

From COP27 to COP28: The tricky road ahead

Role of Attribution Science and the Bridgetown Initiative



AN OPEN DIALOGUE
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The recently concluded COP27 summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt had one major accomplishment – it created a Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) to provide financial support to countries adversely affected by climate change. Its establishment was the culmination of decades of pressure from climate-vulnerable developing countries. However, the path forward to activate and finance this fund may prove to be difficult.

The creation of LDF “hinges on an uncomfortable truth,” wrote Dharna Noor in the *Boston Globe*. “Wealthy nations are responsible for the vast majority of historic greenhouse gas emissions, yet the damage caused by those emissions – including worsening heat waves, droughts, and sea level rise – is taking a greater toll on poorer countries that did little to cause the problem.”

While the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has voiced the view that “some weather events are made worse by increased atmospheric and ocean temperatures and rising sea levels”, it has been unable to attribute specific weather events to climate change. When extreme weather occurs, people often want to know if climate change is to blame. However, climate scientist Stephanie Herring notes, “there’s no way to answer that question.” Any weather event could happen by chance, she explains. It could simply be part of the natural variation in weather.

But figuring out the extent to which climate change causes the harm, and to which countries the money should flow, is still being worked out in Attribution Science, a new discipline that is still evolving. Lisa Graumlich, a professor of

environmental and forest sciences at the University of Washington, said scientists now face the challenge of developing tools to assess loss and damage and determine whether climate change is to blame for individual weather events. According to her, “we’re in some very undefined territory right now.”

Some analysts expect the annual financing needs of vulnerable countries to reach USD 290 billion to USD 580 billion by 2030, according to a report in the *World Street Journal*.

So even when the LDF is launched, it would be difficult to determine which country should get how much and why. Can Pakistan claim that the recent floods, which caused damages and economic losses of over USD 30 billion, should be attributed to US emissions?

The last question captures the essence of the controversy that surrounds the LDF. The answer may determine how much the US and other OECD countries pour into the fund. Moreover, any US contribution must be approved by Congress, which will be dominated by Republicans who are expected to block President Biden’s incentives offered under the Inflation Reduction Act. It is unlikely that the new House of Representatives will be very receptive to the concept of LDF. Many legislators may view budget allocation for the LDF as “reparations” by another name. The US public is in no mood to accept the notion that historical carbon dioxide emissions data provides a causal link to US culpability and restitution.

Other questions that need to be answered are: What is the full extent



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Attribution Science will play a big role in figuring out which countries the money should flow to.

of loss and damage incurred by each country? How much resources are available each year until 2050 to manage the damage, and adopt and adapt greener technologies? Finally, how is the funding going to be administered and divided up among less developed countries and small island nations?

Bangladesh is on the frontlines of the mounting costs of climate change. As Bangladesh continues its leadership role in climate talks, it is not too unbecoming to ask, “What’s in it for Bangladesh?” Are we going to be compensated for the billions of dollars we might potentially lose if the global temperature increases by 3.5 degrees Celsius as projected? Or are we going to just take what we get and try to manage the best we can?

Bangladesh’s Foreign Minister Abdul Momen, who attended COP27, lauded the creation of LDF but argued that “the polluting countries should come forward early to save the planet.” Bangladesh played a key role at the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CGF) as a member of the Troika, which includes the current

president Ghana, and Bangladesh as the past president. The FM called on G20 countries emitting 80 percent of carbon to help Bangladesh, which emits less than 0.48 percent of global emissions and is an innocent victim of climate change. He urged the richer countries to channel five percent of

their defence expenditure towards the climate fund.

There are a few hurdles that the group of 24 countries tasked to set up the LDF must face, such as the scepticism of those who are publicly announcing that “Global cooperation is not necessary to fight

climate change”; the enforcement of agreements through a mechanism that vulnerable countries can use to persuade polluters to contribute; and the possibility that polluting countries like China might refuse to contribute or even take funds from the LDF.

On the brighter side, after COP27 ended, the G20 group, made up of the world’s largest economies, held its conference in Indonesia and elected India as its president. This role will enable India to influence the group’s agenda and priorities for the next year. We can hope that it will use this opportunity to drive forward the climate cause and LDF.

Some have suggested that the G20 should also be exploring alternative options to source climate finance. At COP27, there was some discussion centring on the Bridgetown initiative proposed by the prime minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley. Advocates say it could be a pathway to unlocking USD 1 trillion in climate financing from multilateral development banks and international financial institutions. The World Bank and the IMF have been criticised for being too risk-averse in lending to climate-vulnerable nations. The Barbados plan would change risk ratings, crucially lowering interest rates.

When in Qatar, be a Qatari



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The desert World Cup is coming to its end. The quarter finals are over and we are anxiously waiting for the semis. Not only has the starting line-up of thirty-two teams been whittled down to the last four standing, it seems that the plethora of media bombardment on the hosts has significantly decreased.

In the days leading up to the greatest show on earth, miserably apt was the Bangla saying, ‘Jare dekhie nari, tar cholon banka’ (One whom you cannot bear, unacceptable is that person’s behaviour).

Abuse and death of migrant workers in the build-up to the Qatar World Cup have appeared over-focused to some, but are obviously condemnable whatever the scale. In the midst of that rhetoric, the wily scribe forgets (!) that lead consultants and safety supervisors were also expatriates, many from the very countries making the most noise. Not a note of disapproval about their own kind.

The Western media were picking issues about matters that had little to do with football: empty seats, delays at turnstiles, digital glitches, matches scheduled in winter, selective alcohol ban, and dressing up in ways not popular in that part of the world. There was however not a word of praise about ground conditions, dressing room facilities, ball quality, or of the ephemeral Stadium 974 made with shipping containers, a bold statement towards a greener environment.

