



# Training Report



# Reflection of COP 29: Strategies for Effective Advocacy and Action

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## **Executive Summary**

The "Reflection of COP29: Strategies for Effective Climate Advocacy and Action" training, led by ICCCAD in collaboration with IUB, aimed to bridge global climate commitments with national policy responses. Supported by the Embassy of Sweden and German Watch, the program focused on enhancing understanding of COP29 outcomes, empowering climate advocacy, and aligning local efforts with global climate goals.

COP29 highlighted advancements in adaptation finance, loss and damage funding, and youth participation but fell short in securing strong commitments for fossil fuel phase-outs. To address these challenges, ICCCAD's training brought together key stakeholders from academia, government, and civil society to explore pathways for effective climate action in Bangladesh.

Held from January 27-28, 2025, in Dhaka, the training featured sessions on climate finance, adaptation strategies, loss and damage mechanisms, and climate justice. Discussions covered UNFCCC structures, NCQG significance, and locally led adaptation initiatives. Experts emphasized the need for streamlining climate finance access, strengthening institutional capacities, and enhancing youth engagement in policymaking.

A key focus was overcoming barriers to climate finance, including bureaucratic hurdles and slow fund disbursement. The CAP-RES project's role in fostering youth involvement through fellowships, internships, and university collaborations was also highlighted.

The training underscored Bangladesh's need for proactive engagement in global climate negotiations, stronger policy integration, and cross-sector collaborations. Distinguished guests reinforced the importance of national leadership in driving sustainable climate action and resilience-building efforts.

By fostering advocacy and capacity-building, this initiative contributes to Bangladesh's climate resilience strategy, ensuring alignment with global climate objectives and equipping stakeholders with the tools to translate COP29 deliberations into impactful local actions.

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## Training Agenda

Time	Name of the Session/Activity	Resource Person and Facilitator
<b>Day 1 (27 January 2025)</b>		
10:00 am-10:10 am	Setting the tone	<b>Sakib Huq</b> Managing Director, ICCCAD
10:10 am-10:20 am	<b>Opening and Welcoming</b>	<b>Md. Hafizur Rahman, PhD</b> Professor & Focal, ICCCAD- IUB
10:20 am -10:40 am	Participants' orientation and anticipated outcomes for 2 day workshop	<b>ICCCAD Team</b>
10:40 am -11:45 am	Navigating the Climate Finance Landscape in Bangladesh: Insights and Opportunities Post COP-29	<b>AKM Sohel</b> Additional Secretary, Wing Chief, United Nations, Economic Relations Division (ERD)
12:00 pm -01:15 pm	<b>Session 1:</b> Understanding the Structure and Mechanisms of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement	<b>Juel Mahmud</b> Programme Coordinator, ICCCAD and Manager, CAP-RES
01:15 pm -02:30 pm	<b>Lunch and Prayer</b>	
02:30 pm -03:00 pm	<b>Session 2:</b> Addressing Loss & Damage: Outcomes and Pathways from COP-29 and the Last Board Meeting	<b>M Hafizul Islam Khan</b> Co-coordinator, Loss and Damage Team, LDCs Climate Group at UNFCCC
03:00 pm -04:00 pm	<b>Session 3:</b> Scaling Up Locally Led Adaption (LLA): A Transformative Approaches for Community Resilience	<b>Savio Rousseau Rozario</b> Programme Coordinator (LLA), ICCCAD
<b>Day 2 (28 January 2025)</b>		
09: 00 am -10: 00 am	<b>Session 4:</b> Advancing the Global Goal on Adaption and NAP: Strategies and Progress from COP29	<b>Mirza Showkat Ali</b> Director, (Climate Change and Int'l Convention), DoE
10:00 am -11:30 am	<b>Session 5:</b> Key Findings from IPCC Climate Science Report, and Updates from COP29 Conference	<b>A.K.M. Saiful Islam, PhD</b> Professor, Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), BUET
11:45 am -01:00 pm	<b>Session 6:</b> Achieving a Just Transition in a Decarbonizing World	<b>Md. Ziaul Haque</b> Director, Department of Environment
01:10 pm -02:00 pm	<b>Lunch and Prayer</b>	
02:30 pm -03:30 pm	<b>Session 7:</b> The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) and Climate Justice	<b>Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, PhD</b> DMD (Environmental and Climate Chage), PKSF
03:30 pm-03-45 pm	Feedback Session	All Participants
03:45-04:00 pm	Closing Remarks	<b>Maria Stridsman</b> Head of Development Cooperation, Embassy of Sweden in Dhaka <b>Saqib Huq</b> , Managing Director, ICCCAD <b>Md. Hafizur Rahman, PhD</b> Professor & Focal, ICCCAD- IUB

