

Climate Diplomacy as a Foreign Policy Tool: Challenges and Prospects for Bangladesh

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Abstract: ‘Climate Diplomacy as a Foreign Policy Tool: Challenges and Prospects for Bangladesh’ explores how does Bangladesh utilize climate diplomacy to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change while advancing its foreign policy goals. As one of the world’s most climate-vulnerable area, Bangladesh faces lots of threat such as rising sea levels, cyclones, and resource insecurity. Through active engagement in global climate governance, this country seeks financial assistance, technological collaboration, and partnerships to enhance resilience and sustainable development. The study critically examines the opportunities and challenges associated with Bangladesh’s climate diplomacy. It highlights notable achievements, such as securing commitments on loss and damage financing at COP27, while addressing persistent barriers, including limited institutional capacity, overreliance on donor support, bureaucratic inefficiencies and geo-political tensions. Moreover, the new Interim Government lead by its Chief Advisor Professor Dr. Mohammad Yunus after the fall of Hasina government by the historic Monsoon Revolution on July-August 2024 has showed new dream to Bangladeshi people towards a new multi-lateral diplomacy with some barriers. These challenges hinder the effectiveness of Bangladesh’s climate diplomacy in securing international support for adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

Keywords: Climate Diplomacy, Foreign Policy, Adaptation and Mitigation, Bangladesh.

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Introduction

Bangladesh, a nation especially susceptible to the effects of climate change because of its location, faces an existential threat (Huq, 2021). As a result, Bangladesh uses climate diplomacy as a vital tool in its foreign policy, seeking to address issues of both adaptation and mitigation while gaining financial and support from other countries. Based on current events and academic literature, this study critically analyzes the opportunities and difficulties of using climate diplomacy as a tool for Bangladesh's foreign policy. The study emphasizes Bangladesh's noteworthy achievements in climate diplomacy, especially its enthusiastic involvement in UN Climate Change Conferences (COP). The announcement on loss and damage money made at the COP-27 Summit was a game-changer for Bangladesh and other climate-vulnerable nations (Khanom, 2023). Nonetheless, the study points to a number of difficulties, such as the requirement for stronger climate finance structures and the difficulties in forging international accords that coincide with national interests. The study also emphasizes the significance of a whole-of-society approach to climate diplomacy, in which many stakeholders work together to strengthen Bangladesh's international advocacy efforts, including government agencies, civil society, and the commercial sector. This strategy is necessary to shift the narrative around climate change from one of vulnerability to one of prosperity and resilience. Bangladesh can obtain financing and help from other countries through climate diplomacy, but it also involves negotiating challenging geo-political environments and guaranteeing inclusive involvement from all socio-economic sectors. In order to handle the inherent problems of climate diplomacy and optimize its benefits, the research recommends a deliberate and coordinated strategy.

Adopting a mixed-method approach, this research incorporates a comprehensive literature review, interviews with policymakers and experts, and content analysis of relevant policy documents. It assesses the efficiency of climate diplomacy as a tactical foreign policy instrument and emphasizes the importance of a whole-of-society approach. This includes engaging government institutions, civil society and private sector stakeholders to strengthen Bangladesh's climate advocacy and resilience. The findings underline the need for strategic reforms, including enhanced institutional capacity, regional cooperation and active participation in international climate forums. The study also advocates for Bangladesh's leadership in framing climate diplomacy not just as a response to vulnerability but as a proactive tool for sustainable development and international collaboration. This research provides

valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders, offering a roadmap to optimize climate diplomacy as a critical component of Bangladesh's foreign policy.

Literature Review

This literature review examines the evolving role of climate diplomacy as a foreign policy tool for Bangladesh. It explores the country's unique vulnerabilities to climate change, its efforts to advocate for international climate action, and the challenges it faces in balancing domestic priorities with global climate commitments. The review analyzes existing research on Bangladesh's climate diplomacy, identifying key themes, debates, and areas for further exploration.

