



in 2020,” adding that “Bangladesh is honoured to lead the vulnerable nations in this charge to rally more support from the international community as a whole to secure our survival.”

The CVF leaders highlighted that climate crisis represented the most serious human rights issue we have ever faced and called for the creation of a UN Special Rapporteur on climate change, pledging US\$50,000 to support such a mandate of the Human Rights Council from a new CVF and V20 Trust Fund announced at the event to be backed by financial contributions of the vulnerable nations and partner donors.

Speaking in reaction to the announcement at the event, Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said: “Your pledge of support for the possible establishment of a Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change at the Human Rights Council is much welcome,” adding that “climate change discriminates on the basis of geography. Entire nations may sink beneath rising tides while drought, floods and war strike others. The presence, voice and leadership of members of the Climate Vulnerable Forum is critical to the drive for higher climate ambition and the realisation of human rights for those persons most affected by climate change.”

Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, remarked: “None of us can turn a blind eye to what is happening right now, and what will happen in the future. All of us have a responsibility to tackle the causes of climate change and adapt to its impact.” Prime Minister Rutte then announced the first-ever global Climate Adaptation Summit, bringing together Heads of Government from around the world to Amsterdam on 22 October 2020.

Lucie Pélessier, coordinator of Youth on the Move, CliMates, said strong climate action has full support of the youth around the world. “We, the young generation, are ready to step into the future. Where the most vulnerable won’t always be the one to suffer. We are prepared to give our entire energy for this transition and co-construct it with you. Let’s make together COP25 a crucial step towards delivering more climate ambition and international solidarity.”

UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Patricia Espinosa, commented at the event: “Those living in small island States and other vulnerable communities throughout the world have long recognized that the climate is changing with disastrous impacts for their homes, livelihoods and futures,” said UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa. “This will only grow unless ambitious and far-reaching action on both adaptation and mitigation is taken immediately by all nations and by all segments of society.”

Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of the Global Center on Adaptation and Managing Partner of the Climate Vulnerable Forum said: “There is a real risk that we enter a world of a climate apartheid in the next decades. A world where the wealthy pay to escape and the rest are left to suffer. Today’s news goes some way to address what is a very profound moral injustice but far more remains to be done to ensure those on the frontlines of our climate emergency are not left to suffer. The fact is adaptation is not only



the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do as it generates economic, social and environmental benefits – a triple dividend.”

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