



Fourth CVF Leaders Meeting: Development Reset and Cooperation

*23 September 2025, 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM (EDT)
Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York City*

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. I thank the CVF-V20 Secretariat and the Barbados Presidency for convening this timely meeting.

We gather here not just to recount our vulnerabilities, but to rewrite the story of climate action with justice, ambition, and solidarity at its heart.

Bangladesh has long been proud to serve as a voice for the vulnerable. From the Dhaka Declaration of 2011 to the Dhaka-Glasgow Declaration of 2021, our leadership helped place loss and damage at the center of global negotiations, resulting in the creation of the Loss and Damage Fund at COP28. This reminds us that when the vulnerable speak together, the world cannot look away.

Yet, Excellencies, the clock ticks louder. Rising seas, floods, salinity, and cyclones already disrupt the daily lives of millions in Bangladesh. For us, climate change is not tomorrow's headline; it is today's struggle for existence.

Distinguished delegates, I welcome the central focus on advancing the Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) Compact. We also express our strong support for the Lifeline Fund, designed to provide rapid liquidity support for climate-induced balance-of-payments stress. For countries like Bangladesh, where a single climate disaster can wipe out years of development gains, such instruments are essential. At the recent Financing for Development Conference, we also advocated for a robust international financial architecture that supports all vulnerable nations.

We need stronger global efforts to keep global warming within 1.5 degrees Celsius. Bangladesh is committed to this effort, having set ambitious targets in our recent Nationally Determined Contribution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2035. We are also committed to achieving 20 percent of electricity generation from renewable sources by 2030.

Today, our nations face a dual crisis of climate and finance. This unmanageable burden forces many nations to divert resources from health and education to service debt. From devastating floods to prolonged salinity intrusion, our people endure the harsh realities of a crisis they did not create, and its costs [weigh on] the exigencies of daily life.

Ladies and gentlemen, looking ahead to COP31, allow me to highlight some urgent priorities.

First, set an ambitious New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance that is predictable, concessional, and fair. Cheaper long-term finance must actually reach those building water systems, schools, and clinics.

Second, fully operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund, ensuring swift and accessible disbursement, including mobility and adaptation support.

Third, reform the global financial architecture to provide debt relief and concessional financing, so that vulnerable nations do not have to choose between building schools and building cyclone shelters.

Fourth, countries should not be penalized for progress. As our income rises, our borrowing costs jump sharply, while poverty remains widespread and climate risks keep growing. That transition should be gradual, not sudden. We welcome the Declaration's call for exactly this.

On leadership, Bangladesh fully supports Ghana's proposal that Barbados extend its Presidency for a further year. V2V and the Lifeline Fund are mid-delivery, and continuity is critical to this group's effectiveness. Bangladesh supports recognition of the CVF-V20 as an Observer at the UN and endorses the Leaders Declaration.

Together, we must ensure that climate action becomes a catalyst for sustainable and equitable development for all. The CVF was born from the conviction that the most vulnerable should not only be heard, but should lead.

Let us leave New York not only with statements, but with commitments. I thank you.

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