Khanom, S. (2023). Bangladesh's climate diplomacy: Lessons learned from COP27 and way forward. Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies. This article provides an in-depth analysis of Bangladesh's participation in COP27, focusing on its strategies and outcomes in areas such as mitigation, adaptation, climate finance, and loss and damage funds. It evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of Bangladesh's approach, offering practical lessons and recommendations for future diplomatic efforts. This article is directly relevant to your research objective of assessing the efficiency of climate diplomacy, as it provides a recent case study of Bangladesh's activities on the international stage. Additionally, it highlights financial and institutional challenges faced by Bangladesh, aligning with your objective of identifying main obstacles. The recommendations offered can inform your analysis of strategies for strengthening Bangladesh's climate diplomacy efforts.

Huq, S., & Wheeler, D. (2021). *Climate change, Migration, and Bangladesh: A Case Study of Climate Diplomacy*. International Centre for Climate Change and Development. This paper examines the complex interplay between climate change, migration, and climate diplomacy in Bangladesh. It discusses the significant challenges posed by climate-induced migration, including displacement and socio-economic impacts. The paper also explores how Bangladesh addresses these issues through international cooperation and advocacy. This study is crucial for your research as it underscores the importance of addressing human security within climate diplomacy. By highlighting the challenges related to climate-induced migration, it provides insights into the geopolitical and societal obstacles that Bangladesh must

overcome. The paper's analysis of international cooperation efforts can guide your recommendations for enhancing Bangladesh's climate diplomacy.

Mukherji, A. (2019). *Climate Diplomacy in South Asia: The Case of Bangladesh*. Institute for Studies in Industrial Development. This article analyzes Bangladesh's role in regional climate cooperation within South Asia. It examines how Bangladesh collaborates with neighboring countries to address shared climate challenges and influence global climate governance. This regional perspective is essential for understanding the broader geopolitical context of Bangladesh's climate diplomacy. The article helps identify geopolitical obstacles and opportunities for regional cooperation, providing a nuanced understanding of how Bangladesh can leverage regional alliances to strengthen its diplomatic efforts. By examining Bangladesh's influence in regional forums, this paper supports your objective of assessing the efficiency of climate diplomacy and identifying potential partnerships for advancing national interests.

Islam, Shafiqul. (2018). *Bangladesh's Climate Change Diplomacy: A Critical Analysis*. University of Dhaka. This paper provides a critical analysis of Bangladesh's climate change diplomacy, evaluating its strategies, achievements, and challenges in securing international support for adaptation and mitigation efforts. It offers a thorough examination of Bangladesh's diplomatic initiatives, advocacy for climate justice, and efforts to mobilize financial and technical assistance. This article directly contributes to your research objective of assessing the efficiency of climate diplomacy by providing a comprehensive evaluation of Bangladesh's diplomatic performance. It also identifies key challenges, such as difficulties in securing international support and financing, aligning with your objective of identifying obstacles. The insights gained from this analysis can inform your recommendations for improving Bangladesh's climate diplomacy strategies.

Asaduzzaman, M. (2017). *Climate Diplomacy and Bangladesh: A Vulnerable Country's Perspective*. Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies. This article explores the unique challenges and opportunities faced by Bangladesh as a vulnerable country in the realm of climate diplomacy. It discusses Bangladesh's vulnerability to climate change, its efforts to build resilience, and its role in international climate negotiations. The article provides valuable context for understanding the broader environmental and socio-economic factors that shape Bangladesh's climate

diplomacy. By highlighting the country's vulnerabilities, it underscores the need for robust international support and cooperation. This aligns with your research objectives by identifying the main challenges Bangladesh faces and offering a perspective on how to strengthen its resilience through effective climate diplomacy.

Victor, David. (2001). *Negotiating Environmental Agreements: A Handbook*. MIT Press. This handbook offers practical guidance on conducting environmental negotiations, covering key topics such as preparing for negotiations, building trust and cooperation, and addressing common challenges. While not specific to Bangladesh, the theoretical and practical insights provided in this book are highly relevant to your research. It supports the objective of assessing the efficiency of climate diplomacy by offering strategies for effective negotiation. The handbook's guidance on overcoming common challenges in environmental diplomacy can help identify obstacles and develop recommendations for strengthening Bangladesh's diplomatic efforts.

