



PROGRAMME

South Asia Regional Resilience Dialogue:

Fostering Adaptation and Resilience for a Post-COVID19, 1.5 Degree Future

Date: 17 September, 10:00–12:00 CEST/ 14:00–16:00 Bangladesh

Venue: Zoom Webinar (registration required [here](#))

Closed-Captioning will be provided during the Webinar for all

Acknowledgements

This dialogue is part of a series of regional dialogues convened with non-party stakeholders, organized by the [Global Resilience Partnership](#) together with [Climate Resilience Network of the UNFCCC Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action \(MPGCA\)](#) with the support of the Chile and UK High Level Champions (HLCs), Gonzalo Muñoz and Nigel Topping.

The South Asia Regional Resilience Dialogue is co-led by: [International Centre for Climate Change and Development \(ICCCAD\)](#) and [Huairou Commission](#).

Supporting organisations include: [ADB](#), [CANSAs](#), [CGIAR Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security \(CGIAR / CCAFS\)](#), [Climate Justice Resilience Fund \(CJRF\)](#), [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)/A2R](#), [Mercy Corps](#), [Practical Action](#), [Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre](#).

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Marrakech
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ICCCAD
International Centre for
Climate Change and
Development



HUAIROU COMMISSION
Women, Homes & Community



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
Climate Change,
Agriculture and
Food Security



**Practical
ACTION**



**Climate
Centre**



**MERCY
CORPS**



Food and Agriculture
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CJRF | Climate Justice
Resilience Fund



UN Climate Resilience Initiative A2R
Anticipate, Absorb, Reshape

I. Context

South Asia is widely recognized as one of the major hotspots for climatic disasters. While the region has seen remarkable socioeconomic development over the past decade or so, many of these gains are at risk of being undermined as the impacts of climate change become increasingly prominent. Between the years 1990 and 2019, climate-induced disasters in the South Asia region have affected more than 1.68 billion people and caused over US\$127 billion in damages.

The year 2020 marks a crucial point for the global climate agenda. As we approach the first five year milestone of the landmark Paris Agreement, countries are expected to submit their revised climate action plans, also known as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), encapsulating their national commitments for achieving the 1.5C target. Concomitantly, countries are also expected to substantially increase the number of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction's (SFDRR) Target E. With many vulnerable regions about to reach their tipping points, enhancing climate ambitions has never been more pertinent. There is an urgent need for both state and non-state actors to steer their actions towards transformational shifts to help ensure a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

The emergence of the global COVID-19 pandemic this year also caused unprecedented challenges for South Asia and exposed the fragility and complexity of economic and health systems in the region. The compounded impacts of COVID-19 and climate related shocks and stressors, highlighted the pre-existing inequalities in the region and reiterated the need to strengthen climate action for resilience. For vulnerable communities in particular, this dual crisis brings forth a wide range of challenges. Due to enforced lockdown measures and subsequent economic shutdown across several formal and informal production sectors, communities are faced with sudden and complete disruption of their livelihoods. Historically, climatic shocks and stressors in the region have compelled large numbers of people in rural areas to seek opportunities both in cities, as well as across borders. This pandemic induced economic crisis has initiated a pattern of mass reverse migration, exerting further stress on the community's livelihoods. A number of countries in South Asia have also faced additional shocks in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak. The incidence of super-cyclone Amphan, heavy monsoon floods and consequent landslides in the past few months have wreaked havoc on this region - particularly in India, Bangladesh and Nepal - affecting more than 9.6 million people. Challenges posed by these natural hazards have further aggravated the systemic crisis posed by the pandemic.

While the impacts of these compounding shocks have uncovered some of the cracks within the system, it has also shed light on the crucial role of locally-led actions in building social resilience in the face of uncertainties. Local actors on the frontline are continuing to play a critical role in responding to the crises. Experiences of dealing with multi-hazards and climate related impacts in the past have helped communities tackle this unprecedented situation more effectively. However, inadequate delivery of essential services and lack of quality investment directed towards these communities threaten to further intensify their risks and vulnerabilities, hindering the road towards adaptation and resilience in the region.

