

# Equity and Justice

## Section Two

# Equity and Justice

- ▣ As previously stated, Bangladesh bears a disproportionate cost of adapting to the effects of climate change.
- ▣ In a world full of hundreds of countries more affluent than Bangladesh, someone needs to take the initiative to alleviate some of the financial burden placed on countries like Bangladesh in a way that allows the country to flourish rather than maintain its economically suppressed existence.
- ▣ This is not a demand for a re-distribution of wealth, but a request for countries much better off than most LDCs to save the lives and preserve the cultures of countries succumbing to the effects of climate change.

# The Role of National Security

- ▣ Bangladesh is not only experiencing breaches in national security as a result of SLR rise in coastal areas, but is also jeopardizing the national security of other countries.
- ▣ As Bangladesh's much larger neighbor, India, has become the new home of thousands of Bangladeshi "environmental refugees."
- ▣ In an effort to protect national security and reduce the entrance of additional refugees into the country, India has resorted to constructing a barbed-wire fence along portions of its border with Bangladesh (sounds like a familiar practice with the U.S. and Mexico).
- ▣ Now, Bangladesh's climate change problems are becoming disproportionate burdens on India's population.
- ▣ This is yet another example of the environmental injustice occurring as a result of climate change.

# The Role of Adaptation in the Agreement

- ▣ To achieve equity and justice, the definition of adaptation needs to be more specific in regards to how it enables a country to adjust to changes and progress forward developmentally.
- ▣ The role of adaptation should include not only a country's ability to adjust to the effects of climate change, but also a country's ability to adjust in a way that facilitates positive socio-economic growth and development in a sustainable manner.
- ▣ By ensuring that adaptation measures provide for an equitable future for developing countries, we will be working to eliminate the social, environmental, and economic injustices imposed by climate change.

# The Role of Adaptation in the Agreement

## Proactive Vs Reactive Adaptation Plans

- ▣ As a country with low mitigation and heavy adaptation costs, Bangladesh strongly advocates for a both proactive and reactive approach to adaptation.
- ▣ Bangladesh has spent millions of dollars in proactive 'climate proofing' measures, and millions more adapting to unavoidable effects of climate change.
- ▣ Who should adapt and to what extent and at what cost should be assessed according to the Seven Key Vulnerabilities outlined in the IPCC report.

# Seven Key Vulnerabilities

- ▣ The Seven Key Vulnerabilities associated with climate-sensitive systems as defined by the IPCC should be used as guidelines for the agreement to determine:
  - Key sectors in need of adaptation
  - Targets for sector adaptations
  - Funding for sector adaptation
  - Exceptions to normal adaptation practices based on total degree of vulnerability
  - Funding for and allocation of technology transfers
  
- ▣ The Seven Key Vulnerabilities are:
  - Magnitude of impacts
  - Timing of impacts
  - Persistence and reversibility of impacts
  - Likelihood of impacts and vulnerabilities and confidence in those estimates
  - Potential for adaptation
  - Distributional aspects of impacts and vulnerabilities
  - Importance of the system(s) at risk



# Role of Social Development and Education

- ▣ It is of the upmost importance that climate change education is promoted around in the world in the next few years.
- ▣ As more people become educated and aware of the risks and dangers GHG emissions pose to the stability of the Earth's climate system and the livelihood of a significant portion of the Earth's population, the more likely climate change will appear on political agendas around the world.

# Role of Social Development and Education

## Climate Change Education Fund

- ▣ As part of the agreement, there should be a Climate Change Education Fund.
- ▣ Each country with a binding agreement can contribute a very small portion (less than 1% maybe?) of annual GDP to the fund each year.
- ▣ This fund can then be allocated to each country, including non-binding Annex IV countries, based on:
  - population and the existence of a reliable education system (to ensure that money is not wasted).