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Conference on Climate Change:

“Code Red” for Humanity

Bangladesh

Briefing Paper

Introduction:

Greetings, fellow delegations of EPIIC 2022. We, the delegation of Bangladesh, would like to formally express our contentment with being able to enter into discussions with all of you; we look forward to cooperating with each and every one of you, where we can, for the greater good of our respective delegations.

Bangladesh seeks to develop agreements which further the prevention of climate change. Our country has been impacted by extreme weather caused by climate change in a number of ways, and have made progress on a national level to stop the continuation of these events. However, it is necessary to also make progress on an international level, as our country also requires assistance from other nations in order to repair the damage done. We hope to implement a plan in which Bangladesh gains assistance from other countries and which works to prevent climate change on an international and national level in each delegation represented here today. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Key Points:

- ❖ Agriculture remains the most important sector to our economy, contributing to the national GDP and providing employment to the majority of the population, more than 30% of the population still remains in moderate to severe food insecurity.
- ❖ We have been affected by extreme weather and that puts us on heavy expenses to replace buildings that have been damaged. This also limited our ability to expand trade internationally.

- ❖ We would like to cooperate and import a variety of energy since we have a high population density but low land mass from our neighboring countries. Our goal is to achieve 100% electricity access and import more green energy.
- ❖ We have a unitary & parliamentary system. Internationally, we participated in the UN and with other countries in the peacekeeping effort in many aspects, such as helping communities recover against damages that are brought by climate change.
- ❖ Both ways of migrations can be seen in our country, many Bangladeshis started to move abroad for work and Rohingya refugees immigrated to our country escaping armed attacks and human rights violations from the Tatmadaw. We fully support the classification of climate refugees since we are also having millions of citizens every year have to relocate due to disasters caused by climate change.
- ❖ We face both macro security threats, external threats and internal threats. We would want to strengthen the securitization of our borders to prevent smugglers from neighboring countries and protections from the international community since we are one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change.

Background:

Earliest human settlement in the Bengal region is evidenced by Stone Age tools, dating back 20,000 years. Being a formidable nation of the Iron Age, the Mauryan empire governed Bengal in second and third century BCE, led in its peak by emperor Ashoka, who expanded their territory and was able to unify the diverse pan-Indian empire. In the third century, the Gupta empire succeeded the Mauryan empire, bringing studies of astronomy and Sanskrit literature.

These empires primarily promoted Buddhism and Jainism, but as the Sena dynasty took power in the eleventh century, the foundation for Bengali Hinduism was laid.

Islam arrived in the region around sixth or seventh century AD and spread somewhat through incoming merchants and missionaries from the Middle East, but it did not gain much influence until the first millennium. Muslim rule was only established in the thirteenth century when Afghanistan-based Ghurids expanded into the Ganges region and established the Delhi Sultanate. In the fourteenth century, a sovereign Bengal Sultanate was able to overcome Delhi and establish their own dynastic rule. By the sixteenth century, however, the Sultanate was weakened due to frequent attacks by the Sur Empire, which successfully sacked the capital in 1538 and remained for several decades.

In the late sixteenth century, the Mughal Empire, under Akbar the Great, took Bengal after defeating the extensive resistance led by the Bara Bhuyian, which was made up of twelve Afghan and Hindu landlords. The Mughals made Dhaka their provincial capital in 1608. The Mughal Empire made agrarian reformations, consolidating techniques of rice cultivation in particular, and an increased development of trade allowed the Bengal region to be a center of commerce. In 1715, the capital was moved to Murshidabad and the Nawabs of Bengal established their sovereignty. However, the Mughal Empire was weakening and had finally been defeated by British forces in 1764 at the Battle of Plassey.

A colonial region of British India, the Bengal Presidency was formed in 1765, with its capital in Calcutta. During this period, the British Empire sought to increase the economic productivity of Bengal, which it did primarily through tea production and jute trading. The British established English educational institutions in the 1830s, abolishing Persian as the official

language. Many Bengalis migrated to Calcutta for education and employment, and the capital became a prominent political and social center.

