

Subject : Final Concept Note on the WHS Istanbul side event titled “Climate Induced Migrants: Humanitarian and Rights Perspectives”, at Rumeli Hall 6 in Lutfi Kirdar Convention and Exhibition Centre (LKCC) on 24th May 15.00 to 16.30 hours.

Summary / Overview

Climate induced migration is a growing problem, as forecasted by scientists, in years to come there will be 1 climate induced migrants in each 200 and especially in most vulnerable country like Bangladesh it will be 1 in each 5 people. The Nansen Initiatives shown that, in each second there will be 1 disaster related displacement. As the issue demands focus from rights and humanitarian perspective, it is an issue in international forum like in UNFCCC, WHS and also in UNHCR.

Thus It is mentioned in UN SG (United Nation Secretary General) report titled ‘One Humanity: Shared Responsibility’ (February 2016) which has set the tune for WHS Istanbul. In the report it has set five core responsibilities and in section 88 it has clearly mentioned that to prepare for cross border displacement owing to disaster and climate change. In respect of agenda setting of WHS Istanbul there are high level roundtable related to this with the title of natural disasters and climate change. Side event will explore further in view of these five core responsibilities with proposed core commitments, i.e. commitment from political leaders, UN organizations and civil society leaders, and how to do solution on sustainable basis and in further investing in humanity. So primary and major objectives of the sessions are to discuss and propose actions for national governments and also for international organizations including civil societies for future too.

Participation, inclusiveness and ownership for as much as possible stakeholder will be followed in respect of both preparation and conduction of the side events. There will be use of social media and also we will have relation with mainstream media and website based preservation on outcome of the side event. The organizers of the side events are **Act Alliance, Action against Hunger France-ACF, Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Network -ADRRN, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network -APRRN, African Development Solutions-ADESO, Ebiil Society Palau, Refugee International, National Humanitarian Network, and United Nation Major Group for Children and Youth – UNGCY**. And we expect that **Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Bangladesh, The Nansen Initiatives and Norwegian Refugee Council** will also join hands in this regard. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury from **COAST** (reza.coast@gmail.com, +8801711529792) from www.coastbd.net and www.equitybd.net is coordinating the whole group. All information will be available on those websites.

Panel members including high level policy leaders from those organizations, Ministers from Bangladesh and others countries are in process of invitation, including Prof Walter Kaelin might join as panel members, there will be open space for question and reflections from participants in the side event. A side event outline will be finalized at least seven days before the event with final panel member list, time and topic allocations and it will also be available in those websites.

1. Climate change displacement in international discourse

International Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) and other study reports have already forecasted growing number of climate forced migrants; it will be around 200 million by 2050 (N Meyers 2005) mostly in low lying developing and island countries. In Bangladesh it is forecasted that it will be 20

million in near future (Bangladesh Climate Change Strategic Action Plan, Government of Bangladesh 2009). It is an issue both in UNFCCC and WHS lead conference and discourses.

During 2012 to 2015 there were state lead initiatives in this regard (sometimes which has named as disaster displacements) facilitated by the Nansen Initiative with the leadership of government of Switzerland and Norway. It was bottom up discussion process among the state and non-state actors whole over the world by different regions, finally it was concluded in a Global consultation happened in Geneva in October 2015, a non binding statement has been declared from the global conference, all the information is available in the following link (<https://www.nanseninitiative.org/global-consultations/>).

United Nation High Commissioner of Refugee (UNHCR) included this issue in its annual dialogue, which was held in Geneva in December 2015 for root cause analysis. Prof Walter Kaelin and one of the Assistant High Commission moderated a session and while I myself Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of COAST / EquityBD acted as a panel member.

In both Cancun (para 14 f) and Paris Climate Agreement the issue has been acknowledged and agreed to have work out in future.

The issue has also been come up as a protracted crisis and also as a part of slow on set disaster in different national and regional conferences of World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). An online discussion has also been initiated by Prof Walter Kaelin in the WHS process. The issue has also been come in the WHS Geneva global consultation (October 2015). Thus it is mentioned in UN SG (United Nation Secretary General) report titled 'One Humanity: Shared Responsibility' (February 2016) which has set the tune for WHS Istanbul. In the report it has set five core responsibilities (i.e., (i) political leadership to prevent and end conflicts, (ii) uphold the norms that safeguard humanity, (iii) leave no one behind, (iv) change people's live – from delivering aid to ending need, (v) invest in humanity. In section 88 it has clearly mentioned that to prepare for cross border displacement owing to disaster and climate change. In respect of agenda setting of WHS Istanbul there are high level roundtable related to this with the title of natural disasters and climate change.

