



Center for
Climate
Diplomacy

ASSESSING COP28: NAVIGATING GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND PAKISTAN'S CLIMATE COMMITMENT!!!

COP 28 Report



COPAIR HEAD OFFICE

408, EVACUEE TRUST BUILDING , FOURTH
FLOOR, F-5, ISLAMABAD



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COPAIR Policy Paper on **“Assessing COP28: Navigating Global Challenges and Pakistan's Climate Commitment!**

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Center of Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR) Evacuee Trust Complex, Agha Khan Road, F-5/1, Islamabad. www.copair.org

Message of President COPAIR



The Centre of Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR), established in 2015, is a non-governmental, non-commercial, and non-partisan think tank. It is striving to promote the national interests of Pakistan. It is focused on providing in-depth objective analyses and policy options to researchers, policy-makers, and governmental organizations for the progress and development of the country. It regularly conducts conferences, seminars, and webinars to have diverse opinions to be strategized into policy recommendations. The Centre also publishes issue-specific Policy Papers/Reports/Briefs authored by experts for unbiased and objective input to the government and its specialized institutions, and for the awareness/dissemination of the general public.

Assessing COP28: Navigating Global Challenges and Pakistan's Climate Commitment!!!

COP28, held in Dubai, served as a critical platform for global leaders and activists to address pressing climate concerns. The summit witnessed intense negotiations, impactful events, and diverse perspectives on combatting the climate crisis.



COP 28 marks a historic moment with its acknowledgment, for the first time, of the imperative for swift and substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and a definitive shift away from fossil fuels. This signals a politically ambitious vision for a future free from fossil fuels. The call to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency capacity is not only crucial but also warmly welcomed. Yet, for COP28 to genuinely signify progress, immediate action is necessary, demanding significant effort.

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28), an annual climate conference organized by the United Nations (UN), concluded in Dubai. After an additional day of negotiations, UN delegates reached an agreement urging nations to "[transition] away from fossil fuels in energy systems to achieve net zero by 2050." This accord emerged from the global stock take process, a review of nations' progress toward their emissions reduction targets in the Paris Agreement. Delegates also committed to tripling global renewable energy production by 2030 and set up a fund to assist developing nations in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

This year's conference proved to be a crucial one. On the inaugural day, the parties officially initiated the "loss and damage" fund at the World Bank, concluding a three-decade-long advocacy. The fund aims to aid developing economies in addressing the current impacts of climate change. Initial commitments to the fund have reached \$700 million, but uncertainty surrounds future financing.

The summit also witnessed the signing of multiple agreements aimed at securing access to essential minerals crucial for electric vehicles, renewables, and other clean energy technologies. Given the escalating demand for these materials and the geopolitical uncertainties affecting their supply, all five United Nations Regional Commissions stressed the necessity for international coordination on the expansion of critical minerals during COP28.

Ultimately, the summit concluded with a groundbreaking deal as the parties conducted their inaugural Global Stocktake, a mandated assessment in the 2015 Paris Agreement to evaluate progress made since then and outline future goals. Notably, existing commitments by countries are deemed inadequate to limit warming to the 1.5 degrees Celsius target set under the Paris Agreement. Disagreements among countries about how to establish more ambitious goals were vocal, with critics cautioning that the text lacks the necessary urgency and heavily relies on voluntary actions.

The final agreement, reached after extended negotiations, encompasses a commitment to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030, a benchmark for emissions reduction in the current decade, unprecedented language urging countries to commence "transitioning away from fossil fuels," and an acknowledgment that some fossil fuels will still be necessary during the transition to cleaner energy sources, particularly in emerging economies.

Health has taken center stage at COP28 for the first time, officially recognizing the intertwining of the climate and health crises. Global collaboration is now acknowledged as essential to identify health risks linked to climate change and articulate the health benefits tied to combating global warming. Therefore, health should be regarded as a meaningful gauge of progress in navigating the evolving climate crisis.

