

## General Knowledge - II (Current Affairs)

### Question # 04

Elaborate the idea of "Loss and Damage Fund" established at Sharmul Sheikh Climate Conference Egypt. What role Islamabad played in it and how would it benefit Pakistan?

### I. INTRODUCTION

Climate change is a global crisis that does not discriminate among races, adhere to borders or separate the rich from the poor. Nations worldwide are coping with increasingly intense natural disasters that have taken thousands of lives this year alone and cost billions of dollars — from devastating floods in Nigeria and Pakistan to droughts in the United States and Africa and unprecedented heatwaves across three continents.

Since climate change affects everyone and global solidarity is needed to tackle it with shared responsibilities, resources and technologies, it was in this context that leaders from 196 countries gathered in Sharmul Sheikh, Egypt, to take action towards achieving the world's collective climate goals as agreed under the Paris Agreement and the Convention.

## I. BACKGROUND

The lead-up to COP-27 was adverse. Only 26 out of 196 participating countries had tightened pledges, that were made a year ago in Glasgow, for 2030 emissions reductions, while the Russia-Ukraine war dramatically intervened to change short-term priorities. So, the conference was heavily influenced by the immediate political necessities of energy security and affordability. The conference took place against a backdrop of extreme weather events worldwide, an energy crisis propelled by the war in Ukraine, and scientific data reiterating that the world is not doing enough to tackle carbon emissions and protect the future of the planet.

## II. AGENDA AND THEMES

In the opening session of the conference UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres said:

"Humanity has a choice: cooperate or perish... It is either a Climate Solidarity Pact or a Collective Suicide Pact."

The UN Secretary General called for a "historic" deal between rich emitters and emerging economies that would see countries double down on emissions, holding the rise in temperatures to the

more ambitious Paris Agreement target of 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial era. Current trends would see carbon pollution increase 10 percent by the end of the decade and Earth's surface heat up 2.8°C.

The goals and vision for COP27 centered around four themes:

- 1). Mitigation.
- 2). Adaptation
- 3). Finance
- 4). Collaboration.

#### 1). Mitigation:

All parties, especially those in a position to "lead by example," are urged to take "bold and immediate action" and to reduce emissions to limit global warming below 2°C.

#### 2). Adaptation:

Ensure that COP 27 makes the "crucially needed progress" towards enhancing climate change resilience (flexibility) and assisting the world's most vulnerable communities.

#### 3). Finance:

Make significant progress on climate finance, including the delivery of the promised \$100 billion per year to assist developing countries.

#### 4). Collaboration:

As the UN negotiations are consensus-based, reaching an agreement will require "inclusive and active participation from all stakeholders."

### IV IDEA OF "LOSS AND DAMAGES FUND" - AN OUTCOME OF COP 27

COP-27 will go down in history as the UN climate change conference where the Loss and Damage fund were agreed upon. After decades of pushing, this is momentous victory for climate-vulnerable, developing countries.

#### 1. How will the Loss and Damage Fund Work?

The aim of the Loss and Damage Fund is to provide financial assistance to poorer nations as they deal with the negative consequences that arises from the unavoidable risks of climate change. For example: rising sea levels, extreme heat waves, desertification, forest fires, crop failures etc. The funding will help vulnerable nations to rebuild the necessary physical and social infrastructure. While the fund is undoubtedly a historic breakthrough, its success largely depends on how quickly nations are able to get the fed up and

### 1). Set up of Transitional Committee:

In order to achieve functionality of the fund, a Transitional Committee on the operationalisation of the new Loss and Damage Fund was set up. Composed of 24 members representing different geographical regions, the Transitional Committee held its first meeting in March 2023. It is tasked with developing recommendations ahead of COP-28 which will be held in Dubai (UAE) in December 2023.

## V. ROLE OF PAKISTAN IN COP-27

Pakistan played an important role in COP-27 as the leader of the Group of 77 and China. This group consists of 134 developing countries and is the largest group within the United Nations. During the meeting in Sharm el Sheikh, Pakistan had two main tasks:

### \*1. Tasks:

- 1). Pakistan had to address their own concerns and protect their own national interests.
- 2). Pakistan worked to protect the interests of all developing countries.

