

Q. What is the "Losses and Damages" Concept floated on the Platform of COP-27? Critically evaluate the opportunities of its practical materialization in COP 28. Also identify how Pakistan could benefit from it?

Ans: 1) Introduction:

COP stands for the Conference of the parties. It's a gathering of the category countries that are signatory to the UNFCCC (United Nation Convention on climate change). COP-27 was held in Egypt an arab country. COP-28, also held in UAE, also an arab country. It is the first time that COP meeting was held continuously in the arab countries.

(2) Gist of COP-27:

COP 27 focuses on advancing strategies to mitigate green house gas emissions, adapt to change climates and mobilize resources for climate-resilient futures.

With a spotlight on equity, innovation and urgent action.

COP 27 emerges with the meaningful agreements and initiatives.

(3) Major takeaways from COP-27:

Many takeaways and positive points are seen in the COP-27.

According to UNCCC [United Nation Conference on Climate Change]

explains that five major takeaways can be taken away from

meeting. These are as follows

- Establishing a dedicated fund for loss and damage
- Maintaining a clear intention to keep 1.5°C within reach.
- Holding businesses and institutions to account
- Mobilizing more financial support for developing country
- Making the pivot toward implementation

4) Concept of "Losses and Damages"

"Losses and Damages" concept is a fund that was introduced in COP-27. It's main focus is to provide funding for vulnerable countries hit hard by flood, droughts and other.

climate disasters. This was widely lauded as an historic decision. In a report, published by UNCC, They stated that it is the first time that countries recognized the need for finance to respond to loss and Damage'.

This fund is associated with the catastrophic effects of climate change. All the nations integrated in COP are agreed to establish a fund and the necessary funding arrangements.

(5) Need of "Damage and loss" Fund:

There is a great need of "Damage and loss" Fund. Simon Stiell, UN Climate Change Executive Secretary, in a tweet on platform

X, tweeted that, "Devastation suffered by millions this year due to the Climate crisis shows we need to do more than Loss & Damage on the Agenda."

This was a major turning point of the meeting. In another statement given by UN-Secretary General Said, "It's an important step towards Justice".

In another statement after the COP-27 made by Simon Stiell, he argues that, "This outcomes moves us forward. We have determined a way forward on a decades long conversation on funding for loss and damage."

Regarding the fund, it is said that the details will need to be hammered out over the

coming year- who should pay into the fund, where this money will come from and countries will benefit.

Opportunities of its Practical materialization in COP-28

COP 28 agrees to establish loss and damage funds for vulnerable countries. It was formally announced on the first day of the Conference

1) "Loss and Damage" Fund, A Historic Agreement

On the first day of the UNCCC of the parties, delegates have agreed to formally establish a loss and damage fund to support

Vulnerable countries dealing with the effects of climate change

2) Delegation's Point of view:

The viewpoints of the delegations of different countries are that developing nations that have contributed the least to the climate crisis have been facing the brunt of its devastating floods, drought and sea-level rise. "Today's news on loss and damage gives this UN climate conference a running start. All governments and negotiators must use this momentum to deliver ambitious outcomes here in Dubai." As said by "Simon Stiell, the executive secretary of UNFCCC, at a press conference,

(3) Support of Developed Nations

The support of developed nations for the funds was established during last year's climate summit in Egypt after the several years of negotiations. "Joe Thwaites," senior advocate for international climate finance at NRDC, in a press release, said that, "Governments, the private sector and innovative sources, such as levies on international shipping and aviation emissions - can all contribute to the fund."

In another press conference, he said that, "Fossil fuel companies that have done the most to drive the climate crisis should - also contribute."

4.

Contributions from Developed Nations:

The president of COP-28 Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber, The head of UAE's ministry of Industry and advanced Technology, Pledged \$100 million to the fund. On the other hand, Germany pledged in \$100 million while the European Union committed to \$245 million. British promised at least \$51 million. United States of America gives \$17.5 million. Japan \$10 million to the fund. (Report by Reuters).

5.

Challenges to the Fund:

Some of the groups in the meeting noted that, Fund

has a lot of challenge. like Harjeet Singh, Climate Action network International's head said that, "The absence of defined replenishment cycle raises serious questions about the fund's long-term sustainability"

In return of this comment, Stiell said that, "we have two choices: To focus on the lack of progress, continue on the current path with minor changes or properly fund the transition, including loss and damage, and commit to a different energy system. (LIN news)"

6. Future of the Fund:

At the COP 28, an event was titled

as, "Minimizing and Addressing Loss and Damage with locally led Adaption and Risk-Transferring Financing Solutions", hosted by SDG Fund. Panelists acknowledges these critiques of the "WORLD BANK" and pointed to the independence of the loss and damage board as a mean for small island and developing country delegations to provide oversight over the World Bank's role in the loss and damage fund.

The major problem with this fund is when it comes to long-term financing, The reality is that there are one-time donations that will eventually run out, yet there is no expiration date for the climate change-induced losses suffered by

developing countries (From Article
on Climate Law: A sabin center blog
by Emma Shumway)

How Pakistan could take benefit From this Fund

As Pakistan is a underdeveloping country. It was strike by many natural disasters, the recent one is flood in 2020, that was a extra-ordinary flood. According to government of Pakistan, a total loss of \$41 million is been done by the flood'

SWOT Analysis of "Loss and Damage" Fund Impact On Pakistan

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- Leads to economic stability
- Helps in making infrastructure in effected Areas

Weakness

- Only one time Fund
- Poor Image towards the world
- Non-transparency in distribution of Budget

Opportunities

- Technological advancement
- In making more dams
- Developing the Agriculture sector

Threat

- Dependency on foreign aid
- Not able to take decisions against the countries that provided funds

Benefits for the Pakistan:

Loss

and Damage fund that is formally organized announced by "Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber" in COP-28 was significantly a miracle for Pakistan. It

includes a lot of benefit for Pakistan. A lot of opportunities is being created for Pakistan.

It enable Pakistan to re-build its infrastructure. It also enable Pakistan to improve its economic stability. This fund will also helps Pakistan to invest in renewable energy resources. UAE is the major investor in the Pakistan's new project, "Recharge Pakistan". The caretaker prime minister says

At least \$77 million fund is required to complete this project.

Drawbacks of the Fund

As this Fund is recently announced and formally started. till now

\$792 million is contributed to the Fund by developed countries,

Official data by COP 28, Not

Only Pakistan requires fund,

there are many other countries that required funds to overcome

their losses. It is a question that, in this small amount

of Fund, how much Pakistan would receive it and what

will be the eligibility criteria

for applying in it. Many

Other countries like Africa

and Congo will be looking

forward for this fund.

Conclusion

The Loss and Damage is a marvellous initiative taken by the COP nations and it is formally announced in COP-28. Many developed nations that is the signatory of the Paris agreement contributed in this fund. UAE, Saudi Arab and Germany are the major contributors in the fund. This fund will be a great way forward in the development of Pakistan.