Key takeaways

Trade Takes Center Stage: Unveiling New Pathways at COP28

COP28 witnessed a groundbreaking development as trade found its place on the official agenda for the first time. The Council dispatched its most extensive delegation to explore the intricacies of COP's inaugural 'Trade Day' and understand how diverse global stakeholders are approaching the intersection of trade and climate. The spotlight on climate and trade policies has intensified, fueled partly by the growing awareness of the "carbon loophole" and the escalating global discourse on climate-informed trade measures. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the WTO, emphasized this pivotal connection, stating, "the fact is: we cannot get to net-zero without trade."

Trade Day delved into a broad spectrum of policies and concepts, ranging from carbon import fees, carbon clubs, and green tech transfers to environmental standards. Engaging discussions unfolded across COP28, involving governments, businesses, and international organizations. The focus was on leveraging trade policy to decarbonize global supply chains, encourage investments in a net-zero future, secure crucial value chains related to the energy transition, and incorporate environmentally responsible practices into trade finance.

Despite these challenges, Trade Day witnessed the launch of various initiatives aimed at advancing climate and trade policy. A WTO-led menu of trade policy options, ICC's Wave 2 Principles for Sustainable Trade, and an international effort with over 40 signatories establishing principles for standardizing steel industry emissions intensity measurements were among the notable developments. COP28 also hosted a Trade House Pavilion, co-hosted by the WTO, ICC, and partner organizations, serving as a dedicated space for climate and trade discussions and emphasizing that "trade is part of the solution to the climate crisis."

Council's Role at COP28

Council CEO Greg Bertelsen, Executive Vice President Tiffany Adams, and other representatives were present in Dubai from December 3-10. Highlights included Greg Bertelsen moderating a discussion with Senators and Representatives about rewarding environmental performance in trade, emphasizing the evolving landscape of climate and trade policies. Another significant moment occurred at an event organized by Cambridge University and Climate Strategies, where discussions centered on climate clubs and border carbon adjustments.

COP28 was a pivotal moment in the global discourse on climate and trade. The inclusion of trade on the official agenda reflects the growing recognition of trade policies as tools for reducing global emissions. The discussions and initiatives unveiled during the conference are poised to shape the trajectory of future global action on climate. As the Center expands its reach and strengthens engagement with crucial international partners, COP28 provided an excellent platform to propel this critical dialogue forward.

Financial Imperatives

The WMO's decadal climate report stressed the urgency of a sevenfold increase in climate finance for meaningful climate action. Despite a near doubling of efforts over the past decade, existing financial commitments fall short.

High-Emissions Industries Make Waves in COP28 Negotiations:

The 2023 Global Carbon Budget report exposed a concerning trend, showcasing a 1.1% rise in global CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels and cement. This alarming surge accentuates the pressing need for more aggressive emission reduction strategies. This year's COP28 witnessed an unprecedented surge in participation from stakeholders with interests in lenient climate policies.

COP28 Addressed Fossil Fuels for the First Time:

In a historic move, COP28 marked the first acknowledgment of fossil fuels as the primary cause of global warming. The decision text emphasized the need for a "just, orderly, and equitable" transition away from fossil fuels to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Countries Pledge to Reduce Carbon Footprint:

As countries pledged to invest in carbon reduction technologies, including renewable energy capacity, energy efficiency, and carbon capture, questions arose about the effectiveness of these measures in curbing fossil fuel production. The emphasis on "transitional fuels," primarily natural gas, raised concerns about the potential environmental impact.

Wealthy Nations Created Fund for Climate-Impacted Developing Nations:

Wealthy nations committed a combined \$700 million loss and damage fund for developing nations impacted by climate change. While viewed as a positive step, critics argued that the pledged amount falls significantly short of the actual costs faced by developing countries.

Cracking Down on Methane Emissions: A Global Initiative:

Recognizing the severity of methane emissions, COP28 saw commitments from the U.S. and a coalition of oil and gas companies to reduce methane emissions significantly. The Global Decarbonization Accelerator pledged an 80% reduction in methane emissions by 2030.