A section of the media was instigating a cultural warfare, whereas journalists could harp on “no room for racism”, a stigma often dominating European football, and recently exposed in English cricket. Spectators can leave a venue

because they have lost interest in the match. It’s called freedom of movement. Cost of tickets could be a cause for the barren galleries. Electromechanical entrances can underperform and cause delays. Digital devices are notorious for misbehaving without warning. Seasons flip between the hemispheres by divine decree, and no football can be played in a forty-degree saucan.

Qatar is a Muslim country whose tenets include not consuming alcohol. In India too, consumption of alcohol is prohibited in the states of Bihar, Gujarat, Nagaland, and Mizoram. Those who risk dying from lack of beer for two hours may note that since 1985 (37 years) drinking alcoholic beverages has been banned inside English football stadia to combat violence and hooliganism. So, should an English fan get intoxicated in the desert city only because he cannot do so in his own country?

Qatari fans did not land in Japan (2002) expecting locals to wear the traditional Arabian *abayha*. Nor did they insist in the States (1994) that every male must plant a peck on either cheek as a formal greeting. They did not order a full camel barbecue at Germany 2006. Nor that the Adhan be recited five times a day over the PA system during the 2014 festival at Brazil. So, where’s the logic to disregard matters that are sensitive to the 2022 hosts? It is only civil to follow local customs.

There are national standards, local customs and etiquette. The international press is shy to make noise about the “scarf ban” during the French Open. Excuse me, that too is a right. A 12-year-old English boy was asked not to come to his

Hull school because his haircut resembled that of 2002 Brazilian footballer Ronaldo Nazario. Seems Qatar is not the only country imposing restrictions.

Whereas the sword dance during the opening at the Al Bayt Stadium may have been intimidating to the timid, no blood was shed. We don’t expect the warmongers to usher in tanks and bombers at their inaugural ceremony, but these Morality Marshalls are not vocal about quarter of the world being bombed for decades.

It has been alleged that Qatar resorted to bribery to obtain the World Cup rights. If true, the bribe would have been received by FIFA executives, almost all of whom are not Qataris. Is it then fair for decision-maker and under-investigation Sepp Blatter, FIFA president 1998-2015, to concede during Qatar that “Qatar had been the wrong choice to host the World Cup”?

With the exception of the Barcelona Olympics 1992, when paralympic archer Antonio Rebollo set alight the Games flame with a flaming arrow from several hundred metres away, never before did a person with extreme disability or so young, out of government, nor from royalty, have had the honour to declare open a world event. Twenty-year old Ghanem Al Muftah did that with verses from the Holy Quran. Again, no significant appreciation of culture. They are rather loud about inclusion.

The cup is not only about teams competing for sporting supremacy. It is about world fellowship, learning about each other, and acceptance. Despite the media’s muddled viewpoint, the World Cup is being played in wonderful spirit, with several visiting fans showing laudable sensitivity to local culture. A heart-warming moment symbolising people coming together involved an English fan struggling with his *ghutra*, and the “Qatari equivalent of Prince William” helping him.

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Tender ID	Lot/package location (name of institution)	Procurement method	Publication date & time	Tender document last selling/date & time	Tender closing date & time
756302	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Fokir Bazar High School and College Burichong Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	11/12/2022 (22.00)	26/12/2022 (16.00)	27/12/2022 (12.00)
756303	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Amratal High School Adarsha Sadar Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	11/12/2022 (22.00)	26/12/2022 (16.00)	27/12/2022 (12.00)
756304	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Shaktali High School Adarsha Sadar Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	11/12/2022 (22.00)	26/12/2022 (16.00)	27/12/2022 (12.00)
756305	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Dhaneshor High School Adarsha Sadar Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	11/12/2022 (22.00)	26/12/2022 (16.00)	27/12/2022 (12.30)
756306	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Rashulpur High School Chandina Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	11/12/2022 (22.00)	26/12/2022 (16.00)	27/12/2022 (12.30)
756307	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Bhomrakandi High School Chandina Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	11/12/2022 (22.00)	26/12/2022 (16.00)	27/12/2022 (12.30)
756308	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Mohicail High School Chandina Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	11/12/2022 (22.00)	26/12/2022 (16.00)	27/12/2022 (12.30)
756309	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Perpeti High School Barura Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	11/12/2022 (22.00)	26/12/2022 (16.00)	27/12/2022 (12.30)
756310	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Payalgasa Technical High School Girls Barura Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	11/12/2022 (22.00)	26/12/2022 (16.00)	27/12/2022 (12.30)
756311	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Rammohan Tamizia High School Barura Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	11/12/2022 (22.00)	26/12/2022 (16.00)	27/12/2022 (13.00)
756312	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Baura Hazi Nowab Ali Pilot High School Barura Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	11/12/2022 (22.00)	26/12/2022 (16.00)	27/12/2022 (13.00)
756313	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Payab Hazi Abdul Gani High School Muradnagar Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	11/12/2022 (22.00)	26/12/2022 (16.00)	27/12/2022 (13.00)
756314	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Pilgiri Khairul Hazi Abbas Ali Adarsha High School Barura Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	11/12/2022 (22.00)	26/12/2022 (16.00)	27/12/2022 (13.00)
756315	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Gonouddag Girls High School Laksam Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	11/12/2022 (22.00)	26/12/2022 (16.00)	27/12/2022 (13.00)
756316	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Amtali High School Monohargonj Cumilla	NCT (LTM)	11/12/2022 (22.00)	26/12/2022 (16.00)	27/12/2022 (13.00)

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