In July of 1905 was the Partition of Bengal, wherein the British divided the territory into Eastern Bengal and Assam, which was largely a Muslim area, and 'Bengal' in the west (with the province of Bihar and Orissa), which primarily had Hindu populations. The reason for this, as stated by Viceroy of India, Lord Nathaniel Cuzon, was to improve the administration of the neglected eastern region of Bengal; however, it heightened the political divide between Hindus and Muslims and created much backlash by the Indian National Congress in western Bengal. With the influence of the Swadeshi movement, the division was annulled in 1911. In the following decades, political parties would work for self-governance, pursuing the vision of their own sovereignty.

In 1943, the Muslim League, being the dominant political party, had established a parliamentary government in the country. In August of 1947, British colonial rule ended, and India and Pakistan were formed as two new countries, with Bengal split between them. For the next three decades, however, tensions due to the cultural, geographic, and linguistic split between East Bengal and Pakistan.

On March 23, 1971, the Bangladeshi flag was raised for the first time, in advocacy for independence. Days later, however, on March 26, Operation Searchlight launched by the Pakistani military junta, massacring Bengali civilians, especially students, in the 1971 Bangladesh genocide. During the Liberation War, Bangladesh formed a declaration of independence and established a provisional government, as well as the Bangladeshi National Liberation Army, which received aid from India and the Soviet Union to combat Pakistani forces, which surrendered on December 16, 1971.

The left-wing Bangladesh Awami League formed the first independent, parliamentary government of Bangladesh. In 1973, Bangladesh signed a tripartite agreement with Pakistan and India calling for peace and stability, and in 1974, Bangladesh joined the United Nations. In the following years, however, Bangladesh would experience military coups attempts, and martial law was proclaimed twice. The parliamentary republic returned after chief justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was sworn in as acting president and formed the first caretaker government of Bangladesh, organizing free and fair elections in 1991. The Awami League and the Bangladesh National Party have competed in general elections since then, and they remain the two dominant parties today. Currently, the government is Awami League-led, and we seek to enforce political stability and reduce poverty whilst facing the escalating crisis of our warming climate.

I. Committee on Global Governance

The government of People's Republic of Bangladesh is a unitary state which follows a parliamentary system. The legislative branch is made up by the Parliament of Bangladesh called the Jatiya Sangsad (House of the Nation) is a unicameral system consisting of 350 seats (5 year terms). The President is elected by the parliament (5 year terms with a 2 term limit). The president appoints the Prime Minister who is the leader of the legislative majority party. Bangladesh uses a judicial system made up of a Supreme Court, High Court and Lower Court. Bangladesh decentralizes power to 8 divisions and more than 60 districts, divisions are headed by commissioners, while districts have popularly elected executives and councils.

As a still developing country Bangladesh focuses much of its resources inward in efforts to achieve sufficiency. Despite this Bangladesh has participated in many global initiatives & governance, mainly working through the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. It

has been a major contributor to UN peacekeeping efforts and participant in UN efforts. It has been working with the UN to host Myanmar Refugees from the Rohingya Refugee Crisis. Bangladesh has signed onto many climate related initiatives such as the Paris Climate Accords and the UNFCCC, as well as working towards the Sustainable Development Goals within its own country, even going on to create its own climate prosperity plan.

We support the sovereignty of nations and believe that it is critical to defend one's independence. Historically, we have adopted the caretaker government model, wherein our military would have influence in social, political, and economic sectors of our country. In 2011, however, the caretaker system was abolished by the dominant party, the Bangladesh Awami League, and ceased military intervention into state affairs. On the international stage, we seek collaboration to meet our collective goals, including the battle against climate change. We hope for any disputes to be resolved peacefully, without any need for military escalation.

In recent years, Bangladesh citizens have seen an increase in censorship and weakening civil rights. Corruption and government transparency is a continuing problem. The Awami led government has slid more authoritarian through the censoring of media and limiting free speech. Under the Digital Security Act (DSA) arrests have dramatically increased. During the global pandemic, the government has censored critical views of its handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, from healthcare workers to students, and activists. It has also used the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) a counter-terrorism unit, for increased surveillance of its citizens and censorship, with reports of human right abuses. Although, the government has taken some efforts for more transparency and anti-corruption through programs and legislation like the Anti Corruption Commission, these have yet to produce much efficacy.

