

## Back to Office Report (Dhaka Integrity Dialogue 3)

September 18-20, 2018, Dhaka, Bangladesh

### Background of the Events

The "[Dhaka Integrity Dialogue 3: Call for equity and transparency in green climate funding](#)" is Transparency International Bangladesh's (TIB) third series of events organized with the sole aim of understanding the complexities of climate finance, which includes the governance issues of climate funds, accessing the funds, and properly implementing the funded climate projects.

TIB has organized two international dialogues (March 2016 and September 2017) to bring together relevant stakeholders and climate experts from both domestic and international institutions/organizations as part of its advocacy for transparency and accountability in climate finance.

Dhaka Integrity Dialogue 3 is TIB's follow up of its climate finance initiatives. The overall objectives of this dialogue were to gather together policymakers and government officials, non-governmental organizations (from international, local and national affiliations), experts and academe, researchers, policy think tanks, and including grassroots practitioners, as well as Bangladesh's national implementing entities (NIE's) that are currently implementing the GCF or who will be implementing the GCF's projects and programmes.

Notably, the dialogue's objectives include:

- Identifying prospects and challenges to ensure equity and transparency in accessing and mobilizing the GCF's funds
- Sharing knowledge and building a common understanding of the relevant climate governance standards in accessing and utilizing the GCF's funds by the present and potential NIE's, NGOs and private sectors
- Strengthening collaboration and cross-boundary knowledge among experts, practitioners, policy-makers, and development partners in vulnerable countries

### Day 1 – Integrity Dialogue Structure and Programme

The dialogue was held in Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC), in Dhaka Bangladesh on September 18, 2018 (Tuesday). The event consisted of plenary sessions participated by panels of experts and practitioners with backgrounds on climate finance and development projects/programmes implementation. It was conducted in the English language.

TIB's Executive Director (Iftekhar Zaman) gave an opening and welcome speech to all participants. Then it was followed by plenary session 1 which was about **transparency, accountability, and integrity in mobilizing Green Climate Fund with its challenges and prospects**. More specifically,

the invited speakers talked about the following issues:

- Meeting the commitment of the Paris Agreement in mobilizing climate funds
- Predictability of future flow of funds to GCF
- Transparency and accountability of funds providers
- GCF modalities, procedures, and guidelines for accessing funds, accreditation
- Challenges and opportunities to ensure equity in the decision-making process in GCF Board

The session was moderated by the director of Climate Change and International Convention of the Department of Environment Bangladesh Government (Mirza Shawkat Ali). Speakers were the chairperson of Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization Bangladesh Government (Ziaul Hasan), Griffith Climate Change Response Program, Griffith University Australia, Edward Morgan), LDCs Coordinator Bangladesh Delegation and Director of the Department of Environment (Bangladesh, Ziaul Haque), and Deputy Secretary United Nations-V Economic Relations Division (Bangladesh, Nur Ahmed).

The second plenary session was on access to the Green Climate Fund by vulnerable countries and their prospects and challenges on accessing the funds. The session, moderated by IUCN country representative (Raquibul Amin, Bangladesh), took on the issues on the prospects and challenges in accessing GCF by developing countries, accreditation of NIE and time-bound decision-making process, priorities in Direct and Direct Access modalities, capacity of NIEs, country ownership, and MIE's accountability, role of NDAs in expediting access to GCF, and participation in prioritizing the project/programmes. TI Korea (**Abraham Sumalinog**), the mayor of Sathira Municipality (Tazkin Ahmed), Urban Climate Resilience Specialist of KfW Bangladesh (Mehedi Ahsan), and Senior Program Manager of Climate Finance Governance of TIB (Zakir Hossain Khan) shared their presentations.