## **Acronym**

**BUET** – Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

**CBA** – Community-Based Adaptation

**CAP-RES** – Capacity Strengthening of Multi-Actors to Limit Climate Change Impacts and Enhance Resilience

**CMA** – Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

**CMP** – Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

**COP29** – 29th Conference of the Parties

**CSOs** – Civil Society Organizations

**ERD** – Economic Relations Division

**GCF** – Green Climate Fund

**GEF** – Global Environment Facility

**GGA** – Global Goal on Adaptation

**ICCCAD** – International Centre for Climate Change and Development

**IWFM** – Institute of Water and Flood Management

**IUB** – Independent University, Bangladesh

**LDCs** – Least Developed Countries

**LLA** – Locally Led Adaptation

**MAP L&D** – Multi-Actor Partnership on Loss and Damage

**NCQG** – New Collective Quantified Goal

**NDC** – Nationally Determined Contributions

**SBSTA** – Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

**SBI** – Subsidiary Body for Implementation

**UNFCCC** – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

## **1. Background**

The 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) marked a critical milestone in global climate governance. Convened amid growing urgency to address climate change impacts, COP29 brought together global leaders, negotiators, researchers, and civil society to evaluate progress, deliberate on new commitments, and set the course for future climate action. The outcomes of COP29, along with its challenges, hold significant implications for national-level stakeholders, including researchers, academia, and practitioners in the climate and development sectors.

Despite a bit progress in some areas, such as scaling up adaptation finance, adding a new tiny pledge for loss and damage, and fostering youth and indigenous peoples' participation, COP29 faced criticism for failing to secure adequate commitments to phase out fossil fuels and address critical gaps in climate finance mobilization. These mixed results necessitate informed discussions at national levels to contextualize the outcomes, identify challenges, and align with global priorities.

Addressing these crucial aspects, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), IUB intends to conduct a training on "Navigating COP29: Strategies for Effective Climate Advocacy and Action". This initiative has been taken jointly under the 'Capacity Strengthening of Multi-Actors to Limit Climate Change Impacts and Enhance Resilience (CAP-RES)' and 'MAP L&D' projects that are supported by the Embassy of Sweden and German Watch respectively.

This training is designed to bridge the gap between global deliberations and local action, ensuring that national stakeholders are well-informed and prepared to contribute to the next steps in the climate agenda. By unpacking COP29's outcomes and challenges, the training will empower participants to assess their implications for national policy, research, and practice

## **2. Objectives and Methodology of the Workshop**

### **2.1 Objective**

The specific objectives of the training include:

- **Enhancing Awareness and Understanding:** The core objective is to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of COP29, its objectives, and the key issues at stake. By breaking down complex climate science into accessible information, participants will gain a clear insight into the global context and the urgency of climate action.
- **Empowering Advocacy Skills:** The training seeks to empower participants with effective strategies for climate advocacy. This includes practical insights into crafting impactful messages, engaging with diverse stakeholders, and leveraging grassroots initiatives to influence local and global climate policies.
- **Aligning Local Efforts with Global Goals:** The training will emphasize the alignment of local climate resilience efforts with global goals, ensuring that grassroots initiatives

are not only impactful at the local level but also contribute meaningfully to the broader global climate agenda.

- Exploring Key Themes: Delve into critical issues such as Loss and Damage, adaptation goals, climate justice, and water for climate action

## **2.2 Key Discussion Topics**

- Framework and processes of UNFCCC.
- Outcomes of COP29 on Loss and Damage.
- Pathways for addressing challenges through recent Board meetings.
- Defining NCQG and its significance for climate finance.
- Strategies for ensuring a fair transition to low-carbon economies.
- Key outcomes from COP29 relating to water security.

## **2.3 Target Group of Participants**

Members of government agencies, CSOs and NGOs, climate activist, youth leaders and anyone passionate about driving positive change in the face of the climate crisis. Total 30 participants will be selected for this training.

## **2.4 Expected Outcomes**

- Enhanced understanding of international climate governance structures.
- Knowledge of recent progress in Loss and Damage, particularly for LDCs.
- Learning actionable strategies to address loss and damage at national level.
- Understanding of the NCQG framework and its implications for developing countries.
- Tools and insights to promote equitable transition strategies.
- Awareness of water-climate linkages and strategies for effective action.