There aren't any significant tensions between the global and national levels in Bangladesh. The biggest concern of ours is climate change. With our country being surrounded by lots of water and very disaster prone, it is extremely prone to harm from climate change, which is why we would like to focus on finding solutions and getting help both for ourselves and other less developed countries.

We are one of the largest contributors to the United Nations' peacekeeping operations, having first deployed uniformed personnel in 1988 to help monitor the armistice between Iran and Iraq. We also participated in COP26, proposing many actions be taken such as holding more developed countries responsible for their emissions and providing help for less developed nations, like ourselves, through taking partial responsibility for the people displaced by the effects of climate change.

Being a country that is heavily affected by climate change, we have signed on to many initiatives, both that would help us and especially ones that would help us and our communities. The Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF), for example, was the first ever national climate fund that was established by a Least Developed Country (LDC). The BCCTF is meant to help communities recover and become more resilient against climate change impacts. Additionally, we have implemented the National Adaptation Plan, which gathers and analyzes information to produce solutions and creates plans for climate risk-informed decision-making, among other goals.

We were one of the original founders of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), which is focusing on strategically reducing the number of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) through initiatives like green technology investments and climate finance funds. Additionally, we have allocated the equivalent of \$50 million to the agriculture and health budgets to "climate-

proof” these sectors, necessary feats in order to overcome the drastic effect of climate change on our people. As mentioned earlier, we are also a part of other global efforts, such as COP26 that will allow for better care for our planet and more protection of the countries that are most affected by climate change.

II. Committee on Migration

We, the delegation of Bangladesh, view migration as a hugely relevant issue for our country and must be handled in collaboration with all nations from around the world. The Bangladesh diaspora, for instance, has had a major impact on our economy, as many families are quite dependent on regular remittances by emigrant laborers. Bangladesh has long sought to establish protections for migrants, including the ratification of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW) in 1990, as well as the Overseas Employment and Migrants Act in 2013, to ensure rights for Bangladeshi migrants. Knowing the magnitude and scale of this situation, however, we have pushed for the facilitation of safe and orderly migration to be included in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, so that protections may be implemented worldwide.

We have seen several obstacles in integration, both of refugees and returnee migrant workers, into our country. Women returnee migrants in particular have reportedly experienced alienation and criticism from their family and society. They are unable to find and retain new jobs, and traumatized individuals are unable to seek any mental health support. Additionally, we have had difficulties in integrating Rohingya refugees into our country due to the expected rapid depletion of our national resources, resulting at times in involuntary repatriation. Some Rohingya

refugees fear persecution in this case, and our foreign minister has raised concerns over this issue in a diplomatic visit to Myanmar.

We believe that global policies in regards to migrants, refugees, and asylum must be reformed such that greater protections are extended for the rights and safety of migrants, especially women migrant workers. In regards to labor markets, we seek to ensure rest and recreation, wages, overtime, leave, healthcare services, freedom of movement, etc. for migrant workers. Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs aims to accomplish this by providing necessary administrative, legal and welfare services to the vulnerable, such as establishing female safe houses in various countries and extending financial support from the Wage Earners Welfare Board. Additionally, we hope to see global policy reform that curbs human trafficking and provides support against COVID-19 for migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers during this ongoing pandemic.

