

Q Critically evaluate foreign policy of Pakistan on climate change.

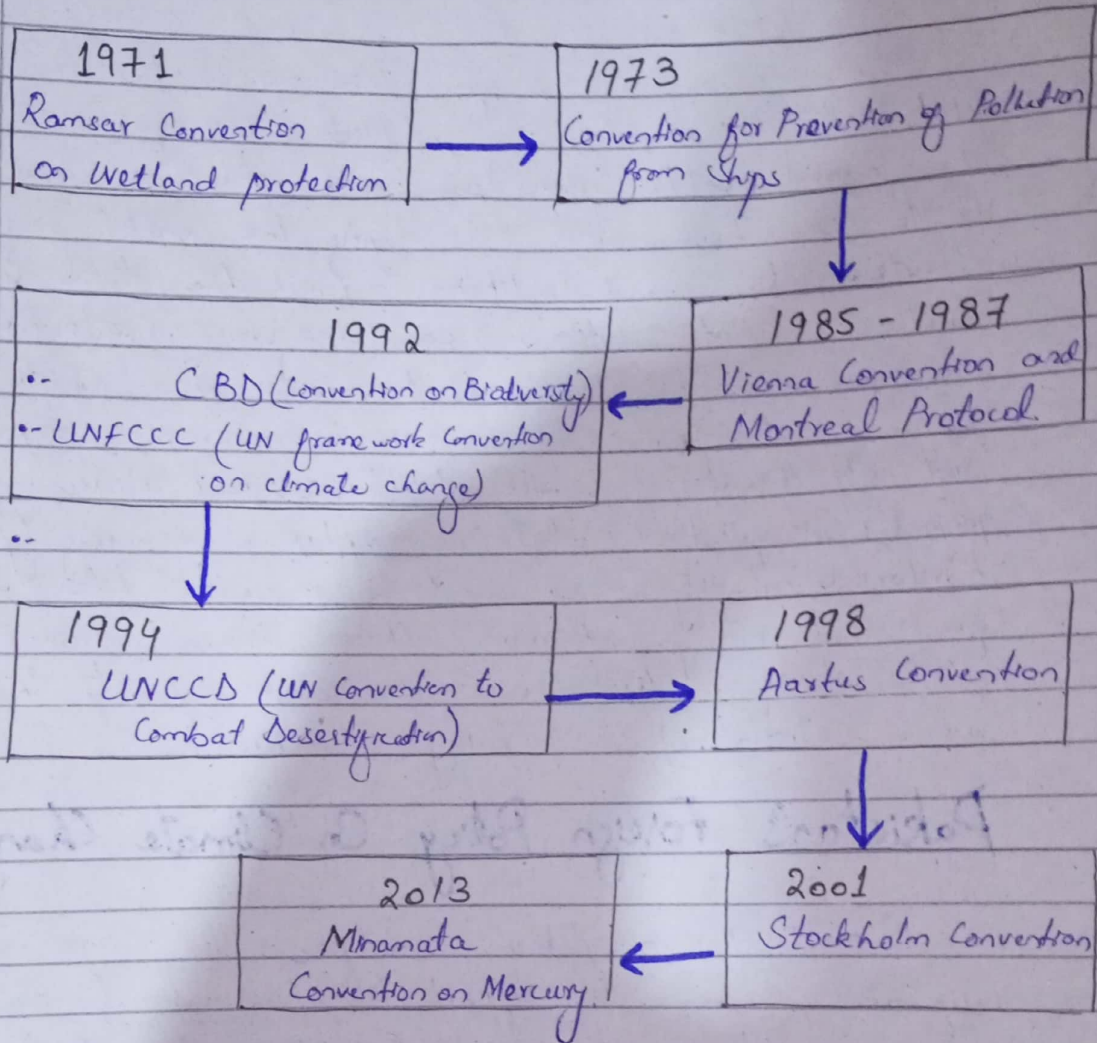
Introduction:

Climate crisis is one of the serious threats of 21st century with huge geopolitical consequences for the global world. Green house gases have increased the earth temperature and are drying the water resources, threatening lives and livelihood around the globe. Extreme weather events; intense rains, dangerous storms, prolonged droughts, deadly heat waves and challenges posed by climate crisis are enormous. The repercussions not only threaten people's livelihood, but raise important geopolitical questions which may influence sovereignty, territorial integrity and access to resources like water, food and energy. Addressing these issues require a global strategic level and coordinated response. This is where climate foreign policy comes in.

Pakistan's Foreign Policy On Climate Change:

Climate foreign policy encompasses the use of diplomatic tools to support the international climate change regime's ambition and functioning to attenuate the negative impacts which climate change poses for peace, stability and prosperity. Furthermore, it entails the issue of climate change for furthering other foreign policy objectives. It also calls for appropriate risk assessment and risk management strategies at global strategic level. This can be achieved through prioritizing climate action with partners world wide in diplomatic dialogues, public diplomacy and external policy instruments.

An Overview of Multilateral Environmental Agreements Adopted & Ratified By Pakistan



Pakistan's Current Climatic Scenario :

According to article published in Time by Sherry Rehman, "the record breaking floods of 2022 impacted 33 million people in Pakistan."

As per UNFCCC, Pakistan contributes 0.9% to global green house gases emissions. However, it is ranked as eighth most vulnerable country to climate risk ranked by Global Climate Risk Index 2021.

It intends to set a cumulative ambitious conditional target of overall 50% reduction of its projected emissions by 2030. To reach its target, Pakistan aims to shift 60% of renewable energy and 30% electric vehicles by 2030 and ban coal imports.