Islam, Mohammad Tarikul. (2014). *Climate Change Diplomacy: Apparatus for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: A Reflection in the Context of Bangladesh*. British Journal of Environment & Climate Change, 4(3), 265-279. <https://doi.org/> [insert DOI if available]. This paper focuses on Bangladesh's specific experiences with climate diplomacy, particularly in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation. It examines the challenges faced due to climate-induced migration and explores the country's efforts to address these issues through international cooperation. The case study provided in this paper is directly relevant to your research objective of assessing the efficiency of climate diplomacy. It also highlights the specific challenges related to migration and offers insights into potential solutions, contributing to your objective of identifying obstacles and proposing strategies for improvement.

Herrera, Gianna Gayle, Mul, A., & Shrestha, Maxim. (2021). *Cities and climate diplomacy in Asia-Pacific*. Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies. This paper offers a comprehensive analysis of climate diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region, examining the unique challenges and opportunities presented by this dynamic and rapidly growing area. It discusses the impacts of climate change, geopolitical competition, and economic development. By placing Bangladesh's climate diplomacy

within the broader context of the Asia-Pacific region, this article helps identify regional challenges and opportunities that Bangladesh must navigate. It also provides insights into potential regional collaborations, supporting your research objective of proposing strategies for strengthening Bangladesh's climate diplomacy efforts.

Conceptual Framework

This research titled '*Climate Diplomacy as a Foreign Policy Tool: Challenges and Prospects for Bangladesh*' aims to explore how Bangladesh leverages climate diplomacy to address climate change challenges and advance its foreign policy objectives. This conceptual framework has drawn upon different analysis regarding climate diplomacy, environmental governance and foreign policy to assess the efficiency of climate diplomacy, identify key obstacles, and propose actionable recommendations.

Bangladesh's Climate Situation and Policy Context

As one of the most climate-vulnerable countries, Bangladesh faces existential threats from rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and resource insecurity. With a large portion of its population dependent on agriculture and coastal livelihoods, the impacts of climate change pose severe risks to its economy and development. Recognizing these threats, Bangladesh has implemented policies such as the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) and established institutions like the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT) to address climate challenges.

Policy Implications through the Lens of Regime Theory

Bangladesh's climate diplomacy, viewed through regime theory, underscores the need for enhancing its institutional capacity to engage with international regimes more effectively. Strengthening alliances with like-minded nations, fostering partnerships with global think tanks such as the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), and leveraging the expertise of NGOs like BRAC can enhance Bangladesh's ability to influence global climate policy and secure favorable outcomes. By applying regime theory, this research demonstrates how Bangladesh's climate diplomacy operates within a complex web of international norms and institutions, highlighting both the opportunities for collaboration and the systemic challenges that need to be addressed for effective environmental governance (Krasner, 1983).

Bangladesh's Climate Situation: A Context for Ecological Modernization

Ecological modernization argues that economic development and environmental sustainability can be mutually reinforcing. Bangladesh can use climate diplomacy to promote sustainable economic growth, attract green investments, and foster innovation in renewable energy and sustainable practices (Mole, 2000). Ecological Modernization Theory (EMT) offers a framework for understanding how environmental challenges can be addressed through technological innovation, institutional reform, and the integration of environmental considerations into economic and social decision-making processes. EMT emphasizes the potential for modern economies to achieve sustainable development by aligning environmental goals with economic growth, driven by green technologies, market mechanisms, and policy innovation. Bangladesh is one of the most climate-vulnerable nations, facing frequent floods, cyclones, rising sea levels, and salinity intrusion, which threaten its agriculture, infrastructure, and livelihoods. These challenges demand urgent action and sustainable solutions to ensure the country's resilience and development. However, as a developing country with limited resources, Bangladesh often struggles to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability. EMT offers a perspective that combines these goals through innovative and institutional approaches.

Diplomatic Instruments and Strategies

This aspect of FPA looks at the tools and methods used in foreign policy. For Bangladesh, these might include bilateral and multilateral negotiations, participation in international environmental forums, and forming alliances with other vulnerable states to amplify its voice in climate diplomacy (Hill C. , 2003). Diplomatic instruments and strategies form the backbone of any country's foreign policy, particularly in addressing complex global issues like climate change. In the context of Bangladesh, climate diplomacy involves the deployment of both traditional and innovative diplomatic tools to advocate for climate justice, mobilize international support, and address the country's vulnerability to climate change. A conceptual analysis for these instruments and strategies encompasses the following elements:

Bilateral and Multilateral Diplomacy

Bilateral and multilateral engagements are foundational to Bangladesh's climate diplomacy. Through bilateral diplomacy, Bangladesh collaborates with nations that are key financial and technological partners, such as Germany, Japan, and the United States, to secure climate financing and access to renewable technologies. Multilateral diplomacy, on the other hand, is a cornerstone of Bangladesh's approach. Platforms like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) serve as key venues where Bangladesh advocates for principles such as "common but differentiated responsibilities" (CBDR) and equity in climate action (Huq, 2016; Khan, 2017).