## **2.5 Date and Time**

- ❖ Date: 27-28 January 2025
- ❖ Venue: Lakeshore Heights, Gulshan, Dhaka
- ❖ Duration: 10:00 am to 04:30 pm
- ❖ Number of Participants: 30
- ❖ Number of Sessions: 8
- ❖ Delivery Mode: Presentation and Interactive sessions



## **4. Session Description**

### **4.1 Setting the tone**

The Managing Director of ICCCAD, Sakib Huq, opened the training by setting the tone with an inspiring overview of ICCCAD's work in advancing climate resilience and capacity-building in Bangladesh. He shared key insights from the recent COP29, emphasizing both the progress and challenges in global climate negotiations. Sakib highlighted how this training would equip participants with the knowledge and tools needed to align local actions with global climate goals, fostering impactful advocacy and effective strategies to tackle the climate crisis.

### **4.2 Opening and Welcoming**

Prof. Dr. Hafizur Rahman, Focal Point of ICCCAD and Head of DESM, warmly welcomed the participants and set the stage for the training. He reaffirmed ICCCAD's commitment to driving impactful climate change actions and highlighted the significance of the partnership between ICCCAD and IUB in advancing these goals. Praising the CAP-RES project for its remarkable contributions to capacity building, he remembered the visionary leadership of Prof. Saleemul Huq, whose legacy continues to inspire climate resilience initiatives. Dr. Rahman concluded by introducing IUB's master's program in climate change, describing it as a realization of Prof. Huq's dream for nurturing future climate leaders.

### **4.3 Navigating the Climate Finance Landscape in Bangladesh: Insights and Opportunities Post COP-29**

*"Climate change is no longer a distant threat but a reality."*

A.K.M. Sohel, Additional Secretary at the Economic Relations Division (ERD), delivered an insightful discussion on climate finance, emphasizing its urgency and relevance for Bangladesh. He highlighted how climate change is already affecting the country, citing increased salinity in drinking water in Bagerhat as a direct consequence of rising sea levels. Bangladesh is among the top ten most vulnerable countries to climate change, making climate finance a critical tool for mitigation and adaptation.

Climate finance refers to financial resources mobilized to support climate-related initiatives. While there is no universally agreed definition, the UNFCCC describes it as financial flows from public and private sources aimed at addressing climate change. A major milestone was the commitment made at COP15, where developed nations





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pledged to mobilize \$100 billion annually to support developing countries. However, actual fund disbursement has been inconsistent, making it difficult for Bangladesh to access necessary financial support.

Funds are channeled through various mechanisms, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund, and multilateral development banks. Bangladesh has secured \$618 million from GCF across nine projects, but slow disbursement and bureaucratic challenges hinder their effective utilization. Developed nations like Germany and the UK lead in climate financing, but most funds are structured as concessional loans rather than grants, raising concerns about debt sustainability.

One of the critical issues in accessing climate finance is the complex bureaucratic process, which requires extensive documentation and third-party audits. Bangladesh also has a limited number of accredited Direct Access Entities (DAEs), restricting its ability to directly access global climate funds. Additionally, even when funds are secured, inefficient project execution, lack of technical expertise, and coordination challenges slow implementation.

- **Key Challenges:** Bureaucratic hurdles, slow fund disbursement, and limited direct access to climate funds.
- **Potential Solutions:** Capacity building, improved financial management, and stronger institutional collaboration.

Another important aspect of climate finance is the differentiation between loss and damage. Loss refers to irreversible impacts, such as loss of livelihoods and cultural heritage, while damage refers to the destruction of infrastructure and ecosystems. The establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund at COP27 was a significant step, but pledged contributions remain far



below the required amount. Additionally, carbon trading is an area where Bangladesh has yet to capitalize on its potential. Carbon markets provide financial incentives for reducing emissions, and COP29's adoption of carbon trading frameworks offers a new opportunity for Bangladesh to integrate this strategy into its climate finance approach.

Looking ahead, the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) aims to increase climate finance beyond \$100 billion, with projections reaching \$300 billion annually by 2035. Bangladesh must actively engage in international negotiations and align its policies with global frameworks to ensure sufficient financial support. Universities and research institutions also have a role in climate finance research, with ERD collaborating with Dhaka University and BRAC to strengthen knowledge and policy initiatives.