Migration is flowing both out of and into Bangladesh, with net migration rates at around - 2.93 migrants per 1,000 people in 2021, according to the Migration Policy Institute. Many Bangladeshis leave to work abroad, with numbers increasing over the decades to now over 400,000 emigrant workers each year. The Gulf States have been an important destination for laborers, especially Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Qatar. Other countries, such as Italy, Malaysia, and the Maldives also see many migrant laborers. We also have seen migration into our country, particularly Rohingya refugees in recent years, fleeing armed attacks and human rights violations from the Tatmadaw. As of August 2021, nearly 900,000 Rohingya refugees were living at the Kutupalong and Nayapara refugee camps in the Cox's Bazar region in our country. Additionally, internal migration is very prevalent. Each year, thousands of residents on the coasts of Bangladesh are displaced due to natural disasters exacerbated by the climate

crisis. Riverbank erosion and cyclones — exacerbated by a funneling effect created by the narrowed Bay of Bengal — are particularly common reasons for displacement, which over 30 million people are living vulnerable to, though other calamities include rising sea levels, flash floods, droughts, salinization, etc. Overflowing rivers, too, have caused Bangladeshis to migrate from rural areas to urban ones, contributing to overcrowding.

We, the delegation of Bangladesh, have long seen the impacts of climate change on migration, and support the United Nations' determination for the classification of climate refugees. We have addressed this in our support for the Global Compact on Refugees in December of 2018, which acknowledges that “climate, environmental degradation and disasters increasingly interact with the drivers of refugee movements”. As a spearhead for the implementation of a framework for safe, orderly, and regular migration, we have continued to advocate for policy that protects migrants and refugees, and we seek to ensure greater international collaboration for achieving these goals in the future.

While we agree for a securitization of borders, we hold deep concern for abuses at the border, particularly at the hands of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF). Bangladesh-based human rights organization Odhikar counted 51 killings of Bangladeshis in 2020 alone, and they found that suspected criminals at the border are often beaten and tortured instead of being arrested. Border guards themselves have also been found to participate in illegal activities such as cattle smuggling and human trafficking. According to Human Rights Watch, however, Indian authorities have never held BSF soldiers accountable for their abuses. We call for the Indian government to demonstrate zero tolerance for abuses at the border, as promised in our bilateral agreements, by prosecuting soldiers violating the law and urging the BSF forces to exercise maximum restraint in their securitization of borders. In regards to securitization at Rohingya

refugee camps, we believe in taking effective measures to reduce crime rates. Such methods have included increasing police guards, installing watchtowers, and reducing unnecessary and dangerous movements out of the camps.

We have seen animal migration become an increasingly relevant issue with the impacts climate change has on our ecosystems. For instance, we have seen the influx of cattle and domesticated ducks into wetlands, which both threaten the natural reeds of the environment and upset the population balance of the ecosystem, posing a danger to the diverse bird species which inhabit these regions. Additionally, as bird species have been experiencing habitat destruction, many are concerned about the transmission of zoonotic disease, such as the bird flu. In response, the Bangladesh Forest Department under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has been working to ensure the preservation of bird habitats. Communities have engaged in conservation efforts through taking approaches known as Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures.

III. Committee on Security

Our country faces three types of security threats: macro threats, traditional threats and non-traditional threats. Macro security threats are security issues involving power relations with major powers like China or USA. Traditional threats are divided into external and internal threats. External threats include threats from our neighbors such as India or Myanmar. Some internal threat we face are insurgency, terrorism, and arms or drug trafficking. A few non-traditional threats we face are poverty and political instability.

Climate change poses a serious problem for our country. We are particularly vulnerable due to our dense population and low elevation. Our country's perception of security priorities

has been affected by recent climate events. This is evident in our many policy responses related to climate. Despite our policy responses, we do not have a national policy. We do, however, have a Climate Change Trust that our country has put 400 million dollars into.

Our country joined Saudi Arabia's military alliance to fight terrorism. The role our country played in this alliance was working with other countries and using the combined military forces to stop terrorist groups. This alliance did not have a climate component or a refugee/migration component. America and Bangladesh have also worked together on many security issues such as border security, maintenance of peace, prevention of terrorism and maritime security.

Yes we agree that there needs to be a securitization of borders as there are many smugglers every year attempting to cross illegally from Bangladesh to India. We need to have the right to patrol our country and save our own citizen's lives. The Indian Border Security Force exercises its controversial "Shoot-on-sight" policy. Under this policy, the BSF can shoot any person on site with or without cause. Very few, if any, of those killed have ever been found with lethal weapons on them.

