

Current affairs

Question 8

Foreign Policy of Pakistan on Climate Change:

Outline:

1) Introduction:

- In developing countries like Pakistan, climate change poses a serious challenge to social, environmental and economic development.
- Effects of global warming are already evident in country.
- Adaptation and mitigation required and Pakistan should take serious action on it.

2) Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change threats

- 2a) Extreme weather changes, coupled with erratic monsoon rains causing intense floods and droughts.
 - 2b) Glaciers melting including Siachin and Hindu Kush - Karakoram - Himalayan glaciers.
 - 2c) Increased siltation of major dams caused by more frequent and intense rains.
 - 2d) Rising temperature resulting in enhanced heat and water-stressed conditions.
 - 2e) Increase in air pollution, SMOG issues.
- ~~2f) Deforestation problems.~~

3) Foreign Policies Adaptation heavy floods in
for climate change.

3a) Implementation of Paris agreement ^{impact}
in Pakistan.

3b) Climate Finance Accelerator with USA.

3c) US experts on Protecting natural areas.

3d) The International Conference on
climate resilient Pakistan

3e) Clean energy installation projects.

3f) Bonn challenge COP-25, 2019

4) Critical Analysis

5) Conclusion

1) Introduction

In developing countries like Pakistan, Climate change poses a serious challenge to social, environmental and economic development, and lead to migration within and across national borders of Pakistan. Pakistan is the worst effectee of global warming either prolonged droughts or devastating floods, the fast melting of glaciers and unpredicted or abnormal rainfall.

According to NDMA, Pakistan flood report 2022: There were total 8 spells of Monsoon between June - August which is highest after 200. More than 33 million people effected that is $\frac{1}{7}^{\text{th}}$ of population. 1700 loss their life and $\frac{1}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of them were children.

Pakistan is among top 10 countries affected by climate change.

These effects are already evident including growing frequency of droughts, floods, increasingly erratic weather conditions, and changes in agriculture patterns.

Mitigations and adapting actions are considered to be the two keys of combating climate change. The more immediate and pressing task for the country is to prepare itself for adaptation to climate change.

2- Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change threat.

Pakistan is among countries that are negatively impacted by the effects of climate change. Pakistan is relatively small emitter of greenhouse gas (GHG) in per capita terms but still ranks among largest 20 GHG emitters world wide in absolute terms. The important threats to Pakistan on climate change are as follows.

2a- Extreme weather changes, coupled with erratic monsoon rains causing flood and droughts.

The first main factor of climate change is monsoon rains. As normally monsoon contains 3 spells every year in three months between ~~July~~^{June} to August but from past years, our country is facing with extreme monsoon from 7 to

8 spells which causing heavy floods in the country.

August 2022 was written as wettest August in history after 1961. Poverty rate increased from 3.7 to 4.1 percent which pushing 8.4 to 9.1 Million people into poverty.

(Source: UNDP report, Pakistan floods 2022)

Thus this climate change is pushing Pakistan into major problem and causing increase in Poverty rate and Inflation.

2b- Melting of glaciers

Projecting recession of Hindu-Kash, Karakoram, Himalayan glaciers due to global warming and black carbon soot deposits from indigenous & trans-boundary pollution sources, that is threatening water inflows into the Indus Water System (IWS).

Federal minister for climate change senator Sherry Rehman said: Siachen glacier was melting very fast which was directly jeopardizing the local communities facing severe glacial lake outburst flood. (dawn.com/June 2023)

2c- Increased siltation of major dams

Water level in dams are increasing every year due to rains and it causing dams overflow. Resultantly more chances of floods every year.

As we don't have much water reserve dams so we are facing this issue of heavy floods due to paucity of reservoirs.

Second season of dams overflow is India when every year they release water flow towards Pakistan in monsoon season.

(Tribuneindia.com | Chandigarh, July 23)

"It will be left with no option but to allow access water of Satluj & Beas rivers to flow into Pak. through the Hussainiwala ~~bridge~~ barrage if Haryana and Rajasthan do not absorb enough water in Canal to ease the flood situation"

Therefore the situation left Pakistan with a miserable condition due to rain & India.

2d - Rising temperature

With each day as ozone deplete and climate condition get worsed, Pakistan is facing rise in temperature day-by-day. This year 2023, it is considered as the hottest month in Pakistan especially in the Punjab. Furthermore Northern areas of the Pakistan is also facing the critical situation of increase in temperature as compared to 2022.