Lastly, A.K.M. Sohel emphasized the urgent need for Bangladesh to enhance its capacity to secure, manage, and effectively utilize climate finance. Strengthening institutional frameworks and ensuring efficient fund utilization will be key to building resilience against climate change.

#### **4.4 Session 1: Understanding the Structure and Mechanisms of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement**

The presentation provided an insightful overview of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement, key instruments in global climate governance.

##### **UNFCCC: The Foundation of Global Climate Action**

Mr. Juel Mahmud began by explaining the UNFCCC, established in 1992 to limit global temperature rise and address climate impacts. He highlighted the roles of the Conference of the Parties (COP), Subsidiary Bodies for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), and the UNFCCC Secretariat, which supports intergovernmental negotiations.



##### **Kyoto Protocol: The First Legally Binding Agreement**

The discussion covered the Kyoto Protocol and its operational structure, overseen by the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP).

He added that developed countries (Annex I) are required to reduce emissions, while Annex II countries also provide financial support to developing nations.

### **Paris Agreement: A Universal Commitment to Climate Action**

Adopted in 2015, the Paris Agreement set the goal of limiting global temperature rise to well below 2°C, with efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. Mr. Juel Mahmud also discussed the concept of carbon marketing, referencing Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. This article focuses on the use of market mechanisms to promote sustainable development and facilitate the reduction of emissions through cooperative approaches.

### **Governance and Organizational Structure**

The presentation emphasized the governance structure of the UNFCCC, with the COP, CMP, and CMA playing key roles in shaping climate policy. The Bureau and Presidency manage the COP's processes, with the President often a high-ranking official from the host country.

The talk highlighted the importance of global cooperation through the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement to address climate change and ensure a sustainable future for all.

## **4.5 Session 2: Addressing Loss & Damage: Outcomes and Pathways from COP-29 and the Last Board Meeting**

M Hafizul Islam Khan, Co-coordinator of the Loss and Damage Team for the LDCs Climate Group at UNFCCC, joined the session virtually to provide an in-depth analysis of the COP29 outcomes on loss and damage. He began by discussing the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund, a pivotal achievement in climate negotiations aimed at addressing irreversible climate impacts in vulnerable nations. Despite the progress, he highlighted critical funding gaps, emphasizing that pledged contributions remain significantly below the required levels.

He underscored the importance of streamlined governance mechanisms for the Fund, advocating for simplified processes to ensure timely access for developing nations. He also reflected on the outcomes of the recent Loss and Damage Board Meeting, which focused on operationalizing the fund and defining allocation criteria. Addressing the broader context, he emphasized the urgency for developed nations to uphold their financial commitments and prioritize equity and justice in fund disbursement.

He concluded by urging Bangladesh to take a proactive role in shaping the Loss and Damage Fund's operational guidelines while simultaneously strengthening its institutional frameworks to effectively utilize available resources. His insights served as a crucial reminder of the collective responsibility required to address the challenges posed by climate change impacts globally.

## **4.6 Session 3: Scaling Up Locally Led Adaption (LLA): A Transformative Approaches for Community Resilience**

The presentation by Mr. Savio Rousseau Rozario, Program Coordinator at ICCCAD, highlighted the transformative potential of **Locally Led Adaptation (LLA)** in building resilience to climate change. Mr. Rozario discussed the need for adaptation finance, emphasizing the significant gap in resources required to meet the needs of developing countries. By 2030, adaptation finance needs could reach \$140 billion to \$300 billion per year, rising to \$280 billion to \$500 billion by 2050.

A key focus of the presentation was the **Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)** established by the **Paris Agreement** in 2015, aimed at enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability to climate change. However, tracking adaptation progress remains a challenge, with slow processes and a lack of standardized goals.

Mr. Rozario stressed the importance of increasing financing for adaptation programs, aiming for \$300 billion annually by 2035. Despite this need, only 17% of funding currently reaches the local level, where it is most needed. Locally Led Adaptation programs aim to change this by empowering communities to take the lead in their own climate resilience efforts, ensuring that those most affected by climate change are central to decision-making.



**Community-Based Adaptation (CBA)** and **Locally Led Adaptation (LLA)** were compared, with a focus on the differences between mere participation and true inclusion in adaptation programs. The session also introduced eight key principles for implementing LLA and provided insights into successful models, such as the **Adaptation Fund** and the **Least Developed Countries Fund**.