A Call for Comprehensive Climate Action

While COP28 made headlines, experts remind the world that climate action cannot solely depend on global conferences. The average person can contribute by advocating for change and pressuring local governments. The conference serves as a reminder that climate action must happen at every level, involving businesses, organizations, schools, cities, and individuals worldwide.

Forging a Sustainable Path Forward: Post-COP28 Imperatives:

Amidst the achievements and challenges of COP28, charting a sustainable path forward demands collective commitment, innovative strategies, and accelerated actions. Here's a comprehensive perspective on the way forward:

1. Strengthening Global Collaboration

- Foster enhanced international cooperation to address climate challenges, ensuring that nations work collaboratively to implement and strengthen commitments made at COP28.
- Encourage information sharing, technology transfer, and capacity-building initiatives to empower developing nations in their climate resilience efforts.

2. Elevating Ambition and Accountability

- Push for more ambitious emission reduction targets by countries to align with the goals of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as emphasized in the COP28 discussions.
- Establish transparent and robust accountability mechanisms to track progress and hold nations accountable for the commitments they have made, fostering a culture of responsibility.

3. Innovative Financing Solutions

- Explore and implement innovative financing models to bridge the gap in climate finance, ensuring that resources are accessible for developing nations to adapt to climate change impacts and transition towards sustainable practices.
- Encourage public-private partnerships and investments in green technologies, creating financial incentives for businesses to adopt environmentally responsible practices.

4. Empowering Local Initiatives

- Recognize the pivotal role of local communities, businesses, and organizations in driving climate action. Support and amplify grassroots initiatives that contribute to sustainable development and climate resilience.
- Encourage cities and municipalities to adopt and implement climate-friendly policies, fostering a bottom-up approach to environmental stewardship.

5. Advancing Climate-Informed Trade Policies

- Build on the momentum generated by the inclusion of trade on the COP28 agenda. Continue to explore and implement climate-informed trade policies that incentivize sustainable practices, decarbonize supply chains, and promote environmental responsibility.

6. Accelerating Research and Innovation

- Invest in research and development to explore breakthrough technologies and innovative solutions that can significantly contribute to mitigating climate change.
- Support collaborative efforts between the scientific community, businesses, and governments to drive innovation in renewable energy, carbon capture, sustainable agriculture, and other key sectors.

7. Heightening Public Awareness and Engagement

- Raise public awareness about the urgency of climate action, fostering a global movement that demands environmental accountability from governments, businesses, and individuals.
- Encourage education and outreach programs to inform communities about sustainable practices, emphasizing the role each person plays in the broader effort to combat climate change.

8. Inclusive Decision-Making

- Ensure that decision-making processes related to climate policies are inclusive, involving diverse voices, especially those from marginalized communities, to address environmental justice and equity concerns.
- Promote dialogue and collaboration between governments, civil society, and the private sector to create holistic and effective climate strategies.

9. Preventing Greenwashing

- Establish clear frameworks and standards to prevent greenwashing, ensuring that climate commitments and actions are transparent, verifiable, and aligned with the overarching goal of limiting global temperature rise.

10. Preparation for COP29

- Encourage proactive preparation for COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, ensuring that the momentum from COP28 is sustained and built upon.
- Advocate for an inclusive and constructive dialogue at COP29, focusing on tangible outcomes and further strengthening the global response to climate change.

The way forward necessitates a shared commitment to transformative change, where nations, communities, and individuals work cohesively to safeguard the planet for current and future generations. The lessons learned from COP28 should serve as a catalyst for bold, collective action towards a sustainable and resilient future.

Pakistan's Proactive Stance on Climate change and climate Financing

Pakistan emerged as a trailblazer in the global pursuit of climate finance during the 28th United Nations Conference of Parties (COP 28) in Dubai. The nation, acknowledged worldwide for its proactive stance, addressed pressing issues related to the intensifying climate crisis and its disproportionate impact on developing countries.

