

It's time to follow through on the Glasgow Climate Pact

What I'm calling for today is action – action to fulfil the promises made at COP26 to assist nations like mine in facing the harshest realities of a warming planet.



Sheikh Hasina
is the prime minister of Bangladesh.

SHEIKH HASINA

At no other point in human history has a cause proved more urgent than tackling climate change; never has there been more at stake for us on this planet we call home, and for every species we share it with. However, rousing speeches and inspiring language are but hollow sentiments now – just empty rhetoric and fine spun nothings in the absence of the robust action that scientists have long been urging. For the people of Sylhet in Bangladesh, facing the worst floods in a century, words aren't close to enough. Words didn't prevent flash floods from carrying away their homes, destroying their livelihoods, killing their loved ones. And tweets of support or small aid packages aren't nearly enough for the 33 million affected by the floods in Pakistan last month. Instead, what I am calling for today is action – action to fulfil the promises made last year at COP26, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, to assist nations like mine in facing the harshest realities of a warming planet. And as world leaders prepare to gather once again, this time in Sharm El-Sheikh, I call upon my esteemed colleagues to find the means to honour the commitments they made, and to at least double the provisions for adaptation as well as finance by 2025. This pledged financial support from developed countries should be considered a moral obligation – and it is vital to climate vulnerable countries such as mine. This can't

be left to some future date either. If it is to protect against the wide-ranging consequences of climate change that we have been battling, and continue to battle at this very moment, assistance needs to be immediate. Bangladesh currently contributes 0.56 percent to global carbon emissions, and yet, the proportion of damage inflicted upon our nation from climate change is overwhelming. Rising sea levels, coastal erosion, droughts, heat and flooding will all continue to take a serious toll on our economy. They will wreak havoc on our infrastructure and agricultural industry as we face considerable challenges in averting, minimising and addressing the loss and damage associated with climate change impact, including extreme and slow onset events.

If we are to have any hope of surmounting this great challenge, we must recognise that the floods in Bangladesh, the fires in California, the droughts in Europe – all triggered by just a 1.2-degree rise in temperature – are interconnected and must be confronted together.



People in Sylhet trying to make their way across flooded areas on June 18, 2022.

PHOTO: STAR

Studies show that our GDP is expected to be significantly reduced due to human-caused warming, and average income is projected to be 90 percent lower in 2100 than it would have otherwise been. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report projects that Bangladesh will experience a net increase in poverty of approximately 15 percent by 2030 due to climate change. It would be easy to become despondent when faced with such bleak forecasts, when the call for urgent action is going unheard by many and progress is so slow. It would be much easier to succumb to the paralysis of anxiety – but we must resist.

And in Bangladesh, we're doing just that. In the face of such grave threats, we have so far been able to achieve relatively resilient and consistent growth. We have also unveiled the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan in order to deal with matters of climate change, from decarbonising our energy network to green investment initiatives – both now and in the future – all in a bid to shift our trajectory from vulnerability to resilience and, in turn, to prosperity. We were the first among developing countries to adopt a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan back in 2009. So far, we have allocated USD 480 million to implement

various adaptation and mitigation programmes. Currently, we're also implementing a housing project for climate refugees in our coastal district of Cox's Bazar, aiming to construct 139 multi-story buildings to shelter about 5,000 climate refugee families. And during my 18 years of premiership, my government has given homes to about 3.5 million individuals to date. Meanwhile, we've adopted the "Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100," which aims to shape a safe, climate-resilient and prosperous delta. And every year, my party plants millions of saplings to increase our country's tree coverage as well. As the former chair of the Climate

Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and the V20, Bangladesh continues to focus on promoting the interests of climate vulnerable countries. It isn't enough to just survive; we intend to succeed, to be a global leader, to show our neighbours and the world that there's still a path to a hopeful future – but we cannot do this alone. The words of the international community must turn to deeds, once and for all. The USD 40 billion increase in adaptation funding agreed upon in Glasgow must be regarded as an initial investment in our common future. Otherwise, the cost of inaction will be immense: Last year's IPCC Working Group II report already warned that global GDP loss could hit 10 to 23 percent by 2100 – far higher than previously predicted. Each passing year more powerfully highlights the deeply interconnected nature of our planet in the 21st century, with supply lines and energy reliance casting a long shadow over us all. This year has already brought more record-breaking heat events across the world, with temperatures in the UK surpassing 40 degrees Celsius for the first time in recorded history. Climate change, loss and damage are already with us, wherever we care to look. It's playing out across the world in a myriad of ways, and the issues facing climate-vulnerable nations like mine will be at the door of other nations soon enough. If we are to have any hope of surmounting this great challenge, we must recognise that the floods in Bangladesh, the fires in California, the droughts in Europe – all triggered by just a 1.2-degree rise in temperature – are interconnected and must be confronted together. The promises made last year must be fulfilled; words must finally lead to action. *The article was first published in Politico on November 6, 2022.*