Bringing together a large and diverse group like the G-77 and China and getting everyone to agree on

important outcomes has always been a challenge for the group's leaders, including Pakistan. But this challenge also holds the key to the group's success. When 134 countries speak together with one voice, people pay attention, and their concerns cannot be ignored. Pakistan used this strength to achieve success, including creating a special "fund for addressing losses and damages" experienced by developing countries due to climate change.

## VI. HOW WOULD COP-27 BENEFIT PAKISTAN?

Pakistan is the country, who has affected the most due to climate change. The fund would benefit Pakistan by providing new and additional resources to respond to loss and damage, as well as technical assistance through the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage. The fund would also help Pakistan achieve its nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, and align with its Vision 2025 for sustainable development.

## VII. CONCLUSION

Climate change negotiations progress slowly, and each COP builds upon the accomplishments of the previous ones. For example, during

COP-27, the Fund for Loss and Damage was established. Similarly, the Global Stocktake, another significant milestone, has been in development for a few years and will be concluded during COP-28. Pakistan succeeded in achieving its goals during COP-27, thanks to the hard work of a small team of dedicated negotiators and the leadership provided by the G77 and China group. Now, Pakistan aims to build on these accomplishments and ensure that the shared objective of slowing down climate change and supporting developing countries to increase their efforts is achieved.

### Question # 06

How do you see the ongoing Hamas-Israel war? What are its possible implications on regional and global power politics.

## I INTRODUCTION

The Israel-Palestine conflict is the longest ongoing conflict since the end of World War-II. Many peace-making initiatives that have been approached in the past were doomed to failure. One can wonder if there is really any hope for peace in this conflict.

In the early hours of October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a multi-pronged blitz on the Zionist state's territory. Hamas fighters were able to infiltrate dozens of military and civilian sites of Israel. It includes 22 towns and settlements, facing virtually no resistance. Beyond destroying military targets and equipment, they were able to take 150 Israelis as hostages. Indeed, the attack was punctured the myth of Israel's military invincibility. The recent attack was a direct response to the ongoing violence against innocent Palestinians by the fascist Israeli government.

## II. HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF THE PALESTINE ISSUE

1517-1917	1918	1947	1948	1948
Ottoman Empire	British Mandate	Partition of Palestine	Israel becomes a State	1948 Arab Israeli War

1956	1964	1967	1973	1978
Suez Crisis	PLO Formed	Six-Day War	Yom Kippur War	Camp David Accords

1982	1987	1993	2000	2000
Israeli Invasion of Lebanon	The 1st Intifada	Oslo Accords	Camp David Summit	The 2nd Intifada



2002	2006	2008	2015
Separation Barrier	2nd Lebanon War	Operation Cast Lead	Operation Protective Edge

2016	2018	2019	2020	2020
US Military Aid for Israel	Shifting of US Embassy	Recognition of Golan Heights	Deal of Century	Recognition of Israel by Muslim States. (UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, Morocco)

## III. CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Following are the current developments in Israel-Palestine War:

### 1. Former President of USA announced Jerusalem as Capital of Israel

When the former President of USA Donald Trump came into power in 2017, he announced the Jerusalem as the "Capital of Israel" and recognized Israel as a country. Current capital of Israel is Tel Aviv. The whole world condemned this act of USA. No one except USA recognized Israel as a country. Thus, this move does not give any kind of benefit.

### 2. Abraham Accords - Recognition of Israel by Muslim States

In 2020, Abraham accord was signed on 15 Sept, 2020. USA negotiated under the leadership of Former President Donald Trump. In this accord,

Israel, UAE and Bahrain signed this accord. UAE and Bahrain normalize its relations with Israel. It means they have decided to develop diplomatic relations with Israel. As a result, foreign minister of Israel visited Dubai and later first Urban Passenger Flight established between Israel and UAE.

### 3). Rumours of KSA planning to recognize Israel.

In Sept. 2023, Saudi Arabia has been in talks with Israel and there are rumours that KSA is planning to recognize Israel. It is due to the visit of Foreign Minister of Israel to KSA. KSA sends its minister to meet the President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas. The KSA ensured Palestine that KSA has not forget the cause of Palestine and KSA will project the cause of Palestine as well to reflect its loyalty with Palestine.

## IV. Ongoing HAMMAS - ISRAEL WAR