According to (ofest.org, July 2023) report

Temperature are expected to climb 50 degree in Southern Punjab and some areas of Sindh.

The Pakistan Meteorological department issued an advisory saying day temperatures are likely to increase 4 to 5 percent this year in Punjab.

Therefore, Country is experiencing prolonged heat and water-stress issues. Our country is water scarce country due to less clean water reserved and large use of water.

2e - Increase in Pollution, SMOG issues

Pakistan ranked at position 4 out of 20 countries this year 2023. Fine particulate air pollution (PM_{2.5}) shortens the average Pakistani resident's life expectancy by 3.9 years. Annual particulate ~~pop~~ pollution increased by 49.9 percent from 1998 to 2021.

Lahore, Faisalabad and Gujranwala, the most populous and polluted cities of Punjab, are facing the worsening ^{issues of} of smog which returns every winter with a greater intensity. Smog major factors are carbon burning & industrialization.

As India is our neighbour country & largely emitting carbon each day so, it is also polluting Pakistan with their pollution.

3) Foreign policies adaptation for climate change:

Pakistan make satiny contribution to the total global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions but it is among the one with vulnerable to climate change, and it has very low technical and financial capacity at the moment to adapt to its adverse impacts. While Pakistan is working on strategy that seeks to conserve energy, improve energy efficiency and optimize fuel mix to support global efforts to reduce global GHG emissions.

3a - Implementation of Paris agreement

Paris agreement requires economic and social transformation, based on best available science. The agreement works on five-year cycle of increasingly ambitious climate action. Since 2020 is submitting their NDC plan. 2021, NDC report of Pakistan in COP26 in Glasgow, Pak. Set an ambitious cumulative GHG reduction target of 50% below its projected 2030 emissions under a business-as-usual (BAU)

Within MEAPAP region, Pakistan ranks among more ambitious countries, where emission targets continue to differ widely & remain largely conditional & low, widely reflecting limited fiscal space & weak capacity.

According to ^{its} own calculation (COP 2021), these actions helped the Country go beyond its original 2016 NDCs by reducing GHG_e to 8.7% between 2016-18 relative to 2016 NDCs & still ongoing (Source: NDC report, Oct 2021)

3b- Climate Finance Accelerator with USA:

USAID will launch a Climate Finance Development Accelerator program in 2023 to mobilize domestic and international finance for expanding clean energy in Pakistan. It will also catalyze investments for climate mitigation and adaptation efforts through policy reform, awareness raising, and enhancing the role of private sector.

3c- US experts on protecting natural Parks

The US National park service will send a senior park management official to visit Islamabad in 2023 to speak about conservation and engage with officials from Pakistan's National parks on best practices for managing protected natural parks in the country.

IUCN welcomes Pakistan's 'Protected Areas Initiatives' which will create 9 new national parks & strengthen management & governance in 6 other parks (iucn.org / July 2020)

3d- The International conference on climate resilient Pakistan

This was co-hosted by Government of Pakistan and UN, took place on 9 Jan 2023.

The conference brought together governments, leaders from public & private sectors and civil society to support the people and govt. of Pak. after devastating floods of 2022.

Its objectives was: Present the resilient recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Frameworks (4RF), which lay out multisectoral Strategy in inclusive manner

Second was secure international support and forge long-term Partnerships for building Pakistan's climate resilience and adaptation.

3e- Clean energy installation projects

Hydel (Diames, Basha dams), winds, solar projects will be installed according to energy vision 2030. No electricity generation from imported hydrocarbon by 2030.

2018-2023 : 10 billion tree project has been partially completed, 1.5 B trees has been planted

2014-2022 : Pak planted 2.8 B trees, highest achieved country ever.

4) Critical Analysis

The world is responsible for these floods in Pakistan, said by UNSG, primarily the major carbon emitters" Pakistan led to 40 plus countries demanding establishment of loss and damage funds in deal of COP-27. \$10B were pledged for Pakistan that will be dispersed in 4 years, supporters: IMF, WB, ADB, KKA, USA etc. So these foreign policies will reduce the danger of climate effects in Pakistan in future.

Therefore, ^{major emitters of carbon} ~~World~~ must help Pakistan out of these mass of crisis. Furthermore more loan packages on easier terms & conditions should be granted.

The National Committee shall report to the Prime Minister's Committee on "climate change" on regular basis
