should advocate for these demands to address the urgent issue of water justice in the face of climate change. By prioritizing water security, addressing climate impacts, protecting vulnerable populations, enhancing international cooperation, and promoting sustainable water management, Bangladesh can work towards a more equitable and resilient future for all its citizens. The voices of marginalized communities must remain central to these efforts, ensuring that their needs and rights are recognized in global climate discussions

Gender- Climate Impact to the Gender Health

It is crucial to highlight the intersection of climate change and gender health. The impacts of climate change are not gender-neutral; they disproportionately affect women and girls ,exacerbating existing inequalities and threatening their health and well-being. This paper aims to outline the urgent need for gender-responsive climate policies that prioritize women's health, particularly in vulnerable coastal communities.

Climate change intensifies vulnerabilities for women in Bangladesh, especially in areas prone to natural disasters such as floods and cyclones. Women bear the brunt of these challenges as they are primarily responsible for household duties, including water collection and food production. The World Bank estimates that by 2050, climate displacement could affect over 13 million Bangladeshis, with women facing heightened risks of poverty, health issues, and gender-based violence due to resource scarcity.

The health impacts of climate change on women are multifaceted; like disasters disrupt access to healthcare services, leading to complications in maternal and reproductive health. Salinity intrusion significantly affects menstrual hygiene management, resulting in irregular menstruation and urinary tract infections. For instance, over the past decade, ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) has observed a noticeable trend in health and livelihood issues related to climate-change induced salinity intrusion, especially related to female health, in coastal districts. This was further established through research in the sub-district of Shyamnagar, in Satkhira district. Most of Shyamnagar is below 2 meters of sea level and salinity intrusion was ranked top by 200 household survey respondents among the disasters impacting the area in the past decade. All households reported suffering from drinking water and clean water crisis resulting in a significant number of them relying on purchased water to meet daily drinking water needs. Most households (HHs) use pond water (68%), which is highly contaminated by salinity, for daily household use. Around 78.5% of the 200 HHs do not have access to clean water throughout the year. The research team also established that the bottled and deep tube well water which all HHs, which form the primary drinking water source in the area, were unclear and salty to taste.

Gastrointestinal and diarrheal diseases featured predominantly among the population including gastric/acidity (69.5%), diarrhea (54%), and dysentery (49.5%), which the community attributed to the drinking water quality. Positive correlation between female health issues and menstrual hygiene management was established regardless of whether women used cloth (91%) or disposable sanitary napkins (29%) as result of using saline/dirty water used for washing and cleaning purposes during menstruation. A significant number of women reported suffering from irregular or delayed menstruation (86%); urinary tract infections (28%); and uterine inflammation (24%); with many suffering from multiple of these issues. What was alarming was that the average age of female respondents suffering from SRH issues was 36.

Furthermore, the stress associated with climate-induced displacement and loss of livelihoods contributes to mental health challenges among women. The health and livelihoods issues identified in AAB's field and research experience by are known to have far reaching consequences in terms of a women's social and economic experiences in many aspects. Increased economic hardship and poverty from medical expenses and disruption in participation in economic activities is a challenge SRH and other female health issues disrupts conjugal life sometimes

becoming a source of gender-based violence. Women often face reproductive challenges because of the health issues identified which may culminate into obstacles to conception and pregnancy, fertility issues, and negative impact on maternal health. These consequences often translate into poor mental health in affected women. Moreover, food Insecurity due to disrupted agricultural systems lead to malnutrition, disproportionately affecting women and children.

The health and other consequences related to salinity intrusion is a slow-onset disaster with far reaching consequences for the country as out of the 38.52 million people living along the 710 km long coastline of Bangladesh, approximately 20 million are affected by salinity in their drinking water, leaving them vulnerable to health hazards and rising poverty level The total amount of salinity affected land in Bangladesh was estimated to be 83.3 million hectares in 1973, which has risen to 105.6 million hectares in 2009 and continues to increase. It is estimated that by 2050, the water of 10 rivers will be affected by excessive salinity in 148 upazillas of 19 districts of the country. The rivers of Shyamnagar, Asashuni and Kaliganj upazilas of Satkhira district are notably among them. These areas are currently experiencing salinity levels of 10 ppt, which may increase to 15-25 ppt by 2050.