In fact commitments of political leaders including civil societies' both in developed and developing countries are needed attention on this. As it is a matter of human displacement even it is disappearing of some small island nation states, as it is great casualty to the humanity and even it is a great security threat to the global harmony. It is also a question on how we can solve the problem on sustainable basis. So we need to invest in this regard and invest in humanity. There are several examples especially which have been brought by the Nansen Initiatives and led by the govt of Switzerland and Norway with active participation of Govt. of Bangladesh, especially a non binding state level Declaration during October 2015 in Geneva.

The side event will have further exploration and roll out in this regard.

2. The organizer's background and activism

Proposed organizers of the side event COAST (www.coastbd.net) working for coastal poor in Bangladesh has a strong footing in respect of networking, advocacy and campaign through its program component EquityBD (www.equitybd.net). It is part of various global network especially ICVA, CHS, ALNAP, APRRN, Social Watch, LDC Watch, GATJ and also in steering committee member of the Southern NGO network which is in formation stage. Since 2007 especially in United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Conference of Parties (CoP) Bali COAST doing

campaign and public events for the rights of climate induced displaced / migrants. COAST is doing this campaign along with other regional and international network like APRN, JSAPMDD, SAAPE, (from Asia, PACJA (from Africa), Jubilee Debt Campaign and Global Justice Movement (from UK), and others. There were also active participation of Bangladeshi civil society climate campaign networks like BAPA, BIPNetCCBD, BCJF, CCDF, CSRL, CLEAN, CDP, FEJB, EquityBD and NCCB.

Such a campaign have had happened in UNFCCC CoPs Copenhagen, Cancun, Durban, Doha, Warsaw, and finally in Paris. In all these campaign seminars, government officials like Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee, Executive Director of Green Peace International, WHS Chief, Prof Walter Kaelin from the Nansen Initiatives, Representatives from UN office of Human Right Commissioner, Representative from Norwegian Refugee Council and others have participated as panel speakers. Those campaigns have received international media coverage too. Please see the report from last campaign seminar held on last 5th December 2015 at Paris in following link. <http://www.equitybd.net/?p=25189>.

COAST has developed several campaign materials in this regard and also continuing a web based signature campaign in this regard in French, English and also in Spanish, which is available in <http://equitybd.net/supportmigrants/index.php>.

COAST has also actively involved in the regional and global consultation / conference of the Nansen Initiative led by the govt of Switzerland and Norway and also of WHS Process. COAST is also nationally active to pursue govt of Bangladesh to prepare protection measures or an internal displacement policy in this regard. It is also closely working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of the Govt. of Bangladesh to continue the campaign leading to WHS Istanbul, it has already organized and WHS pre country campaign seminar to be held on 7th May 2016 in Dhaka.

3. Inclusiveness, Ownership and Co organizers.

As it is a new emerging discourse, moreover in the ground especially climate vulnerable countries need a lot of support to reduce displacement, as it is happening in respect of cross boarder it is needed inter state support, moreover at the end it might require a new protocol like 1951 refugee convention which was tailored to address political displacement and which has created a institution like UNHCR.

Moreover we did all those campaigns especially in UNFCCC floor virtually without any cost, all the support has been provided generously by UNFCCC, and moreover COAST has not raised any money in this regard. To spread the issue worldwide especially in different international forums, inclusiveness and ownership to get as much as stakeholder is necessary, so since the beginning both in home and abroad, cooperation for co organizing and as much as panel members from high level policy advocates was sought. All the names of co organizers have been given in all the credit line including in main banners and all development communication materials have been printed. In respect of designing and decision making of the campaign seminar, co organizers opinions have been taken.

So far, (i) **Act Alliance** (www.actalliance.org), (ii) **Action Against Hunger – France** (www.actioncontrelafaim.org), (iii) **Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Network-ADRRN** (www.adrrn.net), (iv) **Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network –APRRN**(www.aprrn.org), (v) **African Development Solutions-ADESO** (www.adesoafrica.org), (vi) **Ebiil Society-Palau**, (vii) **Refugee International** (www.refugeeinternational.org), (viii) **National Humanitarian Network – NHN** (www.spopk.org), and (ix) **United Nation Major Group for Children and Youth – UNGCY** has

formally consented to be as joint organizers of the event. Apart from these we have received informal positive node from the (x) **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh**, (xi) **The Nansen Initiatives** (www.nanseninitiative.org), (xii) **Norwegian Refugee Council** (www.nrc.no), either to act as joint organizers or to participate in the event as panel members. We are looking for more likeminded organization across the world in this regard with inclusiveness and ownership on the issue to spread the word as much as possible.