### **Q&A Session:**

A participant raised the question, “*Where are the instances of implementation of adaptation?*”

In response, another participant pointed out, “*The lower death rates in regions affected by climate change are clear instances of successful adaptation. This indicates the positive impact of early warning systems and adaptation measures that have been implemented.*”

Another participant elaborated further, adding, “*In addition to the reduction in death rates, programs like the Cyclone Preparedness Programme and Forecast-Based Finance are prime examples of successful adaptation in action. These initiatives have helped communities prepare better and respond effectively to natural disasters.*”

In conclusion, the session reinforced that scaling up Locally Led Adaptation is critical to addressing the climate crisis effectively, ensuring that the communities most at risk are not only included but empowered in shaping their future resilience.

#### **4.7 A Brief Overview of Capacity Building Initiatives under the CAP-RES Project**

**Maria Akter**, the Assistant Project Manager, delivered an engaging session on the CAP-RES project, highlighting its various components and their importance in the context of climate adaptation. Her presentation emphasized the key role of youth in shaping the future of climate action and the significant opportunities the project offers for young people to get involved.

A key focus of the CAP-RES project is its commitment to engaging youth through **internships** and **fellowship programs**. Maria Akter discussed the **ICCCAD Youth Fellowship Program**, which provides young individuals with the opportunity to create and implement climate action projects. This program is designed to foster leadership, innovation, and hands-on experience in tackling climate resilience challenges. Maria emphasized how the fellowship program empowers youth to make tangible contributions to their communities while developing skills to address climate change on a broader scale.

Moreover, the CAP-RES project actively collaborates with **university clubs** to engage students in climate resilience activities. These clubs serve as platforms for peer learning, community involvement, and knowledge exchange, allowing students to gain a deeper understanding of climate adaptation while actively participating in projects that make a difference in their communities.

The session also highlighted the role of **youth-led organizations** and **youth-serving organizations**, which the CAP-RES project supports to lead climate initiatives. Maria Akter explained how these organizations are crucial in ensuring that young people have a direct voice in climate decision-making and action. By empowering youth to lead, the project seeks to ensure that those most affected by climate change are at the forefront of crafting solutions.

In addition to youth engagement, Maria Akter discussed the significant focus on **research grants** within the project. The CAP-RES project provides **financial and technical support** to 60 young researchers, enabling them to conduct vital studies on climate impacts and resilience. These grants help generate ground-level data that can be used to inform policy decisions, ensuring that climate adaptation strategies are evidence-based and effective.

In conclusion, Maria Akter's session underscored the importance of scaling up efforts to engage youth in climate action. Through its various programs, including internships, fellowships, and research grants, the CAP-RES project is helping to build a generation of climate leaders who are equipped to tackle the challenges posed by climate change. By empowering youth and supporting their initiatives, the project is making a meaningful contribution to climate resilience at the local, national, and global levels.



## **4.8 Session 4: Advancing the Global Goal on Adaption and NAP: Strategies and Progress from COP29**

Mirza Shawkat Ali, the Director of the Department of Environment, led a session focusing on the progress and challenges surrounding climate adaptation, particularly in the context of the global goal on adaptation (GGA) as part of the Paris Agreement. Mr. Ali's speech addressed several critical issues related to the Paris Agreement, climate resilience, and the plight of Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Mirza Shawkat Ali expressed his disappointment regarding the unachievability of Articles 6 and 7 of the Paris Agreement, which focus on financial mechanisms and the establishment of a global goal on adaptation. He emphasized that while the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement are noble, the progress toward achieving them remains limited, especially in adaptation planning and implementation. This concern was echoed during discussions on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), where the session highlighted significant milestones achieved in adaptation, such as the launch of the Baku Adaptation Roadmap and the UAE–Belém work programme.



**Concerns on Delayed Donations:** Another key issue raised by Mr. Ali was the delay in the implementation of climate adaptation donations. He noted that developing countries, particularly the LDCs, continue to face immense financial challenges in adapting to climate change, and the promised funds are yet to reach many of these nations. This delay hinders their ability to carry out necessary adaptation actions, as outlined in the global climate resilience frameworks, including the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and the Baku High-Level Dialogue on Adaptation.

**Financial Struggles of LDCs:** Mr. Ali also expressed his deep concern for the LDCs, which are struggling not only with climate adaptation but also with basic administrative functions. He mentioned that many LDCs do not even have the budget to fund critical activities like printing and publication. This issue underscores the broader financial and resource constraints that hinder the effective implementation of climate actions at the national level.

