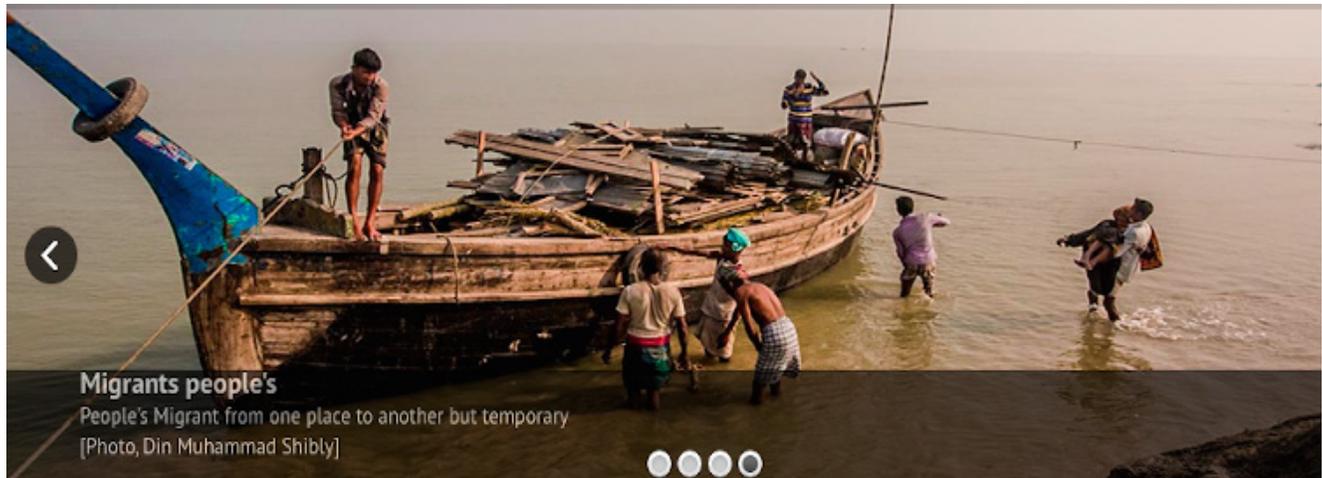


# Reorganize Climate Negotiation and Planning Structure

## Climate Induced Displacement is a National Issues, NOT of a Ministry only



### 1. Why "Migrants" issue is so IMPORTANT for Bangladesh

There are already around 8 million Bangladeshi immigrant workers in abroad, mostly in Middle East countries and they are sending major portion of remittance in the country. The remittance contributes around 7.9% of our total GDP. Bangladeshi expatriates are mostly natural, semi-skilled and UN skilled laborers. It is forecasted that, there will be more demand of such laborer in other countries especially in the health and care-giving sectors in developed countries. Apart from these, there are growing consensus that immigrants are the key drivers of economics although there are growing concern of xenophobia, e.g., Germany has taken this philosophy of "Migration and Development" nexus and taking advantage of huge migration from Middle East (especially Syria, Libya and Afghanistan), as a part of integration of this as human capital, they are investing on educating refugees.

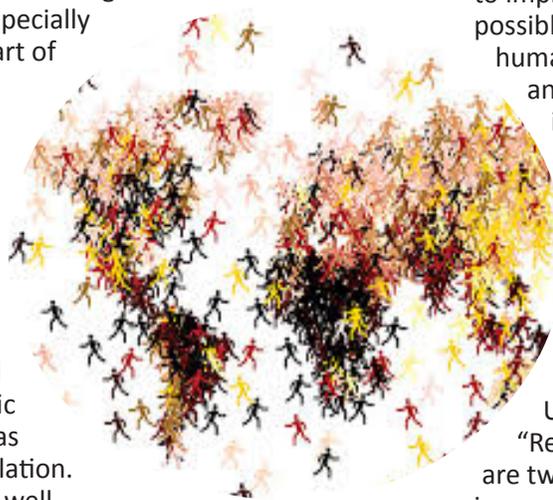
International Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) and renowned scientists have already forecasted that, there will be 30 million climate induced displaced in Bangladesh by year 2050, as most of its coastal districts will be flooded with sea water rise and other climatic issues. The problem is already vivid as huge influx is impacting Dhaka population.

