Twenty civil society organizations from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Pacific organized a seminar titled “Climate Forced Displacements: Rights and Obligations” on 5th December, 2015 at Le Burget, Paris, France. Participating in the discussion, speakers have emphasized on new global order and dedicated UN policy regime for climate induced displaced people. They have urged text in Paris Agreement following the content agreed under Cancun Adaptation Framework’s paragraph 14 sub paragraphs F. The seminar was moderated by Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of EquityBD and key note was presented by Ziaul Haque Mukta of CSRL and EquityBD. Panel members were Anotonie Gerrard from UN’s World Humanitarian Summit, Caorlina Hernandez from UN Office of High Commissioner on Human Rights, Professor Walter Kaelin from The Nansen Initiatives which is a Special Envoy of the Governments of Switzerland and Norway, Nick Dearden from Global Justice Now UK, Lena Brenn from Norwegian Refugee Council, Mithika Mwenda from Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, Gouri Prodhan from LDC Watch, Sharmind Neelormi of CSRL Bangladesh, Soumaya Dutta from Beyond Copenhagen Collective, India, Jahangir Hasan Masum of CDP and Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Environment and Forest of Bangladesh Parliament.

Seminar jointly organized by: __________________________
Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Chief Moderator of EquityBD, Bangladesh

Since Copenhagen Climate Conference we have been having the mobilization on climate migrant, I don’t want to say why this problem is emerging. It is already known to you and this is the most of contentious issue of vulnerable and LDC countries. And in this journey we got the partnership from Asia, Africa and Latin America to continue our advocacy for climate forced displaced people.

We have been working for last 10 years to continue this mobilization and discourse not only in UNFCCC level but also in different UN levels/discourse such as WHS, Nansen Initiatives and other international platforms. This is one of the objectives of our mobilization to interact as much as possible with stakeholders in this regard.

Ziaul Haque Mukta of Campaign for Sustainable Rual Livelihood (CSRL)/EquityBD Bangladesh

In terms of ‘rights, general people who have been Specifically as they are displaced due to weather related extreme and slow onset events, they must have the specific rights to rehabilitation including planned relocation and migration. Their general and specific rights should be ensured before, during and after the displacement, as well as during rehabilitation including planned relocation and migration, where appropriate, at local, national, regional and international levels.
In terms of ‘responsibilities, national and local governments will have to primarily protect the rights of migrants who are affected by the climate change. In so doing, the national govt. of vulnerable-affected countries will have to play an active role at regional and global level for devising appropriate measures to serve them through bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives. So the role of national govt. in negotiating in different levels is very important. Additionally all polluting countries including the business sectors emitting green house gases will have to be responsible to serve the climate migrants proportionately based on their emission performances.

It is surprising that international community serving ‘refugees’ are reluctant to accept the idea of ‘climate migrant’ albeit they are responsible to make people ‘climate migrants’ in many cases. Therefore, a national government should devise a National Strategy first of all to deal with the issues relevant to climate migrants. Such National Strategy will guide actions at national level and by national govt. at bilateral, regional and international levels. This strategy shouldn’t be a part of national climate policy or plan but an independent one as actions would be multidimensional covering human rights, development, trade policies etc. Within the scope of the national strategy the govt. will have to realign the social protection program by keeping in mind the special needs and priorities of the climate migrants. Govt. must ensure that ‘UN’s guiding principles on International Displacement’ is valued by all implementing agencies associated with the movement, resettlement, rehabilitation and reintegration of displaced people/climate migrants.

It is be mentioned that Bangladesh has recently passed the Disaster Management Act, 2012 where it includes a definition of climate change (Article 2) and provisions for rehabilitation of affected people (Article 27). Although there is no rule to roll out to implement disaster management act. We hope that govt. will be devising respective rules soon so that climate affected people are rehabilitated properly by the national govt.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) report says there are different measures by the different developed countries especially through their visa or immigration measures. How they can accommodate different spaces of different countries.
In 2010, for the first time under the adaptation framework on UNFCCC agreed in Cancun Conference the issue discussed. It addressed the issue of displacement and migration, especially about the measures to enhance understanding coordination and cooperation with regard to climate displacement/migration plan, relocation where appropriate at national, regional and international level. However, in different initiatives of UNFCCC especially the National Adaptation Plans (NPAs) was made in which National Adaptation Program of Actions (NAPAs) was developed. In none of these cases we have seen anything on the issue of climate displacement. So this is a gap in this issue.

Following the adaptation of the framework, it was said that there should be some kind of understanding but unfortunately there was no initiative at UNFCCC to enhance the understanding. However, following the Nansen Initiative to generate some kinds of consensus around the issue of displacement, we hope that this kind of consensus will give momentum in the future.

Later, in COP18 and COP19, there were some kind of decisions around the Warsaw International Mechanism under the loss and damage and finally it takes and release this afternoon.

