

Net zero is not the real zero. Glasgow summit

1- Net zero.

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere, by oceans and forests for instance. International Panel on climate change. Need to end carbon emissions by 2050 to keep global average temperature rise below 1.5°C.

Net zero Pledges: More than 100 countries announced the "Net zero" Pledges. But these pledges are utterly insufficient. At best, we still over-emit. At worst, Discriminate against Poor, low emitting countries. could even Push greenwashing.

Problems with net zero Pledges:

- Inequality in economic development.

Net zero inadvertently restrain economic development in poorer nations by diverting a country's resources for the provision of offsets beyond its borders, rather than economic development. This in turn create political limits to scaling the net-zero mechanism.

- Over-simplification of sustainability as carbon.

Many pledges today are solely focused on the reduction of carbon dioxide, despite methane and nitrous oxide having 30 and 300 times the heat-trapping effect of carbon dioxide, respectively.

- Over-simplification of sustainability as decarbonization.

The growing focus on greenhouse gas reduction goals could be self-defeating if other mechanisms of environmental degradation continue unchecked. For example, the depletion of species and destruction of natural habitats can reduce the natural buffering capacity of the planet, undermining climate sustainability.

- A goal without the path.

Net zero provides a goal, but not a path to achieve it. The complex, unprecedented, interdependent and transformative change required to reach net-zero planetary emissions may not be available without a coordinated transition plan and the research, investments, policies and regulations to support it.

At the crucial moment, we need real zero.

2- Real zero.

Zero emissions are created or released. Total emissions of a business have reached zero through reduction of emitting practices, carbon removal, and avoided emissions.

Loss and Damage Fund: Sharm el Sheikh - COP27

- If a Sharm el Sheikh had any success it was the commitment of establishing a separate fund. This fund would compensate the damages and losses faced by countries around the world because of climate change.
- Weather phenomenon has been negatively affected. Weather has been tipping towards its extremes.
- Either prolonged drought or massive floods (because of melting of glaciers and rain fall) (droughts, migration)
- All of these are because of climate change and for that the responsibilities are the major carbon emitters.
- So, for the first time it was agreed that for damages and loss, a separate fund should be allocated.
- The details of which will be unveiled in COP-27
- The particular development was lauded by UN General Secretary. It is an important step towards climate justice.
- 2022 Adaptation Gap report. Creating drought-resistant crops for developing countries require funds. US\$ 160-US\$ 340 B Annually by 2030.

Policies of Pakistan

1- Plantation:

- Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (TBTTP) - To combat adverse effects of global warming, a project was established with 7.5 billion amount was allocated.
- Billion tree Afforestation Project (BTAP) - 2019-20 to 2022-23 - KPK 3.29 B plants planted/regenerated.
- Nation wide "Plant for Pakistan day" campaign → 450 events organized, 1.5 M plants planted/regenerated throughout the country.
- MoE was signed to establish plantation on Ghazi Barotha Hydropower spoil banks and for the implementation of a project "Apni Shahrai".
- Clean green Pakistan Index and citizen engagement programme to strengthen service delivery of plantation.
- Deforestation results in decrease of carbon-sinks. 3.8 M dollars are allocated to implement Readiness preparation proposal for reducing emissions from deforestation.

Clean energy projects.

- Alternative energy development Board (AEDB) - Induct 14,000 MW of Renewable energy into national grid over next 10 years.
- Pakistan Total energy production - 7,756 (GWh) Feb 2023 - 5% share of renewable energy. Government target 7 share 20% by 2025.
- June 2022 - Investment in renewables \$4.79 B.
 - \$786 M → solar
 - \$3,752 M → wind
 - \$258 M → bagasseExpected investment over next 2 years \$866 M.
- CPEC 2035 power generation - 30% Renewable energy
- Banks like world Bank, ADP, etc would allocate funds for developing countries as well
- These funds would be used to enhance clean energy capacity building of developing country.

Foreign climate change Policy of Pakistan:

- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) - Pakistan plight due to flooding crisis caused by global climate change. Urged global leaders to come together and "act now" before it is too late.
- Persistent approach for the past 10 years has been climate diplomacy. This has been a major factor in our foreign policy.
- Pakistan one of the worst affected of climate change.
- Disasters not because of Pakistan's own fault but due to the major emitters (as per all environments especially UN Sec Gen)
- In COP-27 a 50+ members alliance led by Pakistan demanded compensation for damages and losses of non-major emitters
- Demanded an international body of damages and losses compensation and funds allocation should be from major emitters
- Thus, Pakistan played a leading role
- In sharm el sheikh and world economic forum, we made climate diplomacy
- Resultantly, more than \$10 bill pledged to be given to PK.