



COP28 UAE

PHOTO: COLLECTED

review the UAE Consensus as a viable work-in-progress, to achieve our resiliency and initiate transformative adaptation to climate impacts and address the ongoing losses & damages from the worst effects of climate change. Over the years, we have established a strong (and well-deserved) reputation among the LDC Group members of being proactive and collaborative when raising our voice for the most vulnerable communities. Nationally, the Government of Bangladesh has taken major steps in tackling climate change issues with a ‘Whole of Government’ approach.

National strategies must now work on enhancing the civil (and often marginalized) community participation in not only developing plans, but also in implementing and monitoring their progress.

The responsibilities shouldered by the Prime Minister’s Office, Ministries of Finance, Planning and Environment, Forest & Climate Change respectively, have highlighted the clear climate ambitions and directives for the rest of the public sector bodies. This has laid a strong foundation for enhancing Bangladesh’s climate actions into a ‘Whole of Society’ approach – which many nations are still only conceptualizing.

From the UAE Consensus, the two major achievements mentioned above, Adaptation and addressing Loss & Damage, have taken a stance to allow nations in determining their own ways

forward, in developing their own strategies while considering their own context and limitations. These national strategies must now work on enhancing the civil (and often marginalized) community participation in not only developing plans, but also in implementing and monitoring their progress.

In particular, these steps should go away from merely consulting inputs from communities, by recognizing that communities have capacity that needs strengthening, they have their own agency in taking climate actions, and that proper support and meaningful impacts can only be achieved by their inclusion. As mentioned above, the ‘Role of Youths in Climate Actions’ has a serious risk of becoming a tagline and token if not addressed comprehensively. The actors within the climate & development sectors should review how they are encouraging the next generation in taking climate actions, recognizing their existing capacity to take climate actions and explore ways to enhance and support them – whether through training & technical assistance, financial support etc. These efforts taken now, to engage meaningfully with communities and enhance their adaptive capacity, will provide sustainable impacts for Bangladesh in the long term, and that should be the goal!

Saqib Huq is the Managing Director at the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD).