

Campaign on Climate Displacement during the GFMD and Seminar titled 'Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Climate Migrants'



A. Background of the Campaign: Issue of climate Induced displacement

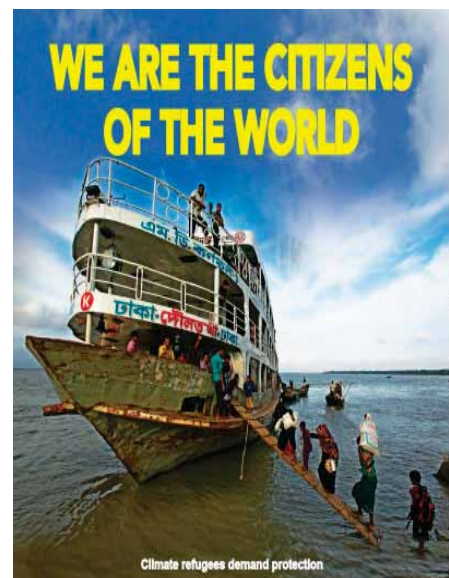
Several scientific reports including report from IPCC have so far mentioned that there will be increasing nature of climate-induced displacement all over the world, especially in Most Vulnerable Countries (MVC). It will be happened mostly because of sea water rise, glacier melting, submerge of low lying areas especially of coastal islands, due to salinity intrusion, increased nature of cyclone and other slow and rapid onset nature of disasters, water crisis and drought situation etc. According to the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), one person in every second is displaced by natural disasters related to climate change. In an average at least 21.5 million people already are being displaced each year by the impact and threat of sudden onset climate-related hazards. Today disasters displaced people are more than people displaced due to conflict and war worldwide. As climate change continues, it will likely lead to more frequent and severe natural hazards. The impact will be heavy. Displacement related to climate change is among the greatest challenges of the 21st century. Scientists warn that climate change is projected to increasingly affect displacement in the future, both internally and across border. In most of the vulnerable countries like Bangladesh and Philippines, the problem is vivid. Huge populations are already migrating to their cities, and the cities crammed with these populations, are creating new sort of problems for the governments of these countries.

B. Objectives of the Campaign during GFMD: Opportunities to reach the voices to the Policy Makers

As an initiative of the United Nations Member States The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is an important platform to address the migration and development interconnections. Latest event of GFMD held in Dhaka was an glaring opportunity for the CSOs of Bangladesh and also from various countries to raise the people's voice to the policy makers. To take the opportunity Equity and Justice Working Group Bangladesh (equityBD) and COAST Trust organized two special events. One was the Humanity Passport Campaign and one Dinner Seminar.

Objectives of those campaigns were:

- To appraise the climate displacement situation globally with a special focus on Bangladesh,
- To inform key GFMD (Global Forum on Migration and Development) leaders on the discourse both in and outside of UNFCCC process,
- To discuss how the civil society and other can participate in the UN framework discourse "Global Compact on Orderly, Regularly and Safe Migration" and
- Solicit opinions from the GFMD leaders on the issue for future progression.



C. The Humanity Passport Campaign

COAST reprinted a Campaign Material called Humanitarian Passport originally conceptualized and printed by the Friends of the Earth International. COAST reprinted it with both in Bangla and English. This campaign paper in shape of passport contained some very important information about climate migrants. It contained some reliable data on climate migrants for various countries had been suffering from the impact of climate change. Some data are as follows: 10% rich people of the globe contribute 50% of global warming, while 50% poor people contribute 10% global emission. 83% refugees and displaced people stay within developing countries, 1 person in every second



is displaced by a climate disaster, 1 in every 30 in the world could be displaced due to climate impacts. In the reprinted version some information on Bangladesh have also been added, like 1 in every 5 in Bangladesh will be displaced within 2020.

COAST distributed this passport to all government delegates, special guests and also to all CSO representatives to the GFMD and CSOs participated in PGA and CSOs days.

C. The Dinner Seminar: Climate Displacement: Promoting and Protecting the Climate Migrants' Rights

On 09th of December COAST organized the dinner seminar as a side event of the GFMD.

From the seminar national and international civil society rights groups working for the rights of migrants expressed their solidarity for the climate migrants' rights. The seminar was organized in a hotel in Dhaka. The seminar titled "Climate Displacement: Promoting and Protecting the Climate Migrants' Rights" organized jointly by Action Aid, COAST Trust, Climate Action Network for South Asia (CANSA), Equity and Justice Working Group Bangladesh (equityBD) and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Environment and Forest was the Chief Guest of the seminar while it was chaired by Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman, Chairman, PKSF. Rezaul Karim

Chowdhury of EquityBD moderated the seminar and Mr. Henrik Widht, Deputy Head of Mission, Norwegian Embassy in Bangladesh, Dr. Gopal Krishna Siwakoti, Ex-Chairman of Asia Pacific Refugee Right Networks, Ms. Sarnata Reynolds, Policy Advisor of Oxfam International, Mr. Sanjay Vashist, Co Chair of CANSA, Mr Harjeet Singh of Action Aid International, Mr. Atle Solberg, Head of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), Coordination Unit and Ms. Farah Kabir of Action Aid Bangladesh also spoke at the occasion as panel discussants. Participants from India, Nepal, Philippines, Jordan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Norway, USA, South Africa also participated on the open discussion. About 80 international CSO leaders participated in the seminar.

Mr Harjeet Singh said, the issue of climate migrants is not in the Paris Climate Agreement, there are efforts to include the issue in the Warsaw Implementation Mechanism. Bangladesh is playing an important role in this regard.

Sanjay Vashist said, Bangladesh is most suffered



due to climate forced displacement. In Bangladesh, internal migration is severe compared to cross border migration.

Atle Solberg said, PDD is a state-led platform working with the issue of climate migrants. We have already working with a non-binding state declaration on climate migrants. I think states have to do more in this regard.

Dr. Gopal Krishna Siwakoti said, the issue of Climate Migrants is also an important issue of the Global Forum of Migration Development (GFMD). We CSO leaders from various parts of the world, working with migration issue express our solidarity for the rights of climate migrants.

Ms. Sarnata Reynolds said, UN is going to prepare 'Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration', CSO has to play an active role in this regard. Developed countries are not that much interested; we have to push them for a positive change.

Mr. Henrik Widht said, we are very much concern over the situation of climate displacement of Bangladesh. Bangladesh as well as the international governments have to achieve a rational solution of that problem.

Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, Due to internal migration the population of the Dhaka City has been increased almost 10 times within last 15 years. To address the crises of climate migrants Geneva Convention on migration has to be revised.

Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman said, Global communities have to come forward to get a solution for the climate migrants; migrant community leaders have to be very much active in this regard.

List of Guests of the Dinner Seminar

Chief Guest: Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Environment
Chair: Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman, Chairman, Palli Karma Shohayak Foundation (PKSF).

Distinguished Guests:

- Mr. Henrik Widht, Deputy Head of Mission, Norwegian Embassy in Bangladesh,**
- Dr. Gopal Krishna Siwakoti, Ex-Chairman of Asia Pacific Refugee Right Networks**
- Ms. Sarnata Reynolds, Policy Advisor of Oxfam International**
- Mr. Sanjay Vashist, Co Chair of CANSA,**
- Mr Harjeet Singh of Action Aid International**
- Mr. Atle Solberg, Head of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), Coordination Unit**
- Ms. Farah Kabir of Action Aid Bangladesh**

Moderator: Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of EquityBD

Participants from India, Nepal, Philippines, Jordan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Norway, USA, South Africa also participated on the open discussion. About 80 international CSO leaders participated in the seminar.



List of Participants

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