At COP 21 of the UNFCCC, version of 4 December 2015 of the draft agreement has a provision on displacement in its option 1 of Article 5. Sub article 5 of the Option 1 reads, “The [governing body][CMP] [CMA] shall, at its first session, establish a climate change displacement coordination facility to help coordinate efforts to address the displacement of people as a result of extreme impacts of climate change.” In the final legally binding agreement this article must be renamed as ‘Climate Change Induced Displacement, Migration and Planned Relocation Coordination facility for National, Regional and International levels’.

Forced climate migrants are the most vulnerable group of people amongst all facing the brutal face of anthropogenic climate change as well as climate negotiations. Resisting the double standards of the developed and major emitting countries the LDCs-AOSIS-Africa Group must work hard together to serve this most vulnerable group of people.

Jahangir Hasan Masum from Coastal Development Partnership (CDP), Bangladesh

Climate change issue is now a past matter, loss and damage issues are the current issues. Observing the situation, climate forced migration would be my future. In terms of negotiation, earlier we saw that the psycho social dimension of displaced people were totally ignored in most of the negotiation processes. I have lost my childhood/childhood memories due to climate change as we lived in north Potenga which is far from 500 meters from sea. In 1991’s cyclone we have lost everything including our residence.
After two years when we came back to the same place I feared to hear the sound of sea. Also I lost half of my school friends during the cyclone. Still we are fighting with the nature. The people who are serving with climate change, most of them live in poverty for years. So there should have govt. strategy for the displaced people. The situation will not be changed if we will not take any long term relocation plan for the displaced people.”

Sharmind Neelormi, Secretary General of CSRL, Bangladesh

Displacement and migration in terms of gender equality is not clearly mentioned on new draft agreement. I would like to seek attention at paragraph 11 on the agreement, taking into account of imparities of just transition on the workforce, creation of decent work and quality job in accordance with nationally defined development priorities.

As Bangladesh is an over populated country, there is no place to relocate people. Therefore, we have been advocating internationally for a longtime for a plan to relocate and facilitate migration. And migration and displacement have been referred in loss and damage. But in terms of proactive measures, it is difficult to connect one to one relationship in terms of displacement to climate change. When the technician comes here always faces difficulty to prove the displacement happened only because of climate change. So, we need to have a greater understanding what we mean by climate forced migration, how we link with others.

Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment and Forest

The 1951 refugee convention should be inserted as climate displacement and it is the hard reality at present which was not mentioned in it. He shared an experience he gathered from COP president (French), who visited Bangladesh and met a lady who was displaced nine times in last 20 years. He urged the countries responsible for excess carbon emission to take the responsibility to share burden as well as to take responsibility to relocate displaced people. In Cancun text it came in this way, major to enhance understanding coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change, induced displacement, migration, plan relocation where appropriate at the national, regional and international level but now it was lost as we do not talk more on this issue. Today displacement issue has been inserted again, he added.
He also said, the definition of refugee has to be rewritten taking the reality on the background of climate displaced people. There must be an UN guiding principles where climate migrants must get priority. Therefore, states can deliver their responsibility and the responsibility goes to those countries which are responsible for this.

**Sumaya Dutta, Beyond Copenhagen Collective (BCC), India,**

There are 12 more vulnerable countries in five categories where Bangladesh is in 3, India is 3, Pakistan is 2 and Srilanka is in 1 of these categories. He said if we look at the climate as hydro meteorological disaster which is basically large storms and floods and this has gone up extremely and sharply after 1950.

In 2013 Himalayan disaster, India experienced the flood, some regions of Western Nepal, and some parts of Western Tibetalso experienced heavy rainfall. So these kinds of disaster, climate forced migration need to be define much more focusing the Asia, South Asia region and need more South Asian regional cooperation.

**Mithika Mwenda from Pan African Climate Justice Alliance(PACJA)**

The root cause of all the problem is poverty and inequality that is not only in Africa, is across the world. In Sustainable Development Goal 13 is specifically mentioned as climate change. In Sudan, the community people are fighting for water, land and natural resources as the resources are shrinking in alarming way displacing people from their own land. And the conflict is happening due to climate change. Therefore we need to address climate change issue and take measures such as SDGs and other international mechanisms in terms of migration. As we consider agriculture, water and energy important for people, we should seek attention of the policymakers to this issues based on our evidence and experiences as well. The policymakers then can capture what need to be done now.

**Gouri Prodhan, International Coordinator for LDC Watch**

It has already been discussed several times about the reason of rising of the sea level, increasing of coastal disaster, floods etc in poor and least developed countries and people's sufferings of those countries. He mentioned, in terms of loss and damage in Article 5 in the current negotiation which refers to the issue of climate induced displacement, migration and planned relocation have been addressed. In Warsaw, in the COP 19 the only win was the international mechanism for loss and damage. So, now our current fight would be to anchor these international mechanisms in the new agreement.

The biggest fears are compensation and reparation for loss and damage pushed by
developed countries as they will not take any responsibilities as there is no consensus to the COP agreement. He demanded two issues in the new text—(a) loss and damage to be as the part adaptation and b) to keep adaptation as separate pillar as it is currently under Article 5 and not to include under adaptation which is under article 4.