Coalition Building

One of Bangladesh's most effective diplomatic strategies is coalition building with other climate-vulnerable nations. As a founding member of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), Bangladesh has leveraged its leadership role to amplify the collective voice of vulnerable countries. This coalition-building strategy enhances Bangladesh's bargaining power in international negotiations and helps frame climate change as a global justice issue.

Public Diplomacy

Bangladesh employs public diplomacy to shape global narratives on climate change. By showcasing the country's climate resilience initiatives, such as the Solar Home Systems (SHS) and disaster management programs, Bangladesh portrays itself as a responsible yet vulnerable state that requires international cooperation. This strategy helps attract global attention and reinforces Bangladesh's moral argument for increased climate financing and technology transfer.

Development Diplomacy

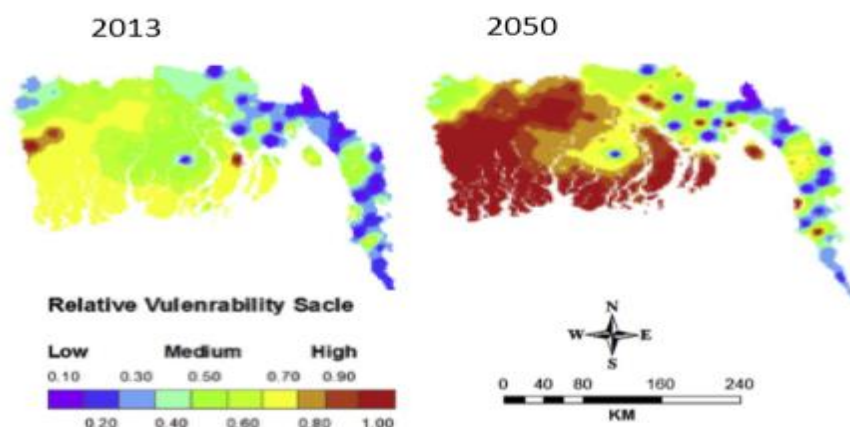
Bangladesh integrates development objectives with climate diplomacy to secure international support for sustainable projects. For example, the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT) and projects aligned with the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) highlight the intersection of climate adaptation and socio-economic development. This approach aligns with donor priorities, increasing the likelihood of financial and technical assistance.

Challenges to Diplomatic Instruments and Strategies

Despite its proactive approach, Bangladesh faces significant challenges in deploying its diplomatic tools effectively. These include limited financial and institutional resources, global power asymmetries, and bureaucratic inefficiencies. Additionally, navigating the often-divergent interests of developed and developing nations in multilateral settings remains a key challenge. Bangladesh's climate diplomacy is driven by a mix of instruments and strategies, ranging from coalition building and public diplomacy to evidence-based advocacy. By leveraging these tools within a well-structured theoretical framework, Bangladesh seeks to address its climate vulnerabilities, advance its foreign policy objectives, and contribute to global efforts in combating climate change. However, overcoming structural and operational challenges is critical to maximizing the effectiveness of these strategies in an increasingly complex geo-political landscape.

Climate Vulnerability and Resilience

Bangladesh is among the most climate-vulnerable countries, facing risks such as sea-level rise, cyclones, and flooding. This vulnerability shapes its foreign policy priorities, driving its push for international support and cooperation to build climate resilience and adapt to climate change impacts. Bangladesh is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world due to its geographical location, high population density, and dependence on agriculture.