The last or third plenary session was conducted in the afternoon. The topic was on disbursement, monitoring, and utilization of the Green Climate Fund's funds and projects and its prospects and challenges. The issues that the speakers dealt with included the grant-based fund allocation, transparency, and accountability in the disbursement of approved funds, stakeholders engagement to monitor GCF projects; auditing, reporting and disclosure of project information; complaint and grievance mechanism, and community-led monitoring utilization/implementation of GCF. The guest speakers were the Deputy Commissioner of Sathira District (Mohammad Iftekhar Hossain), TI-Korea (**Abraham Sumalinog**), CIMA Adviser at IDCOL (Mosleh Uddin), Program Coordinator at Water Integrity Network (Binayak Das), and TIB's Climate Finance Integrity Program Manager (Mahfuzul Haque).

Then a closing session was held and moderated by TIB's executive director (Iftekhar Zaman). The session was composed of a presentation of key highlights by TIB's Adviser Executive Management (Professor Sumaiya Khair) and speeches from guests – the Ministry of Environment, Forest and

Climate Change minister (Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, MP), and the Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh (Mohammed Iqbal Hossain). Minister Mahmud mentioned that although Bangladesh is primarily seeking support from international funding institutions (such as GCF), it is also working to promote its own climate fund to support climate projects and programmes. The guest speaker Iqbal Hossain, the Auditor General of Bangladesh, emphasized the need for transparency, accountability, and integrity in climate adaptation projects while referring to the poor results of climate projects in the country.



Photo: Closing event – Left to Right: Auditor General Iqbal Hossain; Iftekhar, TIB ED; Environment Minister Anisul Mahmud; TIB Executive Adviser Sumaiya Khair

## **Day 2 & 3 (Workshop held at TIB Conference Room, Dhaka)**

### **Improved Access to Green Climate Fund: Role of National Implementing Entities and Executing Entities**

#### **Background**

TIB organized a consultation titled “Access to and Utilization of Green Climate Fund: Transparency, Accountability and Participation” held on September 22, 2016. Various stakeholders including senior officials, NGOs, and private sector representatives have been invited who were themselves potential

implementing entities of the GCF projects/programmes. TIB recommended measures for ensuring transparency, accountability, and participation to improve the compliance required for GCF accreditation. This workshop was a follow-up event organized to provide support to the participating potential implementing entities.

The following are the specific objectives of the workshop:

- To share knowledge about the latest information and requirements to get the approval of the funding proposals from the GCF
- To provide expert opinion and comments on the selected proposals/concepts submitted under Bangladesh's country programme for the Green Climate Fund
- To establish a network/platform among the existing and potential national implementing entities (NIEs)

A number of sessions were held each with speakers who presented their respective assigned topics. Right after each presentations discussions were opened to participants. Below are the issues presentations dealt with:

- Overview of accessing GCF by NIE/EE (overview of the GCF, availability of funds and access mechanism)
- Detailed project/programme description (strategic context, project objectives against the baseline, etc)
- Financing/cost information: an overview of the description of Financial elements fo the project/programme, project financing information, financial markets
- The rationale for GCF involvement: value added for GCF involvement, exit strategy
- Expected performance against investment criteria: impact potential, paradigm shift potential, sustainable development potential, needs of the recipient, country ownership, efficiency, and effectiveness
- Risk assessment and management: risk assessment summary, risk factors, and mitigation measures
- Results monitoring, reporting, and evaluation: logic framework, arrangements for monitoring, reporting and evaluation (**Abraham Sumalinog**)

#### *Group work and group presentations*

There were four groups formed who identified the challenges and existing gaps, and the prospects in complying the requirements for writing a GCF project proposal. After the group discussions, they were given time to present and discuss various issues identified.

During the second day of the workshop, there were four presentations given by respective speakers. The presenters provide brief project proposal and provide expert opinion about the areas of

development of the project in getting approval. The presenters were members of the national implementing entities/executing entities.

The event was closed at 1 PM with a closing remark by TIB's Adviser Executive Management Professor Sumaiya Khair.

Prepared by:  
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