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Hello, My name is Saleemul Huq. I’m the Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

It’s a great privilege for me to speak here, to all of you on this excellent occasion talking about Human Rights and Climate Change, and in particular about the rights of elderly persons in the vulnerable community IN vulnerable countries. I speak from one of the most vulnerable countries in the world, Bangladesh, with 170 million people living in less than 150 thousand sq. Kilometres. Located in the delta of two of the biggest rivers in the world, the Ganges – Brahmaputra, subject to regular flooding and regular cyclones from the Bay of Bengal. That affect millions of people, every few years in this country both by the impacts of Climate Change and the aftermath of those impacts of climate change.

In the climate change language, we call this Loss & Damage from Climate Change, and some of the most vulnerable people, are obviously the poorest people living in the most hazardous and vulnerable locations. But within them, Women more than men, Children more than adults, Elderly more than able-bodied adults and so on – so forth.

The good news, is that the government of Bangladesh has known about this, is taking steps to help these vulnerable communities adapt to the impacts of climate change, Bangladesh set up the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan which they are now implementing and we’re looking forward to developing a new Mujib Climate Resilient Prosperity Plan to build the resilience of the vulnerable population with a focus on the most vulnerable (which will include the elderly.

I look forward to participating in this event going forward.

Thank you