Our country's social security system has been severely affected, and tragically, thousands of lives are being lost, especially affected marginalized groups from our country. And we would want a more advanced public health security system that will ensure the safety of our citizens.

We do have gas supplies that meet 56% of our energy demand. The energy sector is dominated by state-owned companies including Petrobangla and the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation. Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Equinor, Gazprom and ONGC are major international companies engaged in Bangladesh's hydrocarbon industry, with Chevron's gas fields accounting for 50% of natural gas production. Geologists believe the country's maritime exclusive economic

zone holds one of the largest oil and gas reserves in the Asia-Pacific. Protectionism and a lack of technical capacity have impeded Bangladesh's potential to emerge as a major global hydrocarbon producer. Two LNG Terminala and a gas pipeline will be created to ease the Bangladesh gas shortage. In addition, we are seeking to buy oil from Qatar to meet energy demand in the short term.

Bangladesh is frequently cited as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change because of its disadvantageous geographic location; flat and low-lying topography; high population density; high levels of poverty; reliance of many livelihoods on climate sensitive sectors, particularly agriculture and fisheries; and inefficient institutional aspects. Many of the anticipated adverse effects of climate change, such as sea level rise, higher temperatures, enhanced monsoon precipitation, and an increase in cyclone intensity, will aggravate the existing stresses that already impede development in Bangladesh, particularly by reducing water and food security and damaging essential infrastructure. These impacts could be extremely detrimental to the economy, the environment, national development, and the people of Bangladesh.

IV. Committee on Energy

We, the Delegation of Bangladesh, have a high demand for energy due to our high population density; as such, we opt to import energy from our neighbors in order to further operations in our country. We have been, since 2013, working amicably with other countries such as India to import over 1,100MW of much-needed energy to our reserves. 92.2% of our population of 164.7 million has access to electricity- this high demand for energy requires us to restore our energy grid as best we can from our neighbors. Our goal of having 100% of our

population have access to electricity is quite an ambitious one, but we are interested in achieving such a goal by working together with our neighboring countries to import more energy.

Overall, energy has been a source of cooperation for us; we are looking to import more energy from our neighbors, if possible, in order to satisfy the high demand for electricity within our borders. As mentioned previously, we import over 1100MW of energy; as such, we have been working together with other nations to cooperate for the good of our country as a whole. Our goal is to achieve 100% electricity access for our citizens as soon as we can, and in order to reach this goal, we would be willing to enter discussions with other countries about increasing our imports for energy.

In Bangladesh, we like to make use of as many sources of energy as we can- we like to use natural gas as our predominant source for power generation. About 62.9% of our generated electricity comes from natural gas, while 10% is from diesel, 5% comes from coal, and 3% is from heavy oil. Our high demand for energy- coupled with our high population density and our low relative landmass- requires us to seek as many forms of power as possible; we are interested in importing more energy from our neighboring countries, and we are looking to move towards renewable energy from these imported sources when we can cheaply acquire them.

As of right now, Bangladesh is quite reliant on older types of energy; we are delaying some plans for new fossil fuel plants in favor of importing green energy from other countries who have the landmass to comfortably create it. Bangladesh would like to invest in all types of energy, but the high cost of newer types of fuels makes this process extremely difficult due to our high population density and our high overall demand for energy. Because of these factors, we do not often differentiate between types of energy, and will gladly import all kinds of power from our neighboring countries.

Due to our high population density and low land mass, we are dependent on many forms of quick energy that our neighbors allow us to readily import. However, we aim to increase the amount of green energy we use, as the environmental ramifications are not in our best interest. Despite our best efforts of expanding our internal energy production, we primarily rely on the forms of energy used by our neighboring countries which we can acquire- our small land mass makes it hard for us to create alternatives ourselves. It is in our best interest to expand our energy availability, so if it is possible, we would be willing to enter discussions regarding our energy usage to further our goal of 100% electricity access for our citizens.