Key Negotiation Priorities for COP29

Enhance Gender Analysis: Conduct comprehensive assessments of how climate change affects women's health across different sectors to inform policy decisions.

Capacity Building: Train policymakers on gender-sensitive approaches to climate adaptation and mitigation to ensure inclusive decision-making processes.

Strengthen Community Engagement: Involve women's rights organizations in the formulation and implementation of climate policies to ensure local needs are addressed.

Increase Funding for Gender-Specific Initiatives: Allocate resources towards programs that address the unique challenges faced by women in climate-affected areas.

Develop Research on Gender-Differentiated Impacts: Invest in studies that explore the specific effects of climate change on women's health to fill existing knowledge gaps.

The significant consequences of climate change-induced salinity intrusion on women's health in Bangladesh demand urgent attention. It is vital to advocate for gender-responsive climate policies that prioritize women's health and well-being. By addressing these interconnected issues, we can work towards a more equitable and sustainable future for all, ensuring that no one is left behind in our collective efforts to combat climate change

Youth Engagement in Climate Action

Bangladesh, as one of the world's most climate-sensitive countries, faces significant challenges that disproportionately impact its youth, particularly those in vulnerable communities such as coastal, low-lying, flood, and drought-prone areas. The adverse effects of climate change—ranging from natural disasters to violations of rights—limit development opportunities and threaten the well-being of approximately 49 million young people. The gender dimension of this crisis further complicates the scenario, with young women facing heightened obstacles, including increased risks of gender-based violence linked to climate stressors. Despite these challenges, the youth of Bangladesh are emerging as proactive leaders in addressing climate change through initiatives in sustainable agriculture, forestation, water management, and renewable energy transitions. However, their voices remain largely unheard in policy-making processes, and youth-led organizations often lack the resources necessary to support meaningful action.

Key Negotiation Priorities for COP29

a. Empower Youth Participation in Policymaking

Youth must be actively included in climate policy discussions and decision-making processes. This involves creating formal channels for youth voices to be heard, ensuring that their perspectives and solutions are integrated into national and local climate strategies. Policymakers should conduct regular consultations with youth-led organizations to gather insights and recommendations on climate action.

b. Increase Funding for Youth-Led Initiatives

There is an urgent need to allocate dedicated funding for youth-led climate initiatives. This includes support for training programs, capacity-building workshops, and community engagement projects that empower young people to act in their communities. By investing in youth-led organizations, the government can foster innovation and grassroots solutions to climate challenges.

c. Promote Gender-Responsive Climate Policies

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by young women in the context of climate change is essential. Gender-responsive climate policies should be developed to address the specific needs of young women, ensuring their active involvement in climate action. This includes providing resources for women's leadership programs and initiatives that promote gender equality in environmental decision-making.

d. Enhance Education and Skill Development

To prepare the youth for effective climate action, education systems must integrate climate change education and sustainability into curricula. Programs should focus on developing green skills that equip young people with the knowledge and abilities needed for climate-resilient careers. Partnerships with educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector can facilitate this skill development.

e. Foster Innovation through Technology Transfer

Bangladesh should advocate for the removal of barriers to technology transfer from developed nations to support youth-led climate initiatives. Access to advanced technologies for climate adaptation, such as early warning systems and sustainable agricultural practices, is crucial for empowering young people to implement effective solutions in their communities.

f. Establish Platforms for Youth Collaboration

Creating platforms for collaboration among youth organizations, stakeholders, and policymakers can enhance collective action on climate change. These platforms should facilitate knowledge sharing, networking, and joint initiatives that amplify youth voices and foster a sense of community among young climate activists.

At COP29, it is vital to recognize the critical role of youth in addressing climate change in Bangladesh. By advocating for these six demands, stakeholders can empower young people to lead the charge in climate action, ensuring that their voices are heard, and their contributions are valued. Supporting youth engagement not only addresses the immediate challenges posed by climate change but also enables Bangladesh to harness its demographic dividend, paving the way for a sustainable and resilient future.