Furthermore, Mr. Ali addressed the issue of Bangladesh's continued classification as an LDC. He stated that, given the country's growing economic and environmental capabilities, it should no longer be categorized as an LDC. However, he pointed out that some stakeholders are keen to maintain Bangladesh's LDC status due to the benefits it receives from preferential trade agreements. This paradoxical situation complicates the nation's efforts to elevate its global status and achieve the necessary resources for sustainable development.



**Global Goal on Adaptation and the Role of the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh Work Programme:** The session also delved into the ongoing efforts to achieve the Global Goal on Adaptation. The Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme, which began in 2021, has been instrumental in promoting a structured approach to adaptation. This program focuses on enhancing understanding of adaptation needs, strengthening national planning and implementation of adaptation actions, and improving the overall progress through indicators and frameworks. Mirza Shawkat Ali outlined key achievements under this programme, including the establishment of frameworks for global climate resilience, adoption of a comprehensive climate resilience plan for the UAE, and the launch of the Baku Adaptation Roadmap.



The work programme's objectives include enabling the full implementation of the Paris Agreement, enhancing national adaptation communications, and facilitating a system for monitoring and evaluating adaptation actions. The programme is expected to continue shaping adaptation goals through workshops, annual reports, and ongoing dialogues aimed at addressing climate change impacts.

In conclusion, the session highlighted the crucial need for timely and effective adaptation actions, especially in vulnerable countries like Bangladesh. While the Paris Agreement's goals remain an ambitious framework for addressing climate change, the lack of financial support and resources for LDCs poses a significant challenge to achieving these targets. As countries work towards fulfilling the commitments of the Paris Agreement, it is essential to focus on providing immediate and effective support for those most at risk, ensuring that adaptation actions are both locally driven and globally supported.

#### **4.9 Session 5: Key Findings from IPCC Climate Science Report, and Updates from COP29 Conference**

Dr. Islam, a lead author for the IPCC Special Reports, began by emphasizing the critical findings from the **IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)**. His presentation highlighted the

accelerating rate of global warming, noting that human activities are driving climate change at a pace unseen in at least the last 2,000 years. He explained that the evidence of global warming is now irrefutable, with significant impacts already being observed worldwide, from rising temperatures to more extreme weather events.

A key point of concern raised by Dr. Islam was the alarming progression of **ocean acidification and its implications for marine life**. He referred to the **interactive atlas** as an essential tool for participants to explore these environmental changes more comprehensively. The presentation also stressed the severe consequences of rising sea levels, with projections showing an increase of up to 0.9 meters by 2100 under high emissions scenarios.

Dr. Islam further expressed his concerns about the lack of innovative solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change, particularly in addressing the complex patterns of ocean circulation. He lamented the insufficient global efforts to develop effective and sustainable strategies to combat these challenges, despite the urgency of the situation.



As the session concluded, Dr. Islam urged participants to engage actively with the latest climate science and contribute to more robust climate advocacy efforts, particularly in the context of international agreements like the Paris Agreement. He stressed the need for stronger commitments from developed countries to provide financial support for climate adaptation and mitigation in developing nations.

In summary, the session provided a thought-provoking overview of the current state of climate science, the latest updates from COP29, and the urgent need for innovative solutions and increased global cooperation to address climate change.

#### **4.10 Session 6: Achieving a Just Transition in a Decarbonizing World**

*The ocean absorbs carbon dioxide, contributing to the rise in global temperatures, which poses a great threat to our environment.*

The session titled "**Achieving a Just Transition in a Decarbonizing World**" brought together experts, policymakers, and environmental advocates to discuss the urgent need for a global transition to a sustainable and decarbonized future. The session focused on the key elements of

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the United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, addressing the objectives, challenges, and actions required to limit global warming and achieve a just and equitable transition for all.

The session began with an in-depth discussion on the objective of the UNFCCC (Article 2), which aims to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous human interference with the climate system. The purpose of the Paris Agreement, also highlighted in Article 2, focuses on limiting global temperature rise to well below 2°C, aiming for 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and to enhance the ability of countries to adapt to climate change impacts. It was emphasized that the carbon budget required to meet the Paris temperature goals is now rapidly depleting, with the window for action closing quickly.

One of the key takeaways from the session was the alarming fact that historical cumulative net carbon dioxide emissions have already accounted for approximately four-fifths of the total carbon budget needed to limit global warming to 1.5°C with a 50% probability. This stark statistic underscores the urgency of taking immediate and concerted action to drastically reduce emissions. As the carbon budget continues to shrink, the consequences of inaction become more severe, threatening not only the environment but also the livelihood of communities around the world.