Though the Paris Agreement targets well below 2 degree Celsius, there will be new discourse targeting 1.5 degree Celsius from 2018, which is vital for the existence of Climate Vulnerable Countries (CVC) like Bangladesh in future, but for a consensus it may require a negotiation of another 10 years. Even though there are overwhelming ratifications of Paris Agreement, even if the countries go for reduction of carbon emission, CVC countries like Bangladesh will face adverse impacts (especially sea water raise, increase frequencies of rapid and slow on set disasters). These impacts will continue for more than 100 years. Climate impacts will be compounded with the population boom, which

is going beyond of accommodation capacity of the country and water withdrawal of river waters by upper riparian countries. Along with this natural migration will be big issue caused by both push and pull factories. Bangladesh has to look for potential positive policy scopes for its migrant population globally. It does not mean that internally Bangladesh will avoid the issue, it is needed policies and action in county level to implement internally as much as possible and as well to prepare the human resource for both internal and external market too (e.g., integrating technical education in secondary and higher secondary level).

### 2. "Migrant and Refugee" issues are now Two Different Discourse in UN

In course of time, now in UN different policy discourses "Refugee" and "Migration" are two different issues. Refugee issues, especially for the people who forced displaced due to political oppression, is covered by 1951 Refugee convention. United Nation High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) has been made responsible to take care of these refugees. While "Migrant" is being defined now a days who are mostly drive by other causes, may be economic reasons,



due to war and also due to climate or disaster related displacements. International office of Migration (IoM) has been made responsible for study on the issue and also to propose and take actions. Finally UN has called high-level meeting to address large movements of refugees and migrants in 19th September 2016 in New York. These two issues distinctly define and propose for action in UN Secretary General (UNSG) report of 9th May 2016 tailored to this summit.

**3. Climate Induced Displacement: The lost battle in Paris Agreement and Little Hope in UNFCCC Process.**

During 2007 to 2010 our Honorable Prime Minister (HPM) was very vocal on climate induced displacement issues. She raised this issue to almost all global and UN forums and also in our parliaments with highest level of importance. The issue was also a key pillars of Bangladesh climate negotiation in international level, thus there were achievement of para 14.f in Cancun Climate Agreement. But with present Minister in the led of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoE&F) the issue gets limited attention and in respect of discourse of Paris Agreement it got less important, and finally the issue has been lost in Paris Agreement. Although Paris Agreement is like all international agreement in international level or in UN adopted with the principle of “Single Undertaking” i.e., until and unless everything is agreed by everyone, then nothing is agreed. Bangladesh climate negotiation in Paris has not been able to utilize this opportunity.

There are little hope of inclusion of this issue in Loss and Damage (L&D) discourse too, especially in respect of operationalization of Warsaw Implementation Mechanism (WIM). It has little hope and developed countries have a strong but passive resistance in this regard. But in civil society front, international civil societies, leaded and facilitated by Bangladeshi civil societies, have created strong momentum in this regard. Since 2007 they are organizing side events, show case photo exhibitions, signature campaign in UNFCCC Conference of Parties (CoP) places and in other international forums, and succeeded to draw attentions of global policy leaders, UN and other multinational bodies. Still the mobilization is continuing.

**4. Hopes on Climate Induced Migrants have been developed in Around State Led Process.**

Climate Induced Displacement got momentum when

Norwegian NGO the Nansen Initiative taken the issue with utmost seriousness since 2012. Mr. Nansen is a Norwegian who spoke and work of disaster displacement and got Nobel Prize in this regard. Nansen Initiatives got boost up while Switzerland and Norwegian government officially took the issue, where Bangladesh also joined. During 2013 to 2015 they have organized global bottom up discussion and conducted several regional consultation in Asia Africa and Latin America. Finally during October 2015 they called for state led conference in Geneva, Switzerland, where 109 state participated including Bangladesh< the conference ended with a declaration title “ Agenda for the Protection of Cross - Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disaster and Climate Change (Protection Agenda)”. So far it has been endorsed by 109 states, where our Honorable Foreign Minister and Foreign Secretary have had played a leadership role.