Key Highlights:

Early Triumph:

Pakistan secured an early win at COP28 with the adoption of a groundbreaking fund designed to assist financially burdened nations in coping with the aftermath of climate disasters. This milestone opened avenues for governments to pledge contributions.

Championing the Loss and Damage Fund:

Pakistan continued to champion the cause of the "loss and damage" fund, initially advocated during COP27. This fund aims to support developing countries in mitigating climate challenges and reducing risks associated with climate-induced disasters.

Equity and Compensation:

Emphasizing the principles of equity and justice in global climate policies, Pakistan called for compensation to nations that, despite negligible carbon emissions, face severe consequences of climate disasters. The emphasis was on addressing challenges through mitigation, climate adaptation, and robust financial support.

Vulnerability and Collective Responsibility:

As one of the most climate-vulnerable nations, Pakistan established its pavilion at COP28 to underscore the collective responsibility of affluent countries in supporting vulnerable nations. The call was for a shared commitment to addressing climate challenges globally.

Operationalizing the Fund:

Pakistan lauded the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for committing an initial \$30 billion to the newly established fund, considering it a positive step forward. The emphasis was on the swift utilization of funds through multilateral organizations like the World Bank to expedite implementation.

Active Participation in Global Stock Take:

Pakistan actively participated in the Global Stock Take event, highlighting the severity of the climate crisis. The focus was on providing developing countries with essential means of implementation, including climate finance, technology, and capacity-building.

Enabling Climate Action:

Reiterating that climate finance serves as a crucial enabler for effective climate action, Pakistan expressed concerns about the unmet \$100 billion pledge made in Paris during the 2015 conference. The pledge significantly falls short of the actual needs of developing countries.

National Climate Finance Strategy (NCFS):

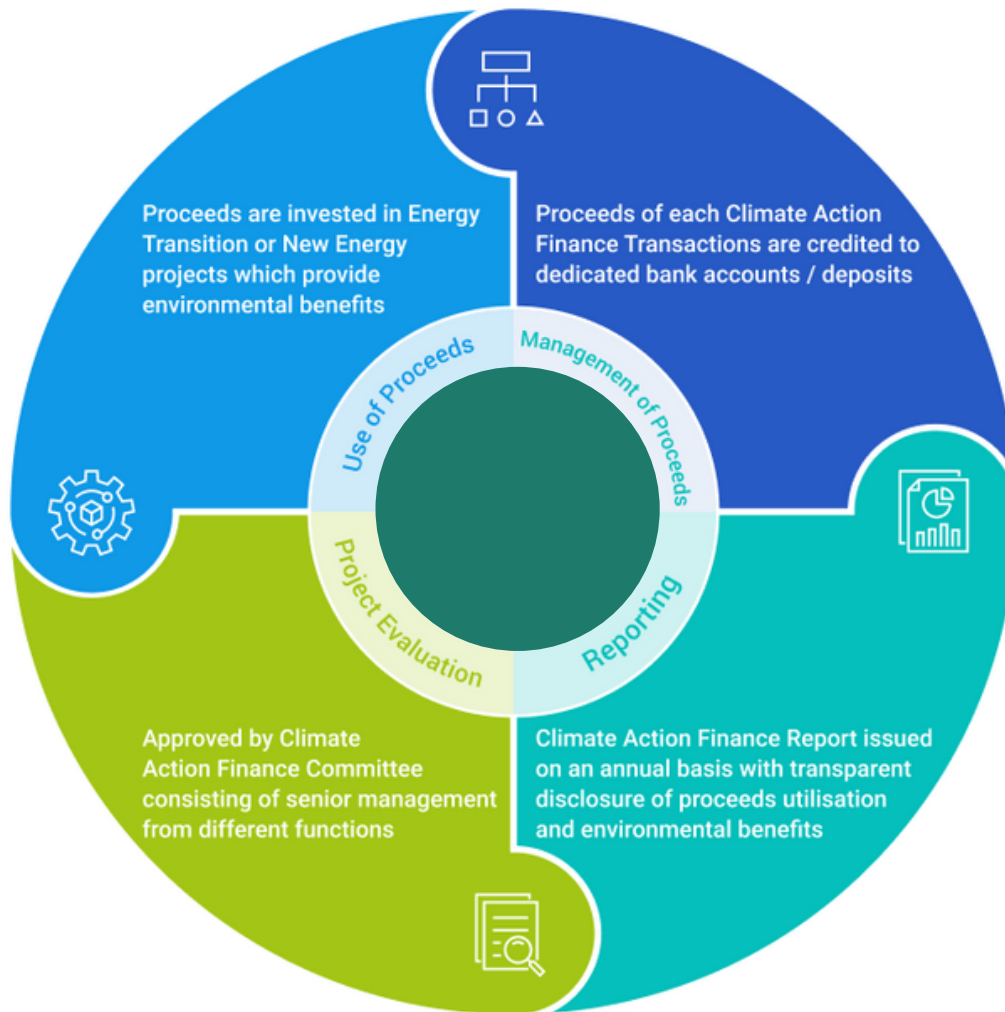
The NCFS, an integral component of the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) approved in 2021, signifies Pakistan's proactive approach to integrate climate policy with overarching national strategies. It targets sectoral priorities, emphasizing climate-resilient infrastructure and sustainable development.