Just Energy Transition in the Context of Bangladesh

Bangladesh is at a critical juncture in its development journey, balancing rapid economic growth with the urgent need to address climate change. As a nation who ranked 7th on the Global Risk Index in terms of climate- induced disasters, Bangladesh faces unique challenges in achieving a Just Energy Transition (JET) while ensuring sustainable development and protecting its most vulnerable populations. The concept of Just Energy Transition, which advocates for a shift towards renewable energy while prioritizing equity, social justice, and the livelihoods of affected communities, is vital for Bangladesh. Civil society organizations (CSOs) in Bangladesh, representing diverse grassroots and advocacy groups, play a crucial role in championing the cause of a just, inclusive, and equitable transition.

The 28th Conference of the Parties - COP28 marked a significant milestone in global climate action. A groundbreaking loss and damage fund was established to support vulnerable nations, while the global stocktake provided a roadmap for future progress. The summit also emphasized the importance of renewable energy, just transition, and nature-based solutions. While these decisions are promising, continued efforts are essential to achieve the ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement. This position paper outlines the stance of civil society in Bangladesh, providing national, regional, and international perspectives to guide discussions and actions at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

National and Regional Context of Just Energy Transition: Bangladesh's energy sector has been historically dependent on fossil fuels, with over 97% of its electricity generated from fossil fuel. While the country has made significant strides in expanding access to electricity nearly 100% coverage of electricity, the energy transition remains a daunting challenge. Renewable energy accounts for a mere fraction of the country's energy mix, around 2.77% (BPDB Annual Report 2022-23), despite having substantial potential in solar, wind, and biomass energy. The country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), submitted under the Paris Agreement, reflect its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing renewable energy capacity. However, achieving these targets is contingent on external financial and technical support, particularly from developed nations.

Civil Society of Bangladesh underscores on social equity and inclusivity and states that energy transition plans must consider the needs of marginalized communities, including women, informal workers, and rural populations who are disproportionately affected by both climate change and energy poverty. The energy transition needs to ensure that jobs lost in traditional energy sectors, such as coal, gas and oil, are replaced with green jobs. Reskilling and new-skilling capacity-building programs are essential to ensure that workers are not left behind and create new job opportunities.

The Civil Society of Bangladesh come forward to address transparency and accountability in the country and states that the government's energy policies should be transparent and accountable to citizens, with civil society playing a role in monitoring and advocating for a just transition that protects public interests over corporate and oligarch profits. Energy policies in Bangladesh have major inconsistencies among existing plans and policies along with a lack of policies and governance. To ensure a Just Energy Transition, energy security and sovereignty development of comprehensive policy is non-negotiable.

Bangladesh's energy transition cannot be viewed in isolation from its regional context. Civil society organizations in Bangladesh call for enhanced regional cooperation and shared resources to expedite the clean energy transition, particularly in renewable energy integration and technology sharing.

South Asia, home to nearly a quarter of the world's population, faces enormous challenges in transitioning to clean energy. The region's energy demand is projected to grow rapidly, driven by industrialization, urbanization, and population growth. Bangladesh, alongside its South Asian neighbors, shares common challenges. Like Bangladesh, many South Asian countries are reliant on fossil fuels for energy generation. This dependency poses a significant barrier to achieving a regional energy transition.

The civil society of Bangladesh underscores opportunities for regional collaboration in harnessing renewable energy, particularly through cross-border energy sharing agreements. Bangladesh's involvement in the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) program offers potential for regional energy trade, including hydropower from Nepal and Bhutan. Energy transition efforts should address regional disparities, ensuring that rural and underserved areas are prioritized in clean energy access. Bangladesh's leadership in regional forums, such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), is critical in advocating for a people-centered approach to energy transition across the region.

International Context and Role of Civil Society in Just Energy Transition: At the international level, Bangladesh has emerged as a leader in global climate negotiations. As chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), Bangladesh has consistently called for greater ambition from developed countries, both in terms of emissions reductions and financial commitments. However, despite its active role in climate diplomacy, the country's energy transition goals remain constrained by limited access to climate finance and technology. Civil society organizations in Bangladesh have long played an essential role in promoting environmental sustainability, social justice, and human rights. In the context of the Just Energy Transition, CSOs act as a bridge between policymakers, affected communities, and international actors.

