

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
CBA7 Conference Closing Session
Remarks by Mary Robinson

I am very pleased to be back in Dhaka once again and I am delighted that my reason has been to attend this conference on community based adaptation. I would like to sincerely thank both IIED and BCAS for all their work in organising CBA7. Although it was unfortunate that the field visits couldn't take place this year, I believe that we still had a very worthwhile conference here in Bangladesh. I have followed previous CBA conferences from afar since I chaired the board of IIED, so I am honoured to have had the opportunity to be here this year and learn from the experiences of adaptation practitioners.

I would also like to congratulate BCAS and IIED on the launch of their publication “Community based adaptation: early learnings from CBA conferences”. It is wonderful to have this flagship publication documenting the approaches, practices, challenges and way forward for CBA.

This CBA conference fits well with the Climate Justice Dialogue, the joint initiative of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice and the World Resources Institute that aims to mobilise political will and creative thinking to shape an equitable and ambitious international climate agreement in 2015. I am very pleased that Saleem Huq sits on the Steering Committee of the Climate Justice Dialogue, which benefits greatly from his expertise and critical thinking.

As I said yesterday, central to the Climate Justice Dialogue is the need to mobilise constituencies around the globe to demand greater urgency and ambition on climate action. A climate justice narrative that amplifies the voices of the most vulnerable can help to change the conversation on climate change and create a demand for action. By focusing on issues of fairness and justice, including intergenerational justice, a climate justice narrative can serve as a pressure point on the road to an international climate agreement in 2015 as well as the post-2015 development agenda.

The Climate Justice Dialogue features a series of convenings or conversations taking place across the globe over the next three years with a view to creating a narrative, collecting ideas and building momentum for a new climate agreement in 2015. Earlier this month, with leadership from the government of Chile, climate change negotiators, civil society organisations and representatives from academia from several Latin American countries gathered in Santiago to explore what climate justice and equity means to them. Last week in Dublin, my Foundation co-hosted an EU Presidency conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Climate Justice, where one third of the participants were grassroots participants from regions including Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific and the Arctic.

The session that took place here yesterday on “Human rights, equity and the legal aspects of climate change adaptation” is the latest conversation that feeds into the Climate Justice Dialogue. The adaptation community has an important role to play in being vocal on the impacts climate change is having on human rights and equity. I’m delighted I had the opportunity to meet with so many of you over the last two days. I came here to listen

and to learn from you and I am very pleased with the participation during yesterday's session. I really enjoyed the table discussions during the session yesterday and I would like to thank you for engaging so actively and for completing the feedback sheets that summarised your discussions. On reviewing these feedback sheets, you identified the 'Top 3' key equity dimensions of community-based adaptation as: access to resources, gender inequality and power relations within the community. The feedback sheets also highlighted that there is a lot that can be done to address these inequities, with a convergence of opinion on solutions that focus on empowerment, participation and access to information.

An equitable international climate change agreement will need to give equal emphasis to adaptation and mitigation. The adaptation community has an important role to play in ensuring this happens. A new climate agreement must recognise that action by countries on adaptation counts just as much as action on mitigation.

We need the adaptation community to become vocal on the fact that an international climate change agreement is needed because there is a certain point beyond which people will not be able to adapt. We also need you to ensure that a new agreement on climate recognises action by countries on adaptation as well as action on mitigation. I urge you to stay engaged with the Climate Justice Dialogue. As I said yesterday, the dialogue that we have commenced with you here this week at CBA7 is just the beginning. I ask that you continue to work with us over the next two and a half years.

Ask yourself - what can you do to emphasise the urgency and importance of a climate agreement in 2015? How can you help to articulate the equity

and justice dimensions of climate change to a wider audience so that collective action is taken to do the right thing?

I would like to challenge you today to:

- **Be more strategic – this includes investigating how we can all increase our impact by working closer together.**
- **Use your alliances and networks – both formal and informal - to create the sense of urgency required for bold, transformative action on climate change; this includes reaching out to religious networks that can speak of the moral imperative for action.**
- **Argue and advocate for a fair, ambitious and binding climate agreement in 2015 and use all available platforms to disseminate the message that a 2015 climate agreement is imperative.**
- **Use every opportunity to emphasise that the 2015 climate agreement and post-2015 development agenda must be linked.**
- **Make people in developed countries care - use climate justice arguments that we know will resonate; speak about intergenerational inequity; tell human-centred stories that appeal to our shared sense of humanity and that people will connect with emotionally.**
- **If the people-centred stories on equity and justice are not being told to the right people, then find a way to tell them to the right people.**

My hope is that we can work together to further develop the dialogue we have started here this week. We want to build on the momentum we have created here this week, so please:

- **Stay in contact with my colleague Mary Faherty who will be happy to continue these discussions with you.**

- **Let us use key milestones, such as COP 19 in Warsaw later this year which some of you will attend, to link up again and progress the dialogue.**
- **Let us use CBA8 in 2014 (which I understand will be held in Nepal) as a joint stocktaking session, where we can update one another on our progress.**

We need you as a constituency that demands fairness and justice for those who are suffering the most from the impacts of climate change.