We in Bangladesh like to have access to as many different types of energy as possible, because our country's demand for energy has grown steadily over the years. Additionally, it is very important to us to increase the amount of renewable energy we use, because of the positive environmental impact. However, renewable energy is somewhat difficult to acquire for countries with a smaller land mass like ourselves, because we do not have the land required to create certain large-scale renewable energy projects.

V. Committee on Agriculture and Food Security

Bangladesh imports bulk commodities such as wheat, soybeans, and pulses. There are also consumer demands for fruits, tree nuts, dairy products, and processed food products. There are more exports than imports (Exports in 2020: \$1,342 Imports in 2020: \$5,171).

Most agricultural production in Bangladesh is generated by traditional subsistence farming. Bangladesh produces a variety of agricultural products such as rice, wheat, corn, legumes, fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, seafood, and dairy products. The processed food industry accounts for approximately eight percent of all manufacturing output and employs two percent of

the total work force. The industry is dominated by small- and medium-sized enterprises strongly linked to local production.

Agriculture remains the most important sector of Bangladeshi economy, contributing 19.6 percent to the national GDP and providing employment for 63 percent of the population.

According to government estimates, Bangladesh is self-sufficient in food grain production. In fact, it claims that the domestic food grain production is more than enough to satisfy the domestic requirement with a surplus production of 2.6 million Mt.

Of all our merchandise exports, roughly 2.7% is food exports. This percentage has dropped from roughly 6% in the past few years. Roughly 65% of our country is food secure, but many still live in poverty and do not get proper nutrition.

31.9% of our population experienced moderate to severe food insecurity in 2021. Despite progress and the improved availability of food due to increased production, 40 million people – one quarter of the population – remain food insecure, and 11 million suffer from acute hunger. Stunting – a condition induced by poor nutrition, with negative effects on a child's physical growth and cognitive development – affects 36 percent of children under 5, with peaks of 50 percent among the poorest and those living in slums. In total, 5.5 million children under 5 are chronically malnourished.

Rainfalls and flash floods are detrimental to agriculture, causing food insecurity. Rising sea levels and deadly floods are already putting tens of millions of lives at risk in Bangladesh, but they bring another problem that threatens the entire nation: waterlogged land and high salinity in streams and soil are killing crops. Bangladesh ranks seventh for countries most affected by extreme weather in the past two decades, according to the Global Climate Risk Index.

VI. Committee on Economic Development

Currently, we are attempting to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and expand our economy. Our economy has been drastically affected by climate change. Droughts are reducing food production from farms and fisheries. Floods have destroyed homes, roads, power plants, and more.

Bangladesh has been extremely affected by extreme weather; in fact, according to Germanwatch's 2021 Global Climate Risk Index, it ranks 7th in countries most affected by the climate crisis, which includes extreme weather. Rainfall has become much more intense and frequent, causing massive damages in flooding. This is extremely concerning, as $\frac{2}{3}$ of Bangladesh is less than 15 feet above sea level. Therefore, a drastic increase in rain would cause sea levels to rise, and pose a major threat to a majority of the country. This is currently a problem in Bangladesh, as currently over 10 million people are climate refugees as a result of rising sea levels. The "funneling" effect of the Bay of Bengal creates ideal conditions for cyclones, which are further intensified by climate change.

Yes, because many buildings will be destroyed due to climate change. It would be very expensive to replace that many buildings. It would also greatly impact any ability to trade across oceans and borders.

I believe that we should reduce our dependence on fossil fuels in order to lessen the impacts of climate change. Bangladesh has already implemented many policies to attempt to reverse climate change, including adopting an infrastructure which would prioritize adaptation investments, and implementing policies which promote a greener economy, including cleaner financing and banking. In the future, Bangladesh would also look to implement more policies

which help to promote a greener economy and society, such as green spaces, and changing its reliance from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

Bangladesh currently has a 5-year plan to transition towards renewable energy, as well as creating a greener economy and promoting a transition to a more climate-conscious society within its nation. However, it will at this time need a sizable investment in order to create such infrastructure.