The Role of CSOs:

Advocacy and Policy Engagement: Civil society advocates for pro-poor, inclusive energy policies that prioritize social equity and environmental justice. CSOs in Bangladesh work to ensure that the voices of the most affected communities are represented in national energy transition plans.

Community Mobilization and Awareness: Civil society works to raise awareness of the benefits of renewable energy and the importance of a just transition among grassroots communities, ensuring their active participation in decision-making processes.

Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing: Civil society organizations provide training and capacity-building programs to equip communities with the skills needed to participate in the green economy. This includes fostering knowledge exchange on renewable energy technologies and sustainable practices.

Accountability Mechanisms: CSOs play a vital role in holding governments and corporations accountable for their commitments to just energy transition. They monitor the implementation of policies and ensure that the transition is transparent and inclusive.

Key Negotiation Priorities for COP29

The Just Energy Transition is not merely a shift in energy systems but a transformative process that must prioritize social equity, justice, and sustainability. Civil society in Bangladesh stands firm in its commitment to advocating for a transition that uplifts the most vulnerable, creates sustainable livelihoods, and ensures that the benefits of clean energy are shared equitably. As COP29 approaches, we the civil society in Bangladesh, puts forth the following demands to ensure a just and equitable energy transition-

a. Climate Finance:

We strongly urge scaling up finance to that extent where developed countries must deliver on their climate finance promises, with a focus on funding just transition initiatives that support the most vulnerable populations in Bangladesh.

Article 2.1(c) of the Paris Agreement requires all countries to make their financial activities and investments consistent with the goal of achieving climate goals and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Bangladesh, like other developing nations, requires significant financial resources to phase out from fossil-based plants and enhance renewable based electricity generation. Developed countries must fulfill their $100 billion annual climate finance commitment under the Paris Agreement and ensure that funds are accessible to vulnerable countries.

b. Green Employment:

We encourage all the actors to work together in promoting green jobs and social protection. The governments should develop policies that promote the creation of green jobs and provide social protection measures for workers transitioning from the fossil fuel industry. Additionally, technology transfer mechanisms must be strengthened to support renewable energy deployment in Bangladesh.

c. Regional Cooperation:

We encourage strengthening cooperation among all the South Asian countries, including Bangladesh. These countries should enhance cross-border energy collaboration, particularly in renewable energy, to accelerate the regional energy transition. We also urge cross border knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening among South Asian nations for a collaborative success in just energy transition.

d. Loss and Damage:

We demand a comprehensive framework for loss and damage financing to be developed and ensure that countries like Bangladesh receive the necessary support to address the impacts of climate change. Bangladesh's vulnerability to climate change necessitates a strong focus on loss and damage financing. The energy transition should include measures to address the losses suffered by communities affected by climate-induced disasters, particularly in coastal and low-lying areas.

e. Just Energy Transition:

We strongly underscore the importance of global accountability and demand that COP29 must reinforce the principles of equity and justice in the global energy transition, holding developed countries accountable for their historical responsibilities and ensuring that developing nations receive adequate support

Civil society organizations advocate for a global energy transition that holds developed countries accountable for their historical emissions and ensures that the burden of transition does not fall disproportionately on developing nations Bangladesh's civil society supports the principle of 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities' (CBDR), ensuring that the global energy transition is equitable.

Annex-1

Summary of key milestones and major outcomes of COP:

COP1 (Berlin, 1995): The first cop was held in Berlin, Germany in 1995. The Berlin Mandate initiated a process for developed countries to negotiate binding emission reduction targets, laying the foundation for future commitments.

COP2 (Geneva, 1996): The second COP supported the scientific consensus on climate change presented by the IPCC's Second Assessment Report, laying a stronger scientific basis for negotiations.

COP3 (Kyoto, 1997): In the 3rd COP in Kyoto Japan adopted the Kyoto Protocol, which established legally binding targets for developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5% by 2012.

