



Report on Policy Dialogue

Resonating Youth Voices for Climate Resilience 2024

Organized by:

ICCCAD under the CAP-RES Project (Capacity Strengthening of Multi-Actors to Limit Climate Change Impacts and Enhance Resilience)

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Executive Summary

The Youth-Led Policy Dialogue, held on October 17, 2024, at Six Seasons Hotel, Dhaka, Bangladesh, organized by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) under the CAP-RES Project, brought together young leaders, policymakers, climate experts, practitioners, and other stakeholders to amplify youth voices and strategize solutions ahead of COP29. The event featured an opening speech by Sumaiya Binte Selim, reflections from Md. Al Mamun Rakib on his journey from youth fellow to leader, and a group presentation by Fariha Sultana Aumi and Saila Sobnom Richie highlighting Bangladesh's climate vulnerabilities. Contributions came from a diverse array of participants, including prominent panelists such as Md. Shamsuddoha, Ahmed Reza, Nazmul Ahsan, Farzana Faruk Jhumu, and Ms. Nayoka Martinez Bäckström, First Secretary (Environment & Climate) and Deputy Head of Cooperation at the Embassy of Sweden. Discussions explored systemic barriers in climate finance, the need for just transitions, and the importance of sustained youth engagement, while participants across sectors shared insights and actionable recommendations. Key findings emphasized avoiding greenwashing in transitions, prioritizing transparent climate finance, and fostering humanized climate narratives through media. Concluding remarks from Ms. Bäckström highlighted the leadership role of youth, stating, "Your role is not limited to participation; you are leaders in this movement." The event reinforced the urgency of integrating youth perspectives into climate strategies, aligning local challenges with global solutions to ensure a resilient future.

Introduction

The Youth-Led Policy Dialogue, organized by ICCCAD under the CAP-RES Project, served as a vital platform for young leaders, climate experts, and policymakers to address pressing climate challenges and strategize solutions ahead of COP29. The event highlighted the critical role of youth in shaping climate resilience strategies and fostering collaboration between various stakeholders. With participants representing diverse regions of Bangladesh, the dialogue underscored the country's commitment to integrating youth perspectives into both national and global climate agenda.



Event Agenda

The event consisted of the following components:

- **Opening Speech:** Insights into ICCCAD’s initiatives to empower youth leaders.
- **Youth Fellow Journey Reflection:** Experiences shared by a Youth Representative.
- **Group Presentation:** A presentation by Youth Fellows on the “Youth Perspective in COP 29”.
- **Policy Dialogue:** An open-floor discussion featuring panelists and participants.
- **Highlights and Key Findings:** Actionable recommendations and insights from the dialogue.
- **Closing Remarks:** Reflections and a call to action by Ms. Nayoka Martinez Bäckström, First Secretary (Environment & Climate) and Deputy Head of Cooperation at the embassy of Sweden, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Objectives



Empower Youth

Provide a platform for youth to voice their perspectives and influence policy discussions ahead of COP29.



Foster Collaboration

Bridge connections between youth, policymakers, and experts to ensure inclusive climate solutions.



Drive Action

Develop actionable recommendations for just transitions, climate finance, and adaptation strategies.

Opening Speech

Sumaiya Binte Selim, Programme Coordinator and Youth Focal for the CAP-RES Project opened the event by emphasizing the importance of youth leadership in climate action.

She stated, “This dialogue is about enabling youth to lead the way in addressing climate challenges. ICCCAD is committed to providing the tools and platforms needed to amplify their voices on a global stage.”



Youth Fellow Journey Reflection

Md. Al Mamun Rakib, a former Youth Fellow and current Youth Representative under the CAP-RES Project, shared his journey from being a participant to becoming a leader in climate advocacy. He reflected on the impact of ICCCAD’s initiatives, stating,



Rakib highlighted the program’s diversity and inclusivity, attracting hundreds of applicants annually. He shared how the program’s training, field visits and thematic sessions prepared him to participate meaningfully in international platforms like COP28. “These opportunities have given us the confidence and capacity to engage with global policymakers and advocate for meaningful change,” he added.

Group Presentation

The event was hosted by Fariha Sultana Aumi, an ICCCAD Youth Fellow from 2024 cohort, who alongside Saila Sobnom Richie, presented a detailed analysis titled ‘Youth Perspective in COP29’. This presentation highlighted Bangladesh’s vulnerabilities and called for global action to address climate change.



Fariha Sultana Aumi began by illustrating the devastating impacts of climate change on Bangladesh.

“Floods, cyclones, and riverbank erosion are more than just natural calamities; they are exacerbated by unplanned development, poverty, and a lack of inclusive policies,” she explained. Reviewing recent data on climate migrants, she highlighted that “19.9 million Bangladeshis could become climate migrants by 2050.”

Saila Sobnom Richie expanded on global climate negotiations, pointing out the need for actionable commitments.

“At every COP, we raise our voices, but the global south’s priorities are often sidelined. We must push for a rapid phase-out of fossil fuels and advocate for renewable energy transitions,” she urged. The presentation outlined an action plan for COP29, focusing on just transitions, enhanced climate finance, and technology transfer.



Their presentation concluded with a call for youth engagement in all aspects of climate action. “We need to keep our voices raised until we get the justice we deserve,” Aumi stated passionately.

Policy Dialogue

The open-floor discussion featured contributions from distinguished panelists and participants, focusing on key issues like climate finance, just transitions, and adaptation strategies. Md. Shamsuddoha, Chief Executive of the Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD), critiqued global climate governance, stating,

Decisions at the UNFCCC often reflect the lowest bargains, which are inadequate for addressing the scale of the crisis. Our adaptation efforts are fragmented; they must be communal and integrated into national planning.” He also pointed out challenges in operationalizing Loss and Damage funds, adding, “Without clear liabilities and responsibilities, voluntary contributions will not create sustainable solutions.”

