

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON COP 28 PARTICIPATION:

ADVOCATING FOR BANGLADESH'S CLIMATE RESILIENCE

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Introduction: The 28th annual United Nations climate meeting, COP 28, convened in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from November 30 to December 13, 2023. Representing the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) as a youth fellow, my participation aimed to amplify the voices of Bangladeshi youth and contribute significantly to the global dialogue on climate change.

Background: In 2023, my journey with ICCCAD commenced through a year-long immersive program involving intensive training, field visits, and virtual capacity-building sessions focused on climate change. Out of the 20 youth fellows, I, along with a peer, had the privilege to represent ICCCAD at COP 28.

Pre-Conference Activities: Leading up to COP 28, our pre-conference activities prioritized hearing directly from Bangladeshi youth who couldn't attend the event. The primary objective was to comprehend the current climate scenario, identify potential areas for intervention, and articulate Bangladesh's unique vulnerabilities as a direct victim of climate change. As representatives of fellow Bangladeshi youth, We organized a pre-COP event to gather their opinions and what they wished to share in COP. This initiative aimed to ensure their voices were heard and included in the global discourse on climate action.



Participation Overview: As an observer badge holder at COP 28, I actively engaged in several negotiations, attending diverse side events across thematic zones and countries' pavilions. This afforded me a comprehensive understanding of the discussions and initiatives. The opportunity for networking was a highlight, allowing me to connect with individuals from various countries and organizations. Joining team ICCCAD added an exciting dimension to my experience, providing valuable insights and guidance throughout the entire journey. Additionally, I discreetly attended several programs, enhancing my exposure to different aspects of the conference.

What I shared at Resilience Hub:

On December 1st, I delivered a substantive speech at the Resilience Hub, shedding light on the vulnerability of Bangladesh and my community. I not only outlined the challenges but also spotlighted our youth initiatives to tackle climate change. Specifically, I discussed how youth could actively contribute to sustainable city development and stressed the imperative of their inclusion in these endeavors.

The speech aimed to convey a comprehensive understanding of Bangladesh's vulnerability and the proactive measures initiated by its youth.



What I shared at Nordic Pavilion:

Participating as a speaker in the Nordic Pavilion, I emphasized the necessity of global youth collaboration in combating climate change. Beyond the urgency of our generation taking the lead in climate action, I underscored the global consequences of inaction.

Additionally, I highlighted the specific threats faced by the 19 million children in Bangladesh due to environmental disasters, bringing attention to the human impact of climate change.

Youth Participation: While enthusiastic about our engagement, I observed a comparative lack of Bangladeshi youth representation at COP 28. As a country directly affected by climate change, I strongly advocate for increased and more diverse youth participation.

This is crucial to ensure that our unique perspectives contribute comprehensively to the global discourse on climate justice.

Observer Badge Access: A notable limitation was the restricted access of youth participants, holding observer badges, to certain negotiation rooms. To address this, I recommend a thorough reassessment of badge allocations. Specifically, I propose an increase in party badges for youth participants, enabling broader access and a more impactful contribution to top-level negotiations.



Post-COP Reflection: Returning to Bangladesh, my reflections on COP 28 are shaped by the rich and detailed experiences gained during the summit. The exposure to diverse perspectives, cultures, and initiatives not only deepened my understanding of global climate efforts but also revealed specific areas for collaborative action.

Identifying a knowledge gap among youth on climate education, I am committed to leading or engaging in collaborative initiatives aimed at enhancing awareness and fostering a global perspective among my peers.

Conclusion: My journey from preparation in Bangladesh to active and detailed participation in COP 28 was not merely symbolic but a comprehensive commitment to advocating for climate resilience. The detailed insights gained, connections made, and challenges identified will undoubtedly guide my ongoing and more nuanced efforts in contributing to the global fight against climate change.