

Foreign Policy Virtual Climate Summit
Statement by HE Sheikh Hasina
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Bismillahir Rahman Rahim

**Excellencies and distinguished participants,
Editor-in-Chief of Foreign Policy Mr. Ravi Agrawal
Ladies and gentlemen.**

Assalamu Alaikum and good afternoon to you all.

I'm greatly honored to be invited at the **Foreign Policy Virtual Climate Summit**. I would like to thank the organizers and the audience.

The entire world is passing through a tough time with COVID 19 pandemic claiming a large number of lives and infecting hundreds of thousands more every day. We need united efforts to get rid of the deadly virus.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After COVID 19, the most discussed subject of the time perhaps is the climate change. Climate change has now become a huge threat for every country, especially for the climate vulnerable countries like Bangladesh.

The global temperature is rising; there is no doubt about it. And this temperature-rise is the main culprit of all ills. The continuous rise of global temperature is the most pressing concern for the human kind.

In the Paris Climate Accord, we have agreed not to allow the global temperature to rise above 1.5 degree Celsius. But nothing substantial has so far been done to check the emission of green house gases which are responsible for the temperature rise.

Dear audience,

Countries like Bangladesh have been experiencing increased frequencies and ferocities of various natural calamities like flood, drought, tidal surge, nor'wester, lightning etc. Currently heat wave is sweeping over my country.

Last year we experienced heavy monsoon that submerged one-third of my country. Several cyclones, including super cyclone Amphan, also hit my country last year. All these phenomena are due to climate change.

Bangladesh is not an emitter. In fact no member country of Climate Vulnerable Forum is significant emitter. But we are the worst sufferers. Every year 2% of my country's GDP is lost to extreme climate events.

The 1.1 million forcibly evicted Rohingyas from Myanmar we have given shelter in the environmentally critical Cox's Bazar district heavily affected the ecology of the area.

The bottom 100 countries account for just 3.5 percent of the global emission whereas the G20 countries are responsible for 80 percent. The CVF countries are at the forefront of climate adaptation.

Bangladesh is the first LDC to establish a Climate Change Trust Fund. So far, we spent over USD 415 million from our own resources to implement over 800 mitigation and adaptation programmes.

Our Parliament adopted a motion in 2019 declaring the current state of climate vulnerability as a planetary emergency. We are planting 30 million saplings and launched a program called "Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan" marking the birth centenary of our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. We are spending on an average 2.5% of our GDP equivalent to US\$ 5 billion each year in climate adaptation and resilience-building.

In Bangladesh, we have built 12,000 cyclone shelters and 2 hundred thousand hectares of coastal green belts. Our scientists have invented salinity and flood-tolerant crops, rain reservoirs and pond-sand-filters, floating agriculture technology and mobile water treatment plants for the coastal people.

Provisions of water bodies and tree plantation are ensured while implementing any project. We are creating artificial mangrove forests in the chars and shoals of coastal districts.

My government is building cyclone-resistant houses for the poor in the cyclone-prone areas. For preserving water and increasing navigability, we are dredging rivers and canals throughout the country.

The Global Center on Adaptation has set up its South Asian Regional Office in Dhaka. The centre is working to disseminate local-based innovative adaptation practices.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Climate change is not boundary-specific. If one country emits, every country is affected. So, every country would have to play its role. However, the rich countries, especially the G20 nations, should play the main role in halting the global emission.

It's good news that USA has returned to the Paris Agreement. We appreciate US President Joe Biden's decision and also holding of the Leaders' Summit last week.

In the Paris Agreement, international community has pledged to form a USD 100 billion fund each year for adaptation and mitigation purposes. Strict implementation of the Paris Agreement is the only way to check global emission and thereby global warming.

Thank you all.