Nick Dearden from Global Justice Now of UK

Europe and developed countries have been benefited from immigrants, and it is due to their high level of carbon emission the issue of climate forced migrant issue emerged. So the developed countries must take responsibilities in this regard. We absolutely support the formal responsibilities for economic and militaristic policy in terms of allowing immigration movement but also we need to build support with a society. He mentioned it is our job to make it sure so that people feel solidarity, feel a sense; we should not hate or blame the coming people. So the responsibilities for us not just to allow movement also support them financially along with social security as needed. We also need to establish economic relation with the world for better system for migrants’ people.

Lena Brenn from Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Climate related displacement is not a future phenomenon. It is already reality now. According to NRC’s Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), at least 22.5 million people have been displaced every year on average since 2008 by the impacts of floods, storms and other climate- and weather-related hazards. This is equivalent to about 1 person being displaced every second. Here COP21, states leaders from France, USA, Cambodia, Kiribati etc. have reinforced the importance of human mobility issues, including displacement, migration and planned relocation. This political momentum must be seized and the Paris Agreement must address human mobility. As we already heard migration issues have been addressed in the current draft text of the Paris agreement; but the Agreement should also recognize that human mobility is an issue of climate change adaptation and preventing and reducing displacement must be priority. This includes i) increasing communities’ resilience, so that they can remain safely in their homes e.g. through the construction of storm resistant buildings, or growing of drought resistant crops; ii) enabling people to migrate with dignity to seek alternative opportunities when living conditions deteriorate; and iii) as a last resort,
carefully plan with communities for their relocation to new homes in safer areas. For this reason, we are calling to include climate-related human mobility the Paris Agreement.

Carolina Hernandez from the UN office on Human Right Commissioner

Climate change has devastating impact on the enjoyment of human rights including the rights to health, right to water and sanitation, right to food, right to housing and right to life itself. In the Human Rights Council, states have call guide to climate policy in the negotiation taking place right now that would bid human rights with all climate action and ensure necessary protection for climate displacement and most vulnerable to the impact of climate. The high commissioner called for the fully integrate human rights in Paris Agreement. Today in the middle communities around the world are more frequently forced to move, she added.

In addition, the procession and conflict today are the reasons for non voluntary movement include poverty, discrimination, and lack of access to health services and the wider range of consequence of climate change. Climate change related movement is link not only to certain disaster and slow on deterioration of condition but also to underline socio-economic and political context related to poverty, discrimination and governance. Most climate related migrants are likely to be able to access of protection in the context of destination with our access to regular channel definition for migration.

Some countries were already provided with protection in sudden disaster. But many fall the gaps, particularly those are in impact of slow onset disaster. For example, the border crossed migrants are unable to receive food, water and decent work. They have nothing to return and their safety might be threatened and would likely repeat migration. It must be acknowledged a person who crosses the border. So, we need new categories of protection and development coherent policies regarding the rights of all migrants which taking to account the root causes. Human Rights Council providing development guidance to protect migrants travelling in so called mixed flows that may not be protected under the international law by OCHCR.

Some migrants may be able to get benefit from protection policy provided by some countries but many are going through gaps, particularly those seeking space to future impacts of slow onset disaster and to carry safe measures to return. However, this is not sustainable when migrants are sent back as they are unable to receive food, water, medicine etc. Hence, the states and international community need to adopt comprehensive and rights based response to address migration flows and to address multi culture underlying socio-economic and environmental drives of movement.

Farah Kabir, Country Director of Action Aid, Bangladesh
As we adopted Nansen Initiatives five months back and parties adopted the agenda of protection; in this agreement where it is going to be set. One study from Bangladesh says 400 thousand are displaced every year due to river erosion, droughts and other natural disaster.

Antonie Gerrard, Chief of UN's World Humanitarian Summit

As we stand at World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), it is an initiative that UN Secretary General has long wish and would like to realize in May, 2016 in Istanbul. We had actually the grassroots process, regional conditions in different possible words particularly some words some more than other words that is climate displacement has been highlighted. It is clear to us that the word ‘displacement’ is not properly discussed in today’s paper and we need to stop saying ‘refugee’ displaced by climate or economic reason. We need to move collectively on the policies and realization of progress to address the scarcity and access to natural resources.

The fact we are starting to forget the tragedy of displacement to loss family, friends or houses. So this is the reason to realization in waste way. Climate forced migrants is a security agenda for future so it should draw attention from the global leaders, it is a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, all states must devise new global strategy to respond this crisis.

Prof. Walter Kaelin from the Nansen Initiatives, special Envoy of the Government of Switzerland and Norway

The initiative process to look at to build consensus on best context of displacement and the effects of climate change. It builds on paragraph 14F of Cancun adaptation framework. We have been conducting serious of consultation including in South Asia. The consultative process resulted in eight documents that are called the protection agenda. The protection agenda brings together existing practices that are indentifying all over the world.

The global consultation of states which have had happened in Geneva in last October, there was a good wishes from state leaders to go for new global order and policy regimes, same good wishes should prevail in Paris climate conference too.