actions related to climate change are known as climate litigation.

Litigation can be pursued in different national and international forums with macro and micro level claims. Global and regional treaties and customary international law provide the framework for taking legal actions at international level. At national level, many avenues are being explored, through both public and private legal actions. A common challenge for all forms of legal actions is establishing the legal causation. Moreover, the requirement for bringing possible actions is quite complicated, and is, to some extent, a significant limitation in pursuing legal proceedings

Another main challenge for climate litigation is to sort out the potential parties. Climate affected people, or any person aggrieved, is the plaintiff of a climate litigation, who seeks compensation for harm caused by global warming and also asks to prevent further global warming through reducing GHG emissions. The defendants in climate litigations are those who are thought to be responsible for global warming. As the impact of climate change is global, there are potential plaintiffs and defendants in all countries. So, identification of potential plaintiffs, defendants, relevant laws and forums is the primary step in pursuing climate litigation in the context of climate vulnerability.

Climate victims: Sources for litigation

Some studies suggest that Bangladesh is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change due to its geographic location, flat and low-lying topography, and population density. Reliance of many livelihoods on climate, including agriculture and fisheries, makes the poor people of Bangladesh more vulnerable. The projected adverse effects of climate change, such as sea level rise, saline water intrusion, higher temperatures, enhanced monsoon precipitation and an increase in cyclone intensity will aggravate the existing stresses. Some climate change impact in Bangladesh is already scientifically evident. The victims of such impact qualify as plaintiffs in climate litigation.

The coastal fishers of Bangladesh, who are losing their lives and livelihoods due to rough sea events caused by increasing SST, can be considered claimants for legal protection. In order to raise a claim, however, the first and foremost prerequisite is to assess the scientific evidence. The IPCC assessment reports and further development of scientific analysis may eventually help to determine the extent to which SST increased due to climatic change. Then again, the link between increased SST and harm to life and livelihood of the fisher folk needs to be scientifically proved.

A research study, commissioned by CSRL and conducted by Dr Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, titled "Livelihood of Coastal Fishermen in Peril: In Search of Early Evidence of Climate Change Induced Adverse Impacts" provides the scientific evidence for the competency of coastal fishers. Dr Ahmed argued in his study that increasing SST fulfils one of the major preconditions of the formation of an increased number of depressions and low-pressure



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