Pakistan Global Engagements:

a- Engagement with European Union: (EU)

In 2022, the 12th EU - Pakistan Joint Commission took place in Islamabad. The aim behind this was to exchange views on all areas of cooperation between Pakistan and EU. EU expressed its solidarity with the people of Pakistan affected by climate induced floods. EU also shows concerns that they would help Pakistan to recover from these difficult times. As per the article of Diplomat, EU and its member states mobilized fund of Euro 123 million, as an assistance to relief-stricken areas.

b- Engagement with World Community Over

Geneva Conference :

UNDP and government of Pakistan had arranged an international conference titled as "International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan" 2023. The main agenda was to dialogue and cooperation on climate issues of Pakistan.

c- Engagement over COP-27 Egypt :

At 27th UN Conference of Parties (COP-27), the international community gathered in Egypt to

discuss climate change including loss and damage, climate finance, adaptation and mitigation. In conference it was pointed out that "whatever goes in Pakistan will not stay in Pakistan" and it has also become hubs of climate finance deficits that are growing exponentially in inverse proportion to global emissions. This has led to creation of Loss and Damage (L & D) fund at the end of conference. Yet the G-20 energy ministers remained unable to agree on a roadmap to reduce emissions by July 2023. Pakistan has been home of three successive years where at least one day temperature reached 53°C in July and August.

d. Engagement with UK :

On 17th June 2023, Pakistan's Ex Foreign Minister met Foreign Secretary of UK to talk about entire spectrum of bilateral relations and climate change. Both emphasized to take firm steps to mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change and disasters occurring because of it.

e. Pakistan and UAE Climate Change Collaboration:

On 7th June 2023, President-designate of COP-28 Dr. Sultan Al Jaber visited Pakistan for high-level discussions on bilateral, regional and international climate change issues. They aimed to foster closer cooperation between Pakistan and UAE particularly in the areas of climate change mitigation and renewable energy.

SWOT Analysis of Foreign Policy of Pakistan on Climate Change :

Strengths

- Actively participated in international forum.
- Contribute little to global green house emissions.
- International partnerships
- Adaptation focus
- Strong bilateral agreements

Weaknesses

- Weak economic conditions cannot fight challenge alone.
- Internal security concerns
- Political instability
- Struggle to engage effectively in international negotiations.
- Dependence on fossil fuel.

Opportunities

- Foreign investments can help to adapt for future calamities.
- Pakistan has opportunity to attract investments with right policy framework.
- Technological transfer
- Agricultural innovation (project like IIMS)
- Shift to renewable energy resources
- International fundings for mitigation efforts.
- Regional collaboration.

Threats

- Vulnerable countries cannot attract investments in distress.
- Capacity building needs time, finance and peace.
- Climate induced displacement can strain resources and lead to conflicts.
- Role of non-state actors in peace distress.
- Lack of effective leadership and environmental policies.
- Resource competition (recent Indus Water Treaty Dispute).
- Growing adaptation needs.

Recommendations :

a. Diplomatic engagement :

Strengthen diplomatic efforts with key emitters like US, China and India - that contribute 50% of global green house emissions - to advocate for climate action and collaboration.

b. Regional Cooperation :

Enhance regional cooperation with neighbouring countries on climate issues like water resources and adaptation to climate impacts. This will help in building a resilient region.

c. Technology Transfer :

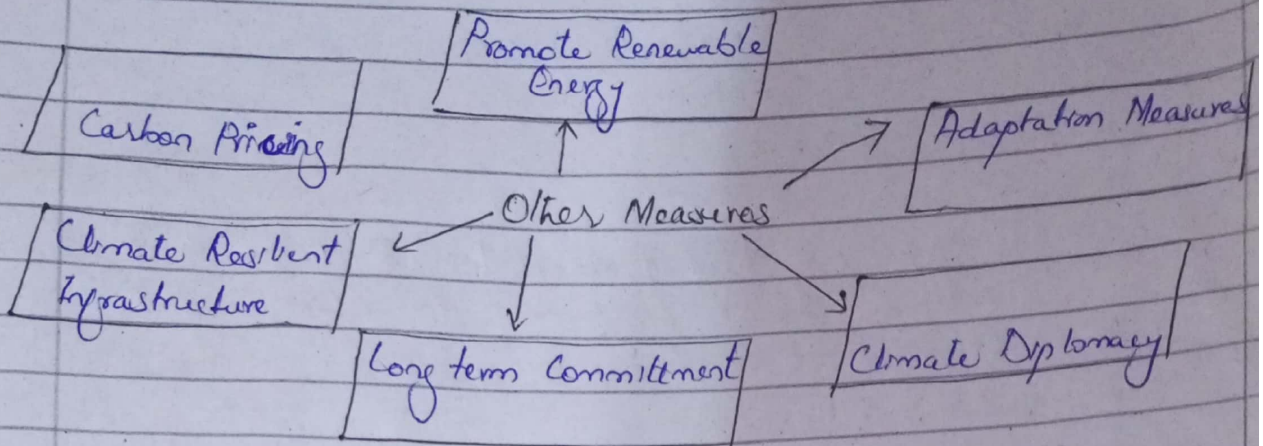
Pakistan need to focus on negotiating and fostering partnerships for technology transfer in clean energy and climate resilient agriculture.

d. Climate Finance :

Continuously advocate for climate finance from international sources to support climate adaptation and mitigation projects within Pakistan.

e. Capacity Building :

Invest in capacity building for climate research, monitoring and policy implementation. This includes training experts in climate science, policy and sustainable development.



Conclusion :

It is crucial for Pakistan to prioritize climate change as one of the instruments of its foreign policy. Climate change should not be just considered from environmental and economic point of view; it also stands to affect strategic considerations. Pakistan can start focusing on its neighbourhood to play a constructive role in climate change. Making climate change an integral part of its foreign policy ethos and moving towards climate diplomacy can project Pakistan as sensitive and responsible global leader.

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