Recovering from the pandemic, while ensuring a clear pathway towards climate action goals and achievement of the SDGs, will entail system-wide approaches that build climate resilience within and across sectors. This would require building bridges among different types of stakeholders at all levels, to ensure exchange of best practices and lessons learnt, promote collaborative solutions and sustain overall momentum on adaptation and resilience actions in the region. Vulnerable communities in particular must be empowered with more agency, and given a voice to ensure climate resilience across sectors and systems. Reducing climate related risks and building adaptive capacity of these communities as well as other actors, and promoting co-creation of knowledge would be critical in climate resilience building

across and within sectors. Above all, the recovery plan from this pandemic should prioritize identifying new and innovative means for closing the adaptation finance gap and ensuring transformative, low-carbon, climate-resilient, inclusive policies to help meet the adaptation financing needs for building climate resilience.

The South Asia Regional Dialogue will highlight and discuss the regional needs, priorities and existing solutions, and will focus on ways to address climate change by scaling up local actions to adaptation and resilience supported by appropriate finance, knowledge and capacity.

II. Objectives of the Regional Dialogue

The South Asia Regional Dialogue will bring together High Level Champions (HLCs) and non-party stakeholders (NPSs) working on resilience and adaptation in the region, under one platform with the following key objectives:

- To highlight the role and priorities of grassroots organizations and local communities in building a climate resilient future in the region;
- To explore various models and approaches for mobilizing finance to effectively support adaptation and resilience actions in the region;
- To illustrate the importance of capacity building and knowledge co-creation for fostering adaptation and building resilience to climate change in the region;
- To recommend the HLCs, Champions Team and the MPGCA on how to advance these ambitious actions in South Asia.

III. Expected Outcomes

- Increased understanding of locally-led action for fostering adaptation and resilience to climate change in the region;
- Exploration of financial priorities and effective modes of delivery for supporting adaptation and resilience in the region;
- Enhanced collaboration among diverse stakeholder groups in the region for collective delivery of adaptation and resilience solutions; and
- Recognition of how the works of HLCs and MPGCA can advance actions on adaptation and resilience in the region.

IV. Agenda

5 min	Welcome and Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saleemul Huq, Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)
5 min	Interactive Activity 1: Ice breaker All participants are kindly requested to go to https://www.menti.com/y54j4ksk11 directly -OR- Enter www.menti.com and code: 69 23 84 2
5 min	Setting out the regional priorities around adaptation and resilience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanjay Vashist, Director, Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs)

5 min	Remarks by High Level Champion (HLC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nigel Topping, UK COP26 High Level Champion
5 min	Interactive Activity 2: All participants are kindly requested to go to https://www.menti.com/y54j4ksk11 directly -OR- Enter www.menti.com and code: 69 23 84 2
30 min	Panel 1 How can locally-led adaptation and resilience actions be scaled up to bring transformative change? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prema Gopalan, Founder and Executive Director, Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) Lajana Manandhar, Executive Director, Lumanti Support Group for Shelter Ziaul Haque, General Secretary, Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL) Sheela Patel, Director, Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centers (SPARC) Moderated by Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD
10 min	Q&A <i>Follow up questions from HLC and/or audience</i>
5 min	Interactive Activity 3: All participants are kindly requested to go to https://www.menti.com/y54j4ksk11 directly -OR- Enter www.menti.com and code: 69 23 84 2
30 min	Panel 2 What are the financing needs and approaches required for achieving adaptation and resilience goals in the region? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golam Rabbani, Head of Climate Bridge Fund Secretariat, BRAC Afsari Begum, Senior Specialist, Disaster Risk Reduction, Practical Action Bangladesh Manjeet Dhakal, Head of LDC Support Team, Climate Analytics Virinder Sharma, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Asian Development Bank Moderated by Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD
10 min	Q&A and comments from the HLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nigel Topping, UK COP26 High Level Champion
10 min	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ken O'Flaherty, UK Regional Ambassador for Asia-Pacific and South Asia