VII. Committee on Justice and Human Rights

The People's Republic of Bangladesh is not among the most responsible for the emission of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere, and we thus do not consider ourselves to have seriously benefited from the freedoms that come with full utilization of such fuel sources. As such, we believe that many of the countries such as us, forced to deal with extreme climate-born disasters that we did not dramatically contribute to, deserve rapid and demonstrative change, with a shift to cleaner energy, and rapid support in the form of economic and humanitarian aid. The world must move forwards with a focus on achieving economic and climate equality for every nation, leaving no poor, island, or southern state behind.

Since our great nation of Bangladesh is the most vulnerable country in the world to tropical cyclones, and sixth most vulnerable to floods, the natural disasters we experience as of now are of such great magnitude that we are besieged by large setbacks, economically and socially. The effects of these natural disasters are only exacerbated by our high population density; thus, we feel that there is a great debt owed to more impacted nations, such as ourselves, by countries that contribute most to such environmental damage. The industrial superpowers that

contribute most to the augmentation of such destruction are indirectly responsible for the damage caused, and as such, we definitely recognize the need for the acknowledgement of such debt.

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, as our very low elevation, high population density, high poverty, and weak institutions and infrastructure make it so that in the next few decades, millions of our citizens could end up homeless or otherwise. About 56% of our population is highly vulnerable to climate change- that means tens of millions of people- and even increases in wealth would not change that, since so much of our population lives on the coast or on the main tributaries of the Ganges, Padma, Meghna, or Jamuna. Now, while Bangladesh has contributed to world climate issues to some degree, the more developed nations of the world must end their usage first. We, as of now, have not the resources to shift to green energy, and with a rapidly urbanizing population the energy quota grows constantly, and so it falls to the more developed, more flexible nations to actually make solid change for the time being in order to give us, Bangladesh, the time to not only invest in green solutions, but also to bring our people out of poverty, build up public works and infrastructure, and to improve our economic conditions. If there actually was change from the countries that use so much fossil fuels, coal, and other Greenhouse Gas sources, every nation would benefit.

Due to our situation, Bangladesh has had a minimal impact on efforts to improve the Earth's situation. Still, we do believe that to ease the burden on the most affected countries, we must provide humanitarian aid to help with refugees and local citizens, as well as new infrastructure now to mitigate natural disasters in the future. Nations should stop building coal and natural gas plants, as Bangladesh has begun to do, and the wealthy ones should supply the necessary funding and/or materials to poorer states in order to allow for the construction of green

energy technology and facilities. This should ensure the successful transition of every nation over to energy with long-term viability, allowing for a more equal world.

Bangladesh itself has limited contact with the Small Island States of the world, and the Global South, as we are still developing ourselves and can do little to benefit other nations as we work to ensure our own climate security. We are focusing our efforts on our own disaster response: a large portion of our country's landmass lies on a floodplain, which makes us prone to some natural disasters, such as tropical cyclones and floods. Despite this, we do recognize their plight, and are willing to engage in trade with any nations that would be assisted by such action. It simply comes down to, once more, the most developed nations to assist the low lying, island, and southern states, which could all benefit from, not only climate justice, but also a rapid refugee response, and land preservation. This would ensure that these countries would not lose everything.

Bangladesh is familiar with refugees due to conflict in Myanmar, and thus the Rohingya people who are currently in camps in Cox's Bazar. In addition, there has been an increase in terrorist attacks by fringe extremist groups in recent years, which could also produce more refugees flooding into urban and coastal areas. We foresee that without an end to the current migration and climate crises, the number of refugees flooding into Bangladesh will increase, as will the influx into urban areas from rural zones. As of now, the refugee camps are at an unsustainable capacity; it is imperative that Bangladesh receive aid in these issues. In addition, most of our land is not much higher than sea level, thus if we continue down the climate path the world is currently on, Bangladesh will experience a dire internal refugee crisis. Much of our population lives on a floodplain; rising sea levels threaten the safety and well-being of the people living there. It is imperative that climate refugees be recognized by the UN.

Finally, we foresee that with all of the disruptions to society as a result of climate change, there could be additional violent conflict, civil unrest, and perhaps even civil war, with everyday citizens joining up with extremist leaders once they have nowhere else to turn.