

The Fourteenth SAARC Summit (New Delhi, 3-4 April 2007) expressed "deep concern" over the global climate change and called for pursuing a climate resilient development in South Asia. During the Twenty-ninth session of the SAARC Council of Ministers (New Delhi, 7-8 December 2007), the Council felt that given the vulnerabilities, inadequate means and limited capacities, there was a need to ensure rapid social and economic development to make SAARC climate change resilient. Pursuant to this decision, a Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in Dhaka on 3 July 2008 preceded by an Expert Group Meeting on Climate Change on 1-2 July 2008. The Ministerial Meeting adopted the "Dhaka Declaration and SAARC Action Plan on Climate Change".

The Dhaka Declaration requires Member States to undertake activities to promote advocacy programs and mass awareness on climate change; cooperation in capacity building including the development of CDM projects and DNA and on incentives for removal of GHG by sinks, and exchange of information of best practices, sharing of the results of research and development for mitigating the effects of climate change and undertaking adaptation measures, and for enhancing south-south cooperation on technology development and transfer, as per established SAARC norms; and to initiate and implement programmes and measures as per SAARC practice for adaptation for dealing with the onslaught of climate change to protect the lives and livelihood of the people. It also calls upon the Annex-I countries to fulfill their commitments as per the UNFCCC for providing additional resources.

The SAARC Action Plan on Climate Change (2009-2011) identifies seven thematic areas of cooperation covering adaptation; mitigation; technology transfer; finance and investment; education and awareness; management of impacts and risks; and capacity building for international negotiations. The Action Plan lists the areas of capacity building for CDM projects; exchange of information on disaster preparedness and extreme events; exchange of meteorological data; capacity building and exchange of information on climate change impacts (e.g. sea level rise, glacial melting, biodiversity and forestry); and mutual consultation in international negotiation process as the Priority Action Plan.