[Source:https://www.researchgate.net/publication/346033141_Present_status_of_impacts_of_climate_change_and_adaptations_in_Bangladesh_coastal_areas]

Map 01: Climate Vulnerability of Bangladesh Coastal Areas

This map compares the relative climate vulnerability of Bangladesh's coastal areas between 2013 and 2050. This image uses a color coded scale to represent different levels of vulnerability from low to high. The country faces frequent natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, and droughts, which are exacerbated by rising sea levels, extreme weather patterns, and temperature fluctuations. These climate risks threaten food security, livelihoods, and infrastructure, with marginalized communities, particularly those in coastal areas, bearing the brunt of the impacts. In response, Bangladesh has focused on enhancing resilience through adaptation strategies like flood-resistant crops, coastal embankments, and disaster risk reduction programs. International cooperation and funding for climate adaptation are also critical in strengthening the country's climate resilience.

Sustainable Development

Integrating climate action into broader sustainable development goals is crucial for Bangladesh. Climate diplomacy is a tool to secure international commitments and resources necessary for achieving sustainable development, aligning with global sustainability agendas. This framework emphasizes the need for sustainable development practices that balance economic growth with environmental preservation and social equity.

Bangladesh's Foreign Policy: A Focus on Climate Diplomacy

Bangladesh's foreign policy is increasingly shaped by the urgency of climate change, reflecting the nation's vulnerability as one of the most climate-affected countries in the world. Over the past decades, Bangladesh has faced rising sea levels, severe cyclones, and erratic weather patterns, threatening its socio-economic stability and development prospects. Recognizing these existential challenges, climate diplomacy has emerged as a cornerstone of Bangladesh's foreign policy. This strategy leverages multilateral negotiations, bilateral agreements, and regional collaborations to secure international financing, technology transfer, and capacity-building initiatives. The integration of climate diplomacy into foreign policy also reflects Bangladesh's proactive stance in global forums such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF). By positioning itself as a moral leader among vulnerable nations, Bangladesh advocates for climate justice and equitable burden-sharing. However, challenges persist, including limited institutional capacity, geopolitical constraints, and competing priorities among global powers.

Overview of Bangladesh's Foreign Policy Evolution

Bangladesh's foreign policy is an attempt to meet the needs of a modern state built on the continuity of independence. After the realization of the dream of independence through the Great War of Liberation in 1971, the foreign policy of Bangladesh was mainly formulated with the aim of protecting sovereignty, establishing international peace, and economic and social development. After independence, the basic objectives of foreign policy were to protect the country's geographical sovereignty, ensure internal and international security, and socio-economic development. The UN Charter and the principles of non-aligned peace form the basis of Bangladesh's foreign policy. Bangladesh has established its international position based on the ideals of peace, neutrality, and non-violence. In the current global reality, especially in the context of climate change and ensuring economic stability, Bangladesh's foreign policy has changed. Climate diplomacy, multilateral partnerships, and regional cooperation are among the most important elements of today's foreign policy. The country has been adhering to the principle of foreign policy as like '*Friendship to all, malice towards none*' in dealing with its limited resources and geopolitical challenges (Rashid, 2019). The recent approach of Bangladesh government about climate diplomacy has shifted from a whole government approach to a whole society approach. Bangladesh now seeks to engage the all government mechanism to ensure a strategy involving all ministries, local government leaders, the executive branch, the parliament, the civil society, NGOs to make a mixed nexus to ensure a multifarious engagement with the foreign development stakeholders to ensure sustainable development and limit the vulnerability of our climate issues (sadik, 11 December 2023).

The Landscape of Climate Diplomacy in Bangladesh

Bangladesh, the biggest delta in the world is considered as one of the most vulnerable countries caused by climate change, now has become a proactive voice in global climate diplomacy. The geographical location of Bangladesh and the environmental, geo-political and social economic challenges has bought it up as a front liner state as a fighter against rising sea levels, extreme weather casualties and natural climatic disasters. Bangladesh seeks to fold its voice for saving its national interest hampered by climate change through diplomacy. Bangladesh as a sovereign country seated in the South Asia it's a member of SAARC and BIMSTEC. Bangladesh promotes the multilateral initiatives and cooperation Like financial cooperation

technology exchange, disaster management training etc. It also enhanced strong by the drill and multilateral relationships to secure sustainable funding, technology transfer, capacity building support with many nations like Japan, Germany and United Kingdom (Huq, Bangladesh's climate diplomacy needs to take a whole-of-society approach, Wednesday, May,5,2021).