COP4 (Buenos Aires, 1998): The Buenos Aires Plan of Action set a two-year deadline for resolving operational details of the Kyoto Protocol, including market-based mechanisms like emissions trading.

COP5 (Bonn, 1999): Focused on technical details for the Kyoto Protocol, including issues related to compliance mechanisms and flexibility mechanisms.

COP6 (The Hague, 2000: Discussions stalled due to disagreements on the use of carbon sinks and emissions trading, particularly between the EU and the U.S.

COP6-bis (Bonn, 2001): The Bonn Agreements resolved the impasse by allowing flexibility in how countries meet their Kyoto targets, paving the way for the Kyoto Protocol's ratification.

COP7 (Marrakesh, 2001): The main outcome of the COP7, provided detailed rules of the Marrakesh Accords for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, including compliance procedures, carbon markets, and financial support for developing countries.

COP8 (New Delhi, 2002): Focused on adaptation to climate change, particularly in developing countries, and emphasized the need for developed countries to take the lead in emission reductions.

COP9 (Milan, 2003): Addressed financial mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol, such as the Adaptation Fund and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

COP10 (Buenos Aires, 2004): Emphasized the need for adaptation and vulnerability assessments, particularly for countries most affected by climate change.

COP11 (Montreal, 2005): The Montreal Action Plan set the stage for future climate negotiations, marking the first meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (MOP1).

COP12 (Nairobi, 2006): Established the Nairobi Work Programme, which focused on helping developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change.

COP13 (Bali, 2007): The Bali Road Map laid out a negotiation path toward a post-Kyoto framework, with discussions centered on the long-term cooperative action of parties.

COP14 (Poznań, 2008): Reviewed progress on the Bali Action Plan and made strides in enhancing financial support for developing countries for climate mitigation and adaptation.

COP15 (Copenhagen, 2009): Produced the Copenhagen Accord, which recognized the need to limit global temperature rise to 2°C, but failed to achieve a legally binding agreement, resulting in widespread disappointment.

COP16 (Cancún, 2010): The Cancún Agreements formalized the 2°C limit on temperature rise and created the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to provide financial assistance to developing countries.

COP17 (Durban, 2011): The Durban Platform for Enhanced Action set the stage for a legally binding global climate agreement to be finalized by 2015, leading to the creation of the Paris Agreement.

COP18 (Doha, 2012): Adopted the Doha Amendment, which extended the Kyoto Protocol's emission reduction commitments until 2020.

COP19 (Warsaw, 2013): Established the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, which aimed to address the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable nations. COP20 (Lima, 2014): The Lima Call for Climate Action required countries to submit their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) ahead of COP21.

COP21 (Paris, 2015): The Paris Agreement was adopted, committing countries to limit global warming to well below 2°C, with efforts to pursue a 1.5°C limit. Countries agreed to submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) every five years and strive toward carbon neutrality by mid-century.

COP22 (Marrakesh, 2016): Laid the groundwork for the Paris Agreement's implementation and launched the Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action, a platform for enhancing collaboration on climate action.

COP23 (Bonn, 2017): Progressed work on the Paris Agreement's rulebook and launched the Talanoa Dialogue, an inclusive process to assess progress on climate goals.

COP24 (Katowice, 2018): Adoption of the Katowice Rulebook, which outlined the guidelines for implementing the Paris Agreement, particularly around transparency, reporting, and monitoring.

COP25 (Madrid, 2019): The conference focused on carbon markets (Article 6 of the Paris Agreement) but ended without an agreement on this issue, leaving the task for future COPs.

COP26 (Glasgow, 2021): The Glasgow Climate Pact urged countries to "phase down" coal, cut methane emissions, and increase financial support for adaptation and mitigation efforts, with stronger commitments for updating NDCs by 2022.

COP27 (Sharm El-Sheikh, 2022): The establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund, a breakthrough agreement aimed at compensating vulnerable countries for the climate impacts they have already suffered.

COP28 (Dubai, 2023): The key outcome of the COP28 is the key agenda items include the Global Stocktake to assess progress towards the Paris Agreement s goals, increasing ambition for carbon neutrality, and improving financial mechanisms for adaptation, mitigation, and technology transfer to developing countries.