Why we should be concerned about Italy's right-wing PM



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Klaus Meine, the lead singer of Scorpions, a rock band formed in erstwhile West Germany, wrote the famous lyrics of "Wind of Change" after the band visited Soviet Union during *perestroika* – a time of liberalisation and reform. Soon after, the Berlin Wall fell and ushered in the end of the Cold War. It was, for many, the best of times. A month ago, I stood on the Piazza Del Duomo in Milan. The breathtaking grandeur of the great Cathedral, built over six centuries, and the cacophony of a thousand voices, could not drown out the sense of despondency. It was election day and Italy had just elected its most right-wing party to power since WWII. For Europe, there was a discernible change in its political climes and like many, I feared the worst. Under ordinary circumstances, the achievements of Giorgia Meloni as Italy's first female prime minister would have been a cause for celebration, but Meloni is no feminist icon. She leads a party called Brothers of Italy, a descendant of the neo-fascist party Movimento Sociale Italiano (MSI), formed in 1946. Meloni denies being a fascist, but as a 15-year-old she joined the Youth Front – a wing of the MSI. She once described Mussolini as "the best politician of the last 50 years," and one of her recently-appointed junior ministers was photographed wearing a Nazi swastika armband in 2005. Two of Mussolini's grandchildren stood

in elections under her party's neo-fascist banners. Another party member was later expelled for Facebook posts praising Hitler as a "great statesman" and calling Meloni a "modern fascist." Yet, there is a propensity for the hard left to use the loaded term "fascist" far too easily. Despite her contemptible rhetoric, mooted regressive policies curbing women's and LGBTQ rights, and dogwhistle racism targeting migrants, many of whom are Bangladeshis, Meloni is no Mussolini. Her ideology may be populist, nationalist, Eurosceptic and attractive to neo-fascists, but it does not have the martial violence or mass mobilisation associated with fascism. In that sense, her politics resembles the modern-day Republican Party and Trumpism. Italy never went through the German equivalent of "denazification" and had an ambivalent attitude towards its troubled fascist past. Its current rightward drift can be traced back to Silvio Berlusconi's administration, who often trivialised the crimes of the Mussolini era, rehabilitated fringe elements by forming electoral pacts with the far-right, and even appointed known fascists to cabinet posts. Meloni herself was a rising star in Berlusconi's Forza Italy party, but she showed political astuteness by leaving and positioning herself as the prominent opposition – an alternate to the more established

parties. Throughout her campaign, she prudently adopted an Atlanticist, anti-Russian, anti-Chinese stance. This pacified Washington's and Brussels' concerns over international and economic policies. However, a closer inspection of her rhetoric and actions shows considerable divergence. While she favoured supporting Ukraine militarily, she was also opposed to EU sanctions on Russia after its annexation of Crimea, and in her 2021 book, wrote Putin's Russia "defends European values and Christian identity." Such double standards are the hallmark of the new far-right in Europe. Hungary has Victor Orban. In France, Marine Le Pen continues to see her vote share increase. In Sweden, the ethno-nationalist Sweden Democrats now have the second largest grouping in parliament. In Spain, the far-right Vox party is gaining political clout. The new far-right presents itself as more "palatable" than the bygone era. There is no ostentatious show of power through rallies or marches in black shirts. Ethno-nationalism has been subsumed into national conservatism, giving the impression it's innocuous, deradicalised even. It's bullish in foreign policy, orthodox in economic matters, stokes the embers of nationalistic fervour, fights culture wars and dehumanises the vulnerable. It presents itself as the new face of social conservatism and pacifies international concerns by saying the right things. All the while, autocratic tendencies spread nationally, ravaging civil liberties. Sometime over the past decade, a fringe conspiracy theory, "the great replacement," went mainstream. There are different variants of it, but in essence the theory espouses that immigration leads to large demographic

changes, undermining white majorities – its proponents call it "genocide by substitution." Right-wing media outlets like the US' Fox Network is culpable in giving credence to the theory. But mostly, such a theory gets amplified in the echo chambers of social media. Several white supremacists have used the theory as motivation for carrying out terrorist attacks in Norway, Pittsburgh, Texas, Quebec and Christchurch. The targets are minorities – Muslims, Jews or Blacks. The theory has become a rallying cry for the far-right. Instead of focusing on racial hierarchy, the discourse is on "cultural power," thus it does not appear as overtly racist at first glance. In times of economic strife, nations lurch rightwards. Voter apathy was evident with the lowest turnout in Italy's history. Similarly, in Sweden, the right-wing coalition won only a narrow majority of three out of 349 seats. The left has failed to deliver a vision for its historic base, and in many cases are engaged in bitter infighting. The centre right parties have also failed with economic strategies that have only widened income disparity. Meanwhile, the far-right has capitalised on resentment and hyper-simplified a singular strategy – demonisation of a vulnerable minority. This has paid electoral dividends. Once in power, they are free to attack the edifice of liberal values, strengthening their hold by sowing divisions. Left unchecked, in the wake of an energy and cost-of-living crisis, and a war in continental Europe, the far-right will be resurgent again. Last time, it ushered in the darkest hour of European history. We must heed the winds of change – it threatens us all. *To read the full article, please visit our website.*

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Sl No.	Tender ID & Invitation Reference No.	Name of Goods	Scheduled Tender/Proposal Publication Date and Time	Tender/Proposal Document last selling / downloading Date and Time	Tender/Proposal Closing Date and Time	Tender/Proposal Opening Date and Time	Tendering Method
1	ID: 749191 Ref: 18.19.0000.001.07.001.22	Supply of Various Stationeries and Desk Department Store items for National Maritime Institute, Chittagong.	08-Nov-2022 09:10	23-Nov-2022 16:00	23-Nov-2022 16:00	23-Nov-2022 10:00	Open Tendering Methods (OTM)
2	ID: 749225 Ref: 18.19.0000.001.07.002.22	Supply of Raw Materials, Spare Parts, and Other workshop Equipment for National Maritime Institute, Chittagong (2022-23).	09-Nov-2022 08:10	23-Nov-2022 15:00	24-Nov-2022 19:30	24-Nov-2022 10:30	Open Tendering Methods (OTM)

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08/11/2022
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e-Tender Notice
Date: 09/11/2022

SL No.	Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Name of goods	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time
1.	749096	PKB/CSD/OTM/ 2022-23/001	Procurement of Wall Calendar, Envelop, Desk Calendar & Notebook for PKB	23-Nov-2022, 15:00	24-Nov-2022, 15:15

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