Promising Areas of Climate Diplomacy of Bangladesh

Bangladesh facing environmental challenges and havocs now determined to place a strong role in climate diplomacy in global and regional arena to ensure its national interest of ensuring climate resilience. Bangladesh as a developing country of south Asia, situated at the coast of Bay of Bengal is a terrible victim of global warming. The rising of global temperature and sea level causes the loss of livelihood of the people of its coastal region especially of the Southern part of the country. The increasing of salinity in the water poses a greater healthy security crisis to the people of the country. Moreover, the country faces terrible cyclone about every year even more than once in a year which make a devastating financial loss for the country. The life, livelihood, environment and eco-system is badly hampered by the disaster caused by the climate change. Every year the people of Bagerhat, Khulna, Barishal and other southern districts fall victim to these havocs. At the mean time the loses of agricultural products also creates the deficiency to the supply chain management in the local market which creates the high inflation rate for the weak economy of Bangladesh. In the face of these reality Bangladesh seeks to bolster is climate diplomacy in a number of fronts which includes:

I) Ensuring Climate Finance: Climate finance for Bangladesh means the funding who is helps the country to address climate change through adaptation and mitigations factions. Gets this funding from previous financial sources, which is include international Co operations, bilateral and multilateral treaties, the funding from international organizations, various global forum and funds agile as private sectors. (Samayel, 07 July, 2023)

ii) Advancing Technology Transfer: The success of Bangladesh's climate policy depends on the access of its advanced technology in the fields of renewable energy, disaster management, and sustain able agriculture. Bangladesh also prioritizes its access to the low carbon and resilient technologies, especially as it wants to reduce its carbon emissions, environmental pollution and looks forward to engaging in the

environment friendly agriculture, industry and business. In the aim of this technology transfer Bangladesh engages with the developed nations and climate leaders like Japan, Germany, UK, South Korea and China for ensuring its access into critical climate friendly technology.

iii) **Enhancing Regional Cooperation:** The hydro politics in South Asia and the inter connected climate vulnerabilities of the region needs to be addressed by the regional cooperation and negotiation for common welfare. SAARC and the BIMSTEC are the regional organizations working to address the issues. The Trans Boundary Rivers and water management needs a pragmatic and realistic win-win diplomatic solution to address the flood and natural catastrophe created in Bangladesh caused by the issues. Sayeda Rizwana Hasan, Adviser for Environment, Forest and Climate Change emphasizes on the need for enhancing regional cooperation in addressing adverse impacts if climate change. (News, 06 Oct 2024)

iv) **Advocating for Loss and Damage Calculation:** Loss and damage caused by the climate change and vulnerability poses a significant concern for Bangladesh. The advocacy for a well-equipped calculation and mechanism can led Bangladesh to a way to make its position on addressing climate change and vulnerabilities. There also needs a comprehensive lose and damage calculation database for a compensation funding for Bangladesh. According to the IPCC 6th assessment report (AR6) WGII (2022), the most vulnerable people and systems are disproportionately affected by the climate change impacts (ICCCAD, December 1, 2023).

v) **Building Multi-stakeholder Partnership:** Bangladesh focuses further on whole society approach on mitigating its climate change. It brings together the national and international NGOs, academicians, business persons and government policy makers, youth leaders to build climate resilient society. As collaborative initiatives can provide innovative solutions and amplify country's voice in international forums.

vii) **Soft Power Diplomacy:** Bangladesh has its own types of habitations, cultural norms and agronomy. From the perspective of people to people connection Bangladesh has emphasized on the matter of soft diplomatic approach on addressing the climate diplomacy. It builds the own cultural strategy to exhibit its own strategy of comforting climate change adaptation.