The session also highlighted the critical role of the G20 countries in driving global climate action. As some of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases, the G20 nations bear significant responsibility for shaping the trajectory of global climate policy. Efforts such

as the UAE Just Transition Work Programme were discussed as essential frameworks to ensure that the transition to a decarbonized economy is fair, inclusive, and equitable. A transition involves creating opportunities for workers and communities that are dependent on fossil fuel industries to find sustainable alternatives and secure decent livelihoods in emerging green sectors.

Key features of a Just Transition were explored, emphasizing the need for policies that balance environmental, social, and economic considerations. The Global Stock Take Outcome on mitigation was presented as a critical tool for assessing progress in reducing emissions and strengthening commitments under the Paris Agreement. Additionally, the discussion touched on major policy documents on mitigation, such as the (Intended) Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 1.0), which are country-specific plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance climate resilience. The session stressed the importance of reviewing and updating these contributions to reflect the latest climate science and ensure alignment with the 1.5°C target.



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The promotion and popularization of clean energy technologies was identified as a central pillar of achieving a sustainable future. Renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydropower, must be scaled up globally to replace fossil fuel dependency and reduce emissions. The session underscored that the transition to clean energy not only addresses climate change but also creates new economic opportunities and jobs, furthering the goals of a just and inclusive transition.

In conclusion, the session highlighted the urgent need for comprehensive action to meet the climate challenge. A just transition to a decarbonized world is not just an environmental imperative but a moral one. The discussions emphasized the importance of international cooperation, bold policy decisions, and innovative solutions to achieve the Paris Agreement goals and ensure a sustainable and equitable future for all. As the carbon budget continues to shrink, the time to act is now.

### **4.11 Session 7: The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) and Climate Justice**

*“Negotiators work around the clock. To be a great negotiator, you must master time management. It’s high time we tackle the climate challenge, and decisions must be made wisely”*

Training on ***“Reflection of COP29: Strategies for Effective Climate Advocacy and Action”*** that provided an in-depth discussion on various aspects of climate finance, a critical area in addressing the global climate crisis. The session covered a broad spectrum of topics, from the definition of climate finance to the barriers and international frameworks surrounding it. This report summarizes the key points discussed during the session and reflects on the importance of climate finance in addressing climate emergencies.

The title of the session was **The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) and Climate Justice**. The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) is a critical element in the global climate framework, especially in the context of addressing climate justice. The NCQG is designed to enhance the financial support that developed countries provide to developing nations, particularly to help them mitigate the effects of climate change and adapt to its growing impacts. This goal aims to ensure



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that the resources mobilized are equitable, sufficient, and effective, focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable communities around the world.

In terms of climate justice, the NCQG directly relates to the principle of fairness. Climate justice emphasizes the need to address not only the environmental but also the social and economic impacts of climate change, ensuring that the most vulnerable groups—who have contributed the least to global emissions—are supported in their efforts to cope with and adapt to climate change. Here’s how the NCQG connects with climate justice:

### **Key Topics Discussed in the Training:**

1. **Climate Finance and its Importance** Climate finance refers to the financial resources allocated to mitigate and adapt to climate change. It includes investments in renewable energy, climate-resilient infrastructure, and initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The workshop emphasized the role of financial investments in building sustainable economies and ensuring a just transition for vulnerable communities.
2. **Proposed Definition of Climate Finance** The speaker proposed a new definition of climate finance though there is not any formal definition of climate finance, which is broader than just funding. It includes public and private finance flows that support projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change. This definition reflects the need for a comprehensive approach that integrates financial support with technical and capacity-building measures to address the climate challenge.
3. **Issues Related to Climate Finance** Several issues were identified during the session, including:
  - **Access to funding:** Many countries, especially developing nations, struggle to access climate finance. Developing countries have to negotiate to manage the funds, which is very crucial.
  - **Transparency and accountability:** There is a lack of clear reporting and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that funds are being used effectively.
  - **Political and economic barriers:** Political will and economic challenges often hinder the efficient distribution of climate finance.
4. **National and International Policy Documents Linked with Climate Finance** The workshop highlighted various key international agreements and frameworks that influence climate finance. These include:
  - **The Paris Agreement**, which established the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C and includes a commitment to mobilizing financial resources to support climate action in developing countries.
  - **The UNFCCC** (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), which serves as the primary international platform for climate negotiations and climate finance discussions.
  - National policies also play a crucial role in implementing climate finance strategies and guiding public and private investment in climate action. In the Bangladesh context, we have lots of plans, but we have to implement them wisely. The Sustainable Development Goal is one of Bangladesh's key master plans