Sustainable Finance Bureau (SFB):

The establishment of the SFB marks a revolutionary step, redirecting the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) towards sustainable finance. A groundbreaking 20% (Rs 925 billion) of new PSDP schemes in FY2023-24 will be dedicated to green initiatives. This move positions Pakistan to access concessional climate funds, amplifying its capacity to achieve climate targets.

World Bank's Investment Report:

According to the World Bank's 2023 report, Pakistan requires a substantial \$348 billion investment between 2023 and 2030 for systemic resilience against climate impacts. This investment is deemed critical to safeguard Pakistan's development trajectory and the well-being of its citizens.



Climate Responsive Public Investment Framework (CRPIF):

The initiative emphasizes the integration of climate considerations into all development projects through a Climate Responsive Public Investment Framework. This aligns with Pakistan's commitment to National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Green Growth Framework:

The Planning Ministry's Green Growth Framework aligns with global trends and best practices in green finance and technology. It aims to foster environmentally sustainable and financially viable economic activities, supporting emerging green value chains

Challenges and Commitment

Pakistan, despite contributing less than one percent to global carbon emissions, faces severe vulnerability to climatic disasters. The devastating impacts, ranging from floods to droughts, reinforce the urgent need for comprehensive strategies. The government, in response to unprecedented challenges, introduced a comprehensive 4RF framework focusing on effective coordination among various stakeholders.

As Pakistan pleads its case before the upcoming COP28 summit in Dubai, the Planning Ministry reiterates its commitment to steering the nation towards a sustainable and resilient future. The unveiled strategies and initiatives signal a transformative era of environmentally conscious and economically robust development in Pakistan



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This research paper is published by the esteemed founder and President of the Center for Climate Diplomacy at the Center of Pakistan and International Relations (Amna Munawwar Awan), in collaboration with Research Assistant Saima Zaman, and meticulously edited by Advisor Dr. Muhammad Zahid from the Center for Sustainable Development Goals at COPAIR. The paper addresses the critical need for climate mitigating strategies on a global scale. Established with a clear mission to advocate for climate diplomacy, the Center emphasizes international cooperation through public diplomacy, aiming to justify Pakistan's share for climate financing through dialogue forums. The comprehensive policy framework proposed by the Center not only guides national efforts but also contributes to the global discourse on climate resilience. Through impactful awareness campaigns and publications, the Center disseminates valuable insights, shaping policy decisions and encouraging stakeholders to adopt sustainable solutions. The youth-centric training program launched by the Center underscores the importance of engaging and empowering the younger generation to become advocates for climate change. This research paper stands as a compelling call to action, urging governments, organizations, and individuals to collaboratively address the urgent challenges posed by climate change and work towards a resilient and sustainable future.

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