Challenges in Institutionalizing Climate Diplomacy for Bangladesh

Bangladesh as one of the most climate vulnerable country in the world situated at the coast of Bay of Bengal, has felt its importance of initiating a tool helpful for addressing the climate change. Consequently, Bangladesh has become an important player in the context of climate diplomacy. Because it has become able to address the terrible impacts of climate change on its population and economy. Bangladesh is a low lying country marled by low-lying geography and high susceptibility to natural calamities such as flood, cyclones, salinity, river erosion, drought etc. Bangladesh's foreign policy always tries to ensure the human security specially the climate security of all the regional and allies countries including itself. Its foreign policy "Friendship to all and malice to none" (Bangladesh constitution, 1972) justifies its motive of common prosperity through collaboration among the allies. as per the policy our country has actively taken part in various international climate negotiations, particularly through its involvement in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and different Conferences of Parties (COP) summits. These summits and involvements have facilitated Bangladesh to present its unique challenges and advocate for global actions on climate justice. But, in spite of these actions Bangladesh suffers from various deficiencies of mechanisms of institutionalizations of climate diplomacy. In addition, the Conference of Parties (COP) summits are attended by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change officials, unfortunately the full structured climate diplomacy division is not visible in the ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh still. Foreign policy is the such an essential part of a country that the German Statesman Otto Von Bismark remarked foreign policy as the 'Extension of Domestic Policy' Foreign policy has various apparatus to advance its outcome and interests. At present among the global issues climate change is a vital concern of the people around the world. So, in this 21st century climate diplomacy has been evolved as a crucial tool for ensuring the climate security for a country. The climate issues started to emerge as the crucial global phenomena after the Rio de Janerio Earth Summit in 1992 held in Brazil. As one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world Bangladesh has to play a leading role in the international stage on climate issues. But it is assumed that the initiatives to tackle climate change Bangladesh government made delay to establish the concept of climate diplomacy as an well-equipped foreign policy apparatus. Now Bangladesh needs a fresh awakening move towards climate diplomacy with the changing context of international relations dynamics.

In this interconnected global system, the interactions of state and non-state actors are very much crucial. Bangladesh, a geographically vulnerable but potential in population now faces various challenges in confronting climate changes. This chapter delves into the challenges Bangladesh government faces to institutionalize the climate diplomacy. The institutionalization challenges have been divided into three parts they are: i. structural challenges, ii. institutional challenges and iii. geopolitical challenges.



Figure 01: Challenges of Climate Diplomacy in Bangladesh
[Prepared by author]

The Structural Challenges

The Bangladesh climate change strategy and action plan (BCCSAP) was developed in the year of 2009. it was built under the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) acknowledging that required a more in depth approach for confronting the challenges Bangladesh was in caused by climate change (Ministry of Environment, 2009). The BCCASAP's outlines a shrewd vision for green initiatives to resist climate change and sustainable development. This action plan has six pillars: i. Food security, ii. Social protection and health, iii. Comprehensive disaster management, iv. Mitigation and low-carbon development, v. Capacity building and institutional strength, vi. Research and knowledge management (The Ministry of Environment, 2009).

This plan seeks to guide the Bangladesh's pathway in adapting to climate change and mitigating its impacts. But here starts a huge institutional weakness to establish a

combined institution to address climate change. Moreover, the issue of climate diplomacy has not been mentioned in the plan's aim directly.

Institutional Challenges

Bangladesh is one of the country's most vulnerable to climate change. Millions of the country's citizens have faced severe natural disasters such as cyclones, floods, tidal surges, droughts, and many parts of the Ganges Delta will be submerged due to rising sea levels.

Global climate change will exacerbate the climate crisis in some regions and threaten more vulnerable people living in coastal areas. Moreover, it is clear that poverty is one of the biggest factors behind the creation of a risky climate, so we should make common policies to reduce poverty. Climate change can have a huge impact on Bangladesh's economy in the future (Lomborg, 2022). The needs the proper involvement of Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Health and all the ministries to combined address the climate vulnerability. But the lack to legal ability of each government to take action most of the time lead to the interference of the other ministry which creates a long bureaucratic effect to implement any climate policy. Moreover, the stake holder engagement for addressing climate change is very limited in local government of Bangladesh. In upazila the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) is the president of the Environment and Disaster management committee, but there monthly meeting is not held regularly, which creates a severe institutional challenge to data collection for enhancing climate diplomacy.