Ahmed Reza, Senior Broadcast Journalist at Jamuna TV, discussed the media’s role in reshaping climate narratives. He emphasized,



“The media often focuses on sensationalism, which discourages local journalists from engaging deeply with climate issues. We need public-interest journalism that centers on human stories and policy impact.” Reza also urged youth to adopt consultative approaches, remarking, “Move beyond chanting slogans to representing logical, actionable recommendations.”

Nazmul Ahsan, Lead of the Young and Just Society initiative at ActionAid Bangladesh, highlighted the importance of humanizing the climate narrative. He stated,

“We need to see climate change from a human rights perspective. Behavioral change is essential to make advocacy more effective. Capacity building is not a one-time effort; it requires continuous adaptation to evolving realities.”



Ahsan also called for expanded outreach, emphasizing, “We must take these discussions to communities that cannot participate in forums like this.”

Farzana Faruk Jhumu, Youth Advocate at UNICEF Bangladesh, stressed on the reforming the UNFCCC constituency and the politics on CH4 emission, rice production, and blaming the global south.



“We must focus on NDC and our involvement in that. Did the previous NDC fulfilled the targeted demands? 11 technical dialogues already happened; we also need to focus on that.

Sadia Jahan Rothi, Board Director, Eco-Network Global, stressed that ongoing training would better equip young people to contribute effectively to climate discussions and policy processes. She called for structured platforms that ensure young voices are consistently integrated into decision-making processes, fostering long-term impact in climate resilience and advocacy.

“Why are youth engagement initiatives so concentrated around COP? We need year-round programs to keep youth involved and informed.” Her call for sustained efforts resonated widely among participants.



Fahim Faysal, Leadership Team Member, Bangladesh Youth Environmental Initiative (BYEI), critically examined the existing development model. He noted that societies were once more in harmony with nature but have gradually adopted an unsustainable, elite-driven approach to development. He urged a shift away from emotional rhetoric toward practical, solution-oriented initiatives that address climate challenges realistically.



Why the development model doesn't adapt to climate and environment-friendly decisions? We weren't like that. Who taught us this elitism?

Highlights and Key Findings

Just Transition

Ensuring equitable transitions and avoiding greenwashing is crucial. Proper rehabilitation must be prioritized for affected communities.



Youth Engagement:

Capacity-building initiatives must extend beyond COP events to ensure sustained youth involvement.



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Media's Role

Public-interest journalism must focus on human stories and policy-driven narratives to amplify vulnerable voices.



Climate Finance

Transparent and accountable mechanisms are needed to ensure funds reach those most affected.

The key findings emphasize the need for a Just Transition, ensuring equitable shifts without greenwashing while prioritizing affected communities. Media's Role is crucial in amplifying vulnerable voices through human-centered and policy-driven journalism. Youth Engagement should extend beyond COP events to ensure sustained involvement in climate action. Climate Finance must be transparent and accountable to effectively support those most impacted. Together, these elements highlight essential strategies for fair, inclusive, and effective climate policies.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Nayoka Martinez Bäckström, First Secretary (Environment & Climate) and Deputy Head of Cooperation at the Embassy of Sweden, reflected on scaling climate solutions. She noted, “Carbon capture facilities, while promising, remain expensive and inefficient. Scaling requires funding, alliances, training, and optimizing solutions. We need to target people with potential and build their capacity.”

Ms. Nayoka Martinez Bäckström concluded the dialogue with a call to action:



She encouraged participants to focus on creating scalable solutions and emphasized the importance of collaboration and effective communication. “The power of communication and collaboration can turn challenges into opportunities,” she said.

Conclusion

The Youth-Led Policy Dialogue successfully highlighted the pivotal role of youth in climate advocacy. By fostering collaboration and generating actionable recommendations, the event underscored the urgency of integrating youth perspectives into national and global climate strategies. As expressed during the event: “We do not have any planet B. The power to create change lies in our hands.”

Annex : Participant lists

Name	Organization
Sumi Khatun	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Durjoy Bhowmick	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Shafayet Alam	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Nirvik Chakma	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Saila Sobnom Richi	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Mohima Rahman	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Farhana Akter	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Jarin Tasnim	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Atiya Sharmin	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Arpita Das	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Nitun Paul	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Eco Talukder	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Farhana Yasmin Ayesha	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Suraiya Siddique Khushboo	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Shahriar Mahmud	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Fariha Sultana Aumi	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Umme Sadia Katha	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Sumya Naz	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Kazi Nayeem Hossain	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Kurnikova Chakma	ICCCAD youth fellow2024
Mr. Md Shamsuddoha	CPRD,Bangladesh
Salauddin Ahmed Reza	Jamuna TV
Nazmul Ahsan	ActionAid Bangladesh
Farzana Faruk Jhumu	UNICEF Bangladesh
Ms. Fairouse Akter	YouthNet Global
Nayoka Martinez-Bäckström	Embassy of Sweden in Dhaka, Bangladesh
Sadia Jahan Rothi	Eco-Network Global
Mayuri Tabassum Mowry	BYEI
Fahim Faysal	BYEI
Rezaye Rabbi Zayed	BYEI
Mariam Ispahani	Sonali Bioplastics
Bushra Hasan	NKMO (Mitigation)
Gausia Islam Keya	ICCCAD
Sumaiya Binte Selim	ICCCAD
Md. Tahseen Ahmed	ICCCAD
Maria Aktar	ICCCAD
Mazadul Haque Bayzid	ICCCAD
Afsana Alim	ICCCAD
Md Al Mamun Rakib	ICCCAD
Juel Mahmud	ICCCAD