Taking this in backdrop the Climate Induced Displacement issue was also a huge matter of discussion in World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), which was a UN lead global bottom up discussion during the period of 2013 to 2016. Finally with the leadership of Germany and Bangladesh a state lead “Platform on Disaster Displacement” (PDD) has been announced on 23rd May in WHS Summit Istanbul. Germany is the chair of PDD while Bangladesh is the vice chair. So far 30 countries have joined the platform including European Union. PDD has agreed to (i) address knowledge and data gaps, (ii) enhance the use of identified practices, to prevent reduce and address cross boarder displacement at the national, regional and international levels, (iii) promote policy coherence and mainstreaming of human mobility challenges in, and across, relevant policy and action areas, and (iii) promote policy and normative development in gap areas” . PDD will have advisory technical committee meeting in the middle of October in Geneva. Basically this has been happened due to the relentless effort of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).



**5. Ray of Hope in 19th September UN Summit on Large Scale Displacement and Migration.**

We have other two major achievements in diplomatic front, due to the MoFA efforts. Bangladesh has been succeeded to include an international discourse title “ Towards A Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration” in 19th September 2016 summit

draft declaration, and it has come out as an annexure in the negotiated text declared on 29th July 2016 and which will be adopted in the 19th September 2016 summit. It is announced that states will come out with a compact / frame work in this regard by the year 2018.

In the draft declaration there is clear mentioning of displacement due to the disaster and climate change in section 1.1. But there is no reference to the PDD as mentioned in above. Although there is reference to the several non-binding state declarations related to refugees issues especially in article 3.12. Civil society activists who are campaigning for the rights for climate induced displacement, termed the declaration as an “Timid Effort” but they welcome the inclusion of Bangladesh proposal title “Towards a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration” as annexure two, and expressed UN commitment thereby in the draft declaration in section 3.23 for adoption of a global compact by 2018 at an international conference.

#### **6. How to build the effort for 19th Sept UN Summit and Global Agreement and Action on Climate Induced Migrants: Some Proposal**

Now it is the time for our Bangladesh government and civil societies to do sufficient homework and international mobilization for a success in this regard. So, in this regard we have following proposals in this regard:

(i) As Honorable Prime Minister is participating in 19th September UN Summit, she must request global leaders also in her personal level to support the process, and demand for new compact for migrants which could be legal policy regimes and frameworks and reorganizations of present form UN bodies, especially to look after the issues of climate inducement displacement and migrants / immigrants’ rights in countries.

(ii) Formation of “Climate Commission” as a supra

national bodies on top of ministries and giving responsibility to the commission on integration of climate adaptation in budget and national planning. It should also lead the climate negotiation in the international level. The commission should take the representatives of civil societies, planning commission and of the MoFA. All the climate funds including Trust (led by Ministry of Environment and Forest) and Resilience Fund (led by World Bank) should be placed under the commission. Supremacy of Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoE&F) should be scrapped now especially in respect of international climate negotiations, as it has little “capacity and inclusivity” in this regard. Now, here is a great need of international diplomatic skills and great deal of homework. Homework is related to do more research on climate induce displacement and also implementation of accountability transparency and participation in climate finance / project implementation. Philippine has an example in this regard, Sri Lanka has consideration in such a commission, and even India and Pakistan have gone for separate ministry in this regard.

(iii) Bangladesh has also achieved another one important historic milestone in this regard, and it is also due to the effort of MoFA. Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) will be happened in 8 to 12 December 2016 in Dhaka, there will be participation of 132 states including huge number of civil societies. Foreign Secretary Ambassador Shahidul Haque has been made as the Chair of this incoming GFMD. The Dhaka GFMD already in the global spotlight due its extra ordinary concept note as lunched by Bangladesh. Title of the concept note Migration that works for Sustainable Development for All: Towards a Transformative Migration Agenda. Along with this forum Bangladesh government and civil society has to mobilize international civil societies in this regard so that countries will give support to have compact on safe, orderly and regular migration by the year 2018.

### ORGANIZATIONS



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