Geo-political Challenges

Bangladesh is highly sensitive to the effects of climate change due to its geographical location and natural features. The country often faces natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, droughts and river erosion, which are becoming more intense and frequent due to climate change. Bangladesh is surrounded by India in three sides and by Myanmar at the south-Eastern side. At the southern part of Bangladesh there is situated the Bay of Bengal. The average temperature of Bangladesh has increased significantly in the last few decades. The intensity and persistence of heat waves, especially in summer, has increased, which is having a negative impact on public health and agriculture. Unbearable temperatures have prevailed across the country in April 2024, causing particular concern for the health and safety of children. Changes in rainfall pattern are also seen due to climate change. The lack of rain during the

rainy season and the dry season hampers agricultural production. Such erratic rainfall results in crop loss, food insecurity and has a negative impact on the livelihood of farmers. Due to global warming, the coastal sea level of Bangladesh has been increasing by 3.8 to 5.8 mm per year in the last 30 years. As a result, coastal areas suffer from salinity problems, which threaten agriculture, fisheries and drinking water supplies. Increase in natural disasters: Climate change has led to an increase in the number and intensity of natural disasters such as cyclones, floods and droughts. According to the World Bank, Bangladesh suffers from major natural disasters almost every year. Such disasters cause great damage to the country's infrastructure, agriculture and public life. Economic Impact: The impact of climate change is having a negative impact on the economy of Bangladesh. A 2020 World Bank report noted that the country's GDP could fall by about 2 percent by 2050 if the effects of climate change are not tackled. Unemployment and poverty rates are likely to rise as key sectors such as agriculture, fisheries and textiles are hit. Climate change is a serious challenge for Bangladesh, which is having multifaceted negative impacts on the country's environment, economy and public health. It is imperative to take concerted efforts at the national and international levels to address these impacts so as to ensure sustainable development of the country and maintain a safe environment for future generations (Islam, 2022).

Building New Horizons in Climate Diplomacy for Bangladesh

After falling the Hasina regime on August 2024, Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser of the interim government of Bangladesh, has presented the 'Three Zero' theory at the UN climate conference to build a new world by combating the adverse effects of climate change. He said climate change is a human problem. People have to come forward to solve this problem and maintain civilization. We need zero waste, zero carbon and zero unemployment. Dr. Yunus was speaking at the opening session of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit at COP29 (Ajker Patrika, 14th November 2024). The Chief Advisor has now connected the youth with his earlier three-zero theory to build a new world. He said that the use of everyday items should be limited so that there is no waste left. Lifestyle will also be based on zero carbon, where there will be no use of fossil fuels, only the use of renewable energy. At the same time, the unemployment rate must be reduced. He suggested a new way of life based on these three zeros policy. The environment is a big problem. We need to get out of this now. Otherwise, no one will be safe from climate change. I

believe that the adverse impact of climate change is not an individual problem or a singular problem of a single nation. So we all need to work on it together. According to Dr. Yunus Young people will choose this way of life. Every youth will become three zero-based individuals. We need to adopt a new way of life that is compatible with the security of this planet, where everyone can live. The younger generation will take us forward. If we dream together, it will be possible. He further added on global climate change, 'The climate crisis is intensifying and humanity is at grave risk due to it'. People are bringing destructive and dangerous things to the fore (Daily Prothom Alo, 14th November 2024). We have to use our intellectual, financial and youth power to lay the foundation of a new civilization. But we have chosen a lifestyle that is working against the environment and human civilization. We need to get out of here fast. Infact the manifestation of this Three Zero theory is for the upholding the diplomacy for Bangladesh in sustainable development.

Conclusion

The findings of this research paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and prospects articulation of climate diplomacy for Bangladesh as a tool it is foreign policy to ensure the climate resilience of the country. This study critically analyses the scenario of climate vulnerabilities of Bangladesh, the contemporary issues of climate change and their effects on the national governance. Then, evaluates the historical evolution of its diplomatic strategy from financial and government to government approach to whole society approach of diplomacy for amplifying the national capacity to adapt climate change. Moreover, this study delves into the diplomatic, policy, process, instruments, success and weakness of the climate diplomacy deployed by the Government of Bangladesh. As one of the most climate vulnerable country, Bangladesh has continuously tried to utilize its diplomatic strategy for its successful engagement with development partners for securing international financing, global cooperation and technological cooperation. The integration of multi stake holders to combat climate diplomacy is a crucial way to achieve relief of loss and damage caused by climate change. The joint effort of academia, government organs, diplomacy, public private partnership can help to implement the green projects and address the climate change. But there is seen a huge communication gap among the inter-ministerial connection on climate diplomacy. Still the Ministry of Foreign Affairs doesn't have separate climate diplomacy wing to operate diplomatic affairs to mitigate climate issues where about 24 ministries and

divisions are directly involve in climate change vulnerabilities mitigation projects and get funding by the government of Bangladesh.

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