Recommendations to SAARC on Urban Environmental Challenges & Poverty Alleviation
(Point in BOLD emerged as priorities during discussions at the end)

From Bangladesh:
1. SAARC guides and appoints women to aide in local power structures.
2. **SAARC special division for South Asian natural disasters preemptive measures and anti-flood infrastructure.**
3. A portion of the SAARC Development Fund dedicated for safe cleanup of medical waste, to halt the spread of infectious diseases within Bangladesh and into other SAARC member states.

From India:
1. **Develop SAARC Urban Agriculture Committee to allow poor communities to access cheap, healthy food, bringing new life to deteriorating slums and setting precedence for innovation in urban sustainable development.**
2. Fund Green Infrastructure Across All SAARC Member States to create an equilibrium between the difficulties associated with balancing economic growth and investment and sustainable urban development. These services include ecological, economic and social benefits.
3. Cooperation between SAARC member countries’ urban planning divisions to provide a space to discuss best practices in improving affordable and low-income housing, with input from the eight observer countries. This program will improve land administration, strengthen legal frameworks for housing and ensure there is sufficient land supply with proper urban regulations.

From Nepal:
**Fund Green Infrastructure Across All SAARC Member States**
1. Put in place rules for foreign aid to be given in a more organized manner. Nepal needs help with both the organization of foreign aid and to lessen our dependence on foreign aid. Use funds to invest in the use of our natural water resources.
2. Regulations on trade agreements that prevent countries like India from taking advantage of us. We are a landlocked country surrounded by India and we need their help economically.
3. Nepal lacks the infrastructure in place to handle sewage properly and to get its citizens clean water at the same capability as more developed South Asian countries. This means we pollute the rivers more than we need to. SAARC should fund the installment of this infrastructure to countries like Nepal.

From Pakistan:
**Promotion of rural agricultural sector to promote self-reliance and extinguish malnutrition in South Asia. Rural communities are in the most need throughout South Asia to eradicate poverty and promote biodiversity.**
1. Creation of regional education and work programs that empower impoverished communities. This can be done with other SAARC countries to increase its impact throughout South Asia. Its purpose would be to promote social and economic participation while providing those in need with skills necessary to move out of poverty.
2. The Implementation of a Departmental Sector Focused on Environmental issues within SAARC- this department would focus primarily on tackling environmental issues in both urban and rural areas. Each country would have a representative to speak at SAARC meetings.
3. The establishment and implementation of new economic and environmental policies. This would help with agricultural and rural development, while also protecting the environment and critical limited natural resources.
From Sri Lanka:
1. SAARC can organize conferences focused on providing relevant and effective information on global environmental challenges in the region.
2. SAARC can provide an annual meeting for the states, involving Sri Lanka, where urban planning will be the main topic.
3. SAARC can organize a fund for community organizations to alleviate poverty and promote best practices.