5. **Windows of International Climate Finance** One of the key topics was the various international windows of climate finance. These refer to different channels through which climate finance is mobilized, including government-funded initiatives, multilateral climate funds, and private sector investments. Notably, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) are two prominent institutions that channel international climate finance.
6. **New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG)** The NCQG, which emerged from the COP26 conference, aims to establish a more effective framework for climate finance. The goal is to scale up financial support from developed to developing countries, with the aim of mobilizing \$100 billion annually for climate action. The speaker discussed how this collective effort would drive both adaptation and mitigation projects, particularly for vulnerable populations.
7. Finally, the session focused on the barriers preventing the successful implementation of climate finance programs. These include:
  - **Lack of infrastructure:** Many developing countries lack the necessary infrastructure to manage large-scale climate projects.
  - **Limited technical capacity:** There's a gap in expertise to design and execute climate finance projects effectively.

The speaker underlined the critical importance of climate finance in achieving global climate goals. He stressed that the concept of climate finance extends beyond mere funding—it requires a concerted effort to address systemic barriers and create an environment conducive to sustainable development. The speaker also mentioned the increasing role of public-private partnerships in unlocking resources and scaling up climate actions.

### **Reflection and Conclusion**

The workshop was an eye-opener in understanding the complexities of climate finance. It highlighted the challenges and opportunities that come with mobilizing financial resources for climate action. From a personal standpoint, the discussion helped me appreciate that addressing climate change requires not only strong international commitments but also robust national policies and collaborations across sectors.

In conclusion, the workshop emphasized that climate finance is far more than a financial concern—it's a moral responsibility. The most vulnerable countries, especially those bearing the brunt of climate impacts, require urgent and ongoing support to both mitigate climate change and enhance resilience. As global citizens, it's crucial for us to recognize the importance of climate finance and advocate for more robust commitments to create a fairer and more sustainable world.

## **5. Feedback Session**

### **Jasmina Sabatina**

Jasmina highlighted the significance of youth involvement in climate discussions, emphasizing that young voices should reach a global platform. She appreciated the insights



gained from experienced professionals on adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage, and climate financing. She expressed a strong desire for more training on negotiation skills from ICCCAD, believing that youth should be more active in advocacy and policy design.

**Anwar Hossain**

Anwar praised ICCCAD for its well-structured and engaging training, which kept participants involved without feeling fatigued. He found the training materials so compelling that he continued reviewing them even after sessions. He particularly valued the diverse participation, bringing together government officials, academicians, industry professionals, and NGOs. As a suggestion, he proposed incorporating field or industrial visits in future events to enhance practical learning.

**Mr. X**

Mr. X expressed gratitude towards ICCCAD and IUB for organizing the event. He inquired about the possibility of arranging a "Shadow COP" to provide a hands-on experience in climate negotiations. Additionally, he suggested organizing a dedicated training session on "Just Transition," recognizing ICCCAD's strong credibility among stakeholders.

This feedback underscores the effectiveness of the event and offers constructive recommendations for future initiatives.

## **6. Closing Remarks**

**Maria Stridesman**

Maria highlighted the importance of understanding the complex COP process and the challenges of national and international climate negotiations. She emphasized the urgency of climate action, with COP30 approaching in 11 months. She also noted Sweden's commitment to supporting Bangladesh in climate action through funding for adaptation, loss and damage, and energy efficiency. Additionally, she stressed the need for updated financial frameworks to support the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the importance of inclusivity in the upcoming NCQG updates.

**Prof. Hafizur Rahman, PhD**

Prof. Rahman encouraged participants to go beyond just learning and focus on deeply understanding COP29 discussions. He expressed gratitude to the resource persons and organizers, acknowledging the engaging nature of the event. He honored the memory of Saleemul Huq, recognizing his vision for climate action. He also highlighted CAP-RES as a valuable initiative to engage young people in climate resilience and urged participants to apply what they had learned.

**Closing Session**

Sakib Huq conducted the closing session, facilitating discussions with Maria Stridesman, Prof. Hafizur Rahman, and the participants.

## Annex 1: Analysis of the Post Evaluation



