

Country Statement

(3 minutes)

Sharifa Khan, Secretary, ERD, Bangladesh

At the 79th Session of UNESCAP

16 May 2023 (8:30 am to 11:00 am BST)

Session Topic: **Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development**

Madam Chair of the Session,

Respected Representatives,

Distinguished delegations

Ladies and Gentleman,

Assalamu Alaikum and a very good morning from Bangladesh,

I am very honored to have the opportunity to speak before the distinguished audience at this 79th Session of UNESCAP. At this august moment I am taking heartfelt thanks to UNESCAP for arranging this event with a view of mitigating climate vulnerable the region.

Excellencies,

Climate change causes major challenges to all aspects of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. Most of the countries of the region are extremely vulnerable to climate impacts and are insufficiently prepared to face extreme weather events and natural disasters, which are growing in intensity and frequency in recurrent which are already mentioned by the previous speakers. We cannot minimize the sufferings of our people.

Ladies and Gentleman

You all know that Bangladesh is going to be graduated from the status of a Least Developed Country (LDC) by 2026. Climate change is a major barrier to realizing our long term development vision. Unfortunately, despite being one of the lowest carbon emitters (0.47% of the global emission), Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world. Climate change has emerged as one of the biggest threat to sustainable development in Bangladesh by posing a severe risk for rural incomes, food security, commodity exports including fish and other aquaculture elements, huge losses in agricultural products and livelihood, water and health sector and pushing people in more vulnerability.

Distinguished Guest

Bangladesh has adopted a wide range of plans and programs to tackle impacts of climate change. These include Bangladesh Delta Plan (BDP) 2100 which also committed to fulfill its SDG targets related to climate change. Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF) has already been operationalized to help identify the demand and supply sides of climate fiscal funds. Bangladesh has already submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to UNFCCC to reduce GHGs emissions by following a low-carbon development pathway.

We targeted as a member country of Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), Bangladesh has prepared the comprehensive Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan (2022-2041), a strategic investment framework to mobilize financing through international cooperation to implement climate resilient initiatives. Bangladesh has also established 'Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF)' to help vulnerable communities to recover and become resilient to climate change impacts.

Ladies and Gentleman,

We see that the climate change financing is very minimum compared to the requirements. I humbly request the international community through

UNESCAP to come forward to ensure their committed financing for implementing the adaptation and mitigation plans and programs of the climate vulnerable countries. Urge all of you to make GCF and GEF more user friendly avoiding complex compliance process so that it is accessible for the vulnerable countries to meet their real needs.

Excellences,

The ESCAP theme study titled “ Race to Net Zero: Accelerating Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific “ sets out the transformations needed in three key sectors – energy, low-carbon mobility and logistics, and international progress towards a net-zero carbon future in support of sustainable development. I urge all members, especially the developed nations, to move forward with more technical management and financial support for mitigation. We need to build regional frameworks or partnerships on green power corridors, low-carbon transport, and a low-carbon and climate-smart transition and collaborate on policies for climate-smart trade and investment, climate finance, and monitoring.

Ladies and Gentleman,

I hope the members of UNESCAP will take pivotal role and take coordinated climate actions to build a sustainable and resilient future.

THANK YOU EVERYONE.