4. Details objectives of the proposed side event

In view of above, we are considering following objectives of the side event;

- (i) To create impact on the issue of this climate forced migrants among the humanitarian policy actors especially who will be participating in the events,
- (ii) To draw attention on the climate forced migrants issue as protracted crisis and slow on set disaster, as it is a humanitarian crisis, a crisis in rights and responsibility perspective and also as a security crisis too.
- (iii) To encourage appropriate action especially in national level by national government and national agencies first in taking good examples from other countries so that there will be adaptation in this regard.
- (iv) To propose actions in international level especially in multilateral level (e.g., UN agencies) and also to motivate international humanitarian agencies to consider the issue as one of their action agenda and
- (v) Finally to discuss the issue in view of UNSG report; One Humanity: Shared Responsibility and high level roundtable's outcome core commitments and its implications both at the national level and international in future.

5. Panel speakers, the moderator of the side event, time and topic allocations

This list is tentative, we will try best to invite high level policy makers and stakeholders especially from state delegations, UN agencies, international and national humanitarian organizations. Here are the names so far we have received the interest, (i) **Minister / Secretary**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of People Republic of Bangladesh (TBC), (ii) **Michael Mosselmans / Reshma Adaita**, Act Alliance, (iii) **Bertrand Noiret**, Action Against Hunger France, (iv) **Manu Gupta**, Asian Disaster Risk Network, (v) **Dr Gopal Krishna Siwakoti / Julia Mayerhofer**, Asia Pacific Refugee Network, (vi) **Degan Ali**, African Development Solution, (vii) **Ann Singeo**, Ebiil Society, (viii) **Alice Thomas**, Refugee International, (ix) **Moa M Herrgard / Alice Claeson**, UNGCY, (x) **Prof Walter Kaelin** The Nansen Initiative, (TBC), (xi) **Nun Buzzard**, ICVA (TBC), (xii) **Nina Birkeland / Lena Brenn**, Norwegian Refugee Council (TBC), and (xiii) **Naser Memon**, NHN more others.

The session will be **moderated by M Rezaul Karim Chowdhury**, who has more than two decades of experiences in moderating such events both in national and international level, speaking as designated speaker in English. Please see those in www.equitybd.net and www.coastbd.net.

There will be tentative time and topic selection and allocation which will be prepared in communication with incumbement panel members, and will be finalized at least 3 days before of the event so that there can be as much as possible effective outcome without any duplication with limited time.

6 Tentative format, agenda and time allocation of the side event

Following steps will be followed in this regard;

- (i) **Background and objectives** of the side event and introduction of the panel members and ground rules for moderation by the moderator. Max. 3 minutes.
- (ii) **First round presentations from panel member**, each max. 3 minutes, 15 panel members, total 45 minutes.
- (iii) **Open floor, questions and reflections from the participants**, each participants max. 2 minutes, scope for 10 participants, total 20 minutes.
- (iv) **Second round for selected panel members**, each panel members 2 minutes, max.7 panel members, total 14 minutes.
- (v) **Summary and conclusion** by the moderator max. 5 minutes. Contingency 7 minutes.

7. Room Size

We need a room size of small (50 to 100) with theater.

8. Rapporteur

Rapporteur will be decided later on, apart from this, we are expecting an audio documentation of the whole session.

9. Social Media, Media Release, Development Communication and Outcome.

All the joint organizers will do campaign in social media on the event and also on the issue, so that there will be more interest on the issue and also on the side events to join.

There will be English press release from COAST within 24 hours after completion of the events, subsequently media clips will be collected, preserved in websites of all the organizers and will be circulated in relevant group mail. We are expecting a media list from WHS in this regard.

Still photography will be done with the help of our co organizers.

In www.equitybd.net we have a signature campaign in English, Spanish and French <http://equitybd.net/supportmigrants/index.php> on climate forced migrants; this will be circulated and will be continued again. We have already prepared a short two minutes video in this regard, we will show this in the side event, please see this in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hOrnvoXGa0>. We will develop a simple side event flyer and also a campaign flyer in this regard. I feel our co organizers will have some more ideas in this regard.

We expect that WHS help us to provide us audio documentations, and also we have a rapporteur in this regard. Based on those documentation we will produce and circulate a documentation in this regard, like what we did in respect our such campaign seminar on the same issue on last 5th Dec 2015, in UNFCCC, CoP Paris, please see the link, <http://www.equitybd.net/?p=25189>. The documentation will be used as reference for further progression of the campaign in this regard.

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