Please keep the report to one page. If necessary, annexes can be added.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Place:</th>
<th>Paris, France</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>01.12.2015 – 08.12.2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff:</td>
<td>Mukta Akter</td>
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<td>List of activities:</td>
<td>21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).</td>
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**Narrative text**

The 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held at Le Budget site in Paris, France. The mega conference started from 30 November 2015 and ended on 11 December 2015 to arrive at a legally binding and universal agreement on climate change, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C and agreeing on financing to help developing countries cope with climate change. More than 40,000 participants including nearly 25,000 official delegates from government, intergovernmental organisations, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society from 195 countries participated in the conference.

A large number of youth delegations and young professionals also attended and took part in climate change discussions with the policy makers, High Govt. officials, stakeholders and civil society at the conference. The COP21 provided a platform for young people to exchange knowledge, ideas and sharing information as well as experiences.
South Asian countries are overpopulated with extreme poverty. Young people make up the majority of the population in this region. According to the Fourth Assessment Report of IPCC, the region is the most vulnerable in the world to face the climate change impacts. The international community also recognizes that Bangladesh ranks high in the list of most vulnerable countries on earth. Due to excessive carbon emission the GHG problems has arisen which is fast increasing the temperature and the result is various kinds of climate hazards like salinity intrusion, increased intensity of drought, floods, health hazards etc. Climate change impacts ultimately threaten the food security and the life. The scenario is more or less the same in the South Asia region.

Youth are very innovative, creative and they can take part in policy making discussion, negotiation as well as in development activities. Youth can play significant role as change agent to mobilize the community for sustainable water resources management and low carbon emission projects.

As a youth ambassador of GWP-South Asia, I took part many activities during COP21 especially on youth campaign, slogan, human chain, Gender issues, side events, press conferences as well as high level panel discussions. Almost all youth delegation participated in the COP21 with the common vision to mobilize robust global action towards low carbon and resilient societies, providing enhanced support to reduce carbon emission to keep temperature increase below 1.5 degrees.
A number of youth-led side events, workshops, interviews and activities took place throughout the Young and Future Generations Day and the youth played an important role for low carbon emission discussion that proved young people are key players in reaching innovative and ambitious solutions to climate change.

On the young and future generation day the Francophone Youth-Led White Paper on Water and Climate Change was presented to French Ministers Segolene Royale and Annick Giradin. The GWP in association with OFQI and the International Secretariat for Water initiated a project on water and food security. This initiative aims at mobilizing young water experts from 4 continents in their countries and at international events in order to act at both global and country level.

Asma Bachikh, President of World Youth Parliament for Water also presented Commitment of Youth for Water & Climate Change Adaptation under the Lima-Paris Action on the day. She said that youth should work in collaborative approach to have one voice to take action towards access of water for all.

Young people are stepping up their involvement to the challenge together with the UN system and playing a key role both in the intergovernmental climate change negotiations and in their communities. On education day at COP21, we exchanged our knowledge, views and shared experiences on water & climate issues. We also discussed the need for sustained efforts to improve on education, training and public awareness in all countries and at all levels of government, society and community.
As a youth ambassador and activist I visited different pavilions, booths and discussed regarding school education and capacity building programs on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Climate Change Adaptation which helped to explore possibility to develop network on work ground. I also discussed with local graduate students and groups of youth delegation to exchange knowledge and learnt about their nature of work as well as future plan for sustainable green planet.

We all agreed that this is the high time to take action and work together with UN policy makers and youth activists towards the goal of low carbon future which requires a need for drastic change and the youth activists need to be more inclusive.

The day on 08 December celebrated as the Gender Day at COP21 through various side events and high-level events to discuss the role of gender in addressing climate change and to show how women are leading the way on climate action worldwide. The day also recognised the importance of gender issues with regards to climate change.

While discussing with various groups of gender activists and practitioners, it has been identified that women are more vulnerable to climate change. Though women are involved in various programs related on water and food security, they are still often marginalised. For women empowerment domestic gender based issues and access to policy level discussion & decision need to be prioritised. It has been proved that for sustainable economic development, women must have to be engaged in mainstreaming programs on water, technology & environment arena.

Other than youth and gender events at COP21, I attended various side events organized by GWP and other organizations from different stakeholders and countries (ADB, AFD, French Ministry of Environment, French Agency for Environment and Management, AVE, ILO, UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, CARE, IUCN etc.). As a youth ambassador and woman activist of GWP I found the following points more important and interesting for GWP-South Asia.

- Women, Youth and Gender Empowerment – Sector by Sector Approach
- Preparedness in Risk Reduction Management
- Green job market with green industrial concept for economic development
- Capacity Building and vocational education & training to drive green projects.
- Scaling up fund adaptation programs specially for LDC
- Coherene national programs with local entities.
- Good Governance.
- Green bankable project in perspective of water resources management and climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- South-South Cooperation, political commitment, private-public finance for sustainable water sector and climate resilient.
I also attended different high plenary sessions of negotiations, discussions and commitments at COP21. I found that world leaders and climate practitioners are now concerned about the intensity of climate change impact on Bangladesh. One of the high plenary sessions "Pre 2020 Climate Action", Bangladesh represented the LDC countries and delivered a statement. The session focused on adaptation and mitigation comprehensively and suggested to establish an adaptation technical examination process.

I also linked up with Bangladesh delegation and met with the delegations from other countries of South-Asia to explore the possibility of collaborative work to promote youth and gender on water & climate action.

I also met with Arnold schwarzenegger the former governor of California and shared the climate scenario of South Asia and youth involvement activities on water and climate issues supported by GWP.

During my participation at COP21, I arranged meeting with Bart Devos, Former President of World Youth Parliament for Water, Laurie Fourneaux, Youth Program Coordinator, International Secretariat for Water (ISW) and the group of World Youth Parliament for Water. The main issue of the discussion was to develop programs and network with GWP-South Asia and involve the youth of this region more potentially in WRM and Climate perspective. We also discussed on how to build capacity and awareness among youth through climate smart projects.

The GWP recorded my interviews during COP21 and posted in their social media link at https://youtu.be/NJM82uSWWU0

I also covered some interviews of different youth and women groups and recorded their statements.
Climate change and water management. In Country like Bangladesh, the youth are the majority in population. They can be involved in water and climate sectors to mobilize the community as a change agent.

**Outputs/Outcomes/Follow-up**

- youth-led white paper on water and climate change was presented to French Ministers Segolene Royale and Annick Giradin
- Developed network for Collaborative programs with World Youth Parliament for Water
- Developed link to work on water and climate issues more visible way with other young activists in Bangladesh.
- Posted my interviews through social media at GWP Facebook.
- Exchanged knowledge and experiences on water resources management and climate change issues.
- Explored the opportunity to develop network with other youth led organizations from different corners of the globe.
- Introduced the GWP’s Youth Engagement Strategy to other youth and young professionals around the world.
- Developed new ideas of youth activities on water and climate arena.
- Affordable Technology transfer for further project development.
- Explored the opportunity to developed networking with other women association groups from different corners of the globe.
- Introduced with the Ideas of green job Market for young generation.
- Enhanced the ideas of green bankable project.
- Enhanced the ideas of climate smart project.
- Introduced with other GWP delegates around the world
- Introduced with the new ideas to work water and climate issues from different angles.
- Developed new ideas to work with Govt. development agencies, local entities and community stakeholders.

As a youth ambassador, I am grateful to GWP for supporting me to attend in the COP21 which gave me an opportunity to scale up my knowledge, develop social networking and inspired me to contribute more towards a water secured & green mother globe.