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Red tape blocking release of global climate change funds

Environmentalists and researchers said at an international conference in the capital on Saturday that the release of international climate funds gets delayed due to bureaucratic procedures.

They said that many countries in need of immediate international assistance to recover from climate change impacts cannot overcome international bureaucratic hurdles to access climate change funds.

‘As a result, the poorest are the hardest hit by climate change impacts,’ said Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies executive director A Atiq Rahman.

‘The climate funds remain most inaccessible to the poorest people,’ he said.

Global leaders have waited a long time debating climate change aspects in depth but did little to mitigate the impacts of climate change, he said.

For an example, he said, the Green Climate Fund, established under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, was supposed to release \$100 billion annually from 2020 onwards but the GCF could not raise enough money until now to release the first installment.

Aman Jean Aristide Nicaise, a researcher from Ivory Coast, said that his country seriously lacked expertise to float projects to claim money from climate funds due to bureaucratic complexities.

International Centre for Climate Change and Development director Saleemul Huq said that the poor and the most vulnerable people should be prioritized in distribution of resources for countering climate change impacts.

He said that until now climate change fund did not reach the people who needed it most.

‘Money has to be distributed,’ he said, by checking corruption and enhancing institutional capacities.

British Council acting country director Faye Nicholls emphasized on collaboration among communities to counter climate change impacts which was anticipated to grow over the coming decades.

The 2nd international conference on climate finance was jointly organized by BCAS, ICCCAD and the Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research, Brac University.

Information minister Hasan Mahmud expressed disappointment over developed countries' poor response to the global call for mobilizing the fund to address climate change impacts.

He said that though Bangladesh was among the countries having lowest carbon footprint the government was committed to gradually step up green energy generation.

The conference was also attended by adaptation fund board chair Victor R Vinas Nicolas, UNFCCC adaptation programme manager Paul V Desanker and Oxford Policy Management senior consultant Katherine Cooke.