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## PART - I

### Q. NO. 06:

### COP-29

The 12 days session of 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the conference of parties (COP 29) to the UN Framework Convention on climate change (UNFCCC) was held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November at Azerbaijan, Baku. The major aims <sup>and commitments</sup> of the COP-29 according to UNFCCC were as under;

1. Raise climate finance of 1.3 trillion dollars to aid developing nations in meeting the challenges.
2. Settle on an agreement to limit or eradicate the use of fossil fuels from the member countries.
3. Draw the attention of negotiators towards the unfortunate farmers who were being greatly ignored and settle on ~~some~~ certain amount of finance for them.

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## Failures of the COP:

### 1- Inadequate financial commitments:

Despite the commitment of COP to raise the financial support for developing countries to 1.3 trillion dollars, it could only manage to secure an annual pledge of 300 Billion dollars. Therefore, in terms of raising finances, the COP hasn't been much successful.

### 2- Failure to agree on Fossil Fuel reduction:

Before the COP had even begun, ~~signing~~ to reach an agreement on the reduction of fossil fuel was one of its main commitments. However, the conference failed to reach a consensus on phasing out fossil fuels. The consumption of fossil fuel is one of the major factors which add to the degradation of global climate. ~~Due~~ Due to this reason, the COP was held in Azerbaijan, a great consumer of fossil fuels.

### 3- Unresolved negotiations:

One of the major failure of COP-29 were its failure to resolve several key issues. The first couple of days at COP-29 were surprisingly chaotic and the participants and negotiators were

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unable to decide any agenda to discuss on. This led the COP to unreasonable delays in discussions and left the issues unresolved. These issues include the agreement on just transition strategies, global stocktake and adaptation measures. (Clyde & Co., 2024).

### Critical Analysis

Keeping into consideration the pre-COP commitments of the COP-29, the conference has been quite a failure. The major concern of the conference was to secure a climate finance of 1.3 trillion dollars to aid developing countries, however, it only secured 300 billion dollars. This commitment falls significantly short of the initial goal.

Moving forward, the inability of the conference to draw a consensus on the Agreement for on Fossil Fuel reduction has faced quite a backlash. The critics and negotiators have reportedly called it a conflict of interest due to Azerbaijan being a huge consumer of oil and other fossil fuel. The failure to reach this agreement ~~has~~ <sup>can</sup> quite possibly also be dedicated to lack of transitioning.

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strategies for countries whose economy greatly rely on the consumption of fossil fuel.

Apart from these, the COP also faced criticism on its chief executive promoting fossil fuel deals during the COP. (BBC, Nov. 2024). The conference also faced ~~del~~ unreasonable delays in general procedures e.g. wasting ~~a couple~~ days in just agreeing upon an agenda. (The Guardians, Nov. 2024).

Bringing the climate finance commitments of the COP into consideration again, the finance agreements were also influenced due to Trump's announcement of withdrawing from the Paris Agreement and refusing to offer any kind of financial support for the cause.

In the greater scheme of things, the major commitments of the COP have remained ~~a~~ untouched or have been partially fulfilled. In either case, it will not be plausible to deduce that the COP succeeded to its fullest. Due to this failure, the climate of world has become much more vulnerable and there seem no or very less strategies to cope with the upcoming climate disasters.

Q. NO. 07.

## MIDDLE EAST CONFLICTS.

Since October 7, 2023, the Middle-East has been at a crisis. It has drowned under a range of on-going conflicts. These include Iran-Israel proxy war, Israel-Hezbollah conflict, Israel-Hamas conflict, the Syrian and Yemen conflict, and what not. While the world has suffered from these conflicts, it has created a complex web of beneficiaries and losers.

### Beneficiaries:

Arms Industry: Countries such as United States, Russia, China and European nations are the major ~~important~~ exporters of arms and ammunition. These countries have benefitted much from these conflicts. By ~~to~~ exceeding their exports, these countries have greatly boosted their economies.

### Energy markets:

The violent conflicts disrupt supply chains. This creates volatility in oil prices. This unprecedented change of prices in the industry is exploited by its producers. A major example of this is the rise in oil prices in major oil producing nations e.g. UAE.

### Losers:

#### Civilians:

The losers in such conflicts are always the innocent civilians who bear the brunt of violence, displacement and loss of life. For instance, the Syrian conflict displaced over 13 million people (Dawn, Oct 2024) creating one of the world's largest refugee crises. To further this, the destruction of infrastructure leads to long term set backs in health, education and basic services.

#### Economies of the conflict zone:

The contemporary middle-east crisis has greatly undermined the economy of its conflict zones including Yemen, Syria, Libya, Hezbollah, etc. According

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to the Global Economic Index, the economy of Syria has reportedly dropped by 60% of its overall GDP.

### International relations:

The on-going conflicts have put at stake the global relations. The support of countries to either of the conflicting regions have greatly impacted the international ties of the regions. The Iran-Saudi rivalry for example. It ~~was~~<sup>was</sup> exacerbated by U.S. sanctions and Russian support for Assad in Syria has intensified the contemporary conflicts.

The ongoing Middle Eastern conflicts have created a paradox where a few entities profit economically or politically while millions endure immense suffering. Resolving these conflicts now requires combined efforts of powerful nations of the world and their allies.

Q. NO. 08.

## Critical Evaluation of Reasons For Slowing Down of CPEC Projects

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), hailed as a transformative initiative under China's belt and road initiative (BRI), has faced significant delays and challenges. The reasons for these delays have been mentioned forthwith.

### 1- Safety concerns:

Recent attacks on Chinese nationals and CPEC-related infrastructure by groups like Baloch Liberation Army have raised concerns across the border. Beijing is concerned for the safety of its national schemes in Pakistan.

### 2- Criticism on investment in just phase of CPEC:

Lack of local employment generation and inadequate involvement of Pakistani firms in key projects have led to public skepticism about CPEC's benefits. Severe criticism over environment degradation



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ion due to infrastructure projects has delayed approvals and faced opposition.

### 3- Regular requests from Islamabad:

China is Pakistan's biggest creditor. Like all other lenders, China is worried about regular requests from Islamabad either to grant more loans or reschedule the repayment of existing ones. Furthermore, the current crisis in the Middle-East has aggravated the tensions between US and China, due to which Beijing has contained itself from investing further in CPEC scheme.

## Recommendations to Islamabad

### and Beijing:

to overcome the current impasse and to ensure the success of Phase-II, Islamabad and Beijing need to adopt a multipointed approach.

- 1- Pakistan needs to strengthen its security measures to ensure the safety of CPEC related workers and infrastructure. In this regard, the funding of special security Division needs to be enhanced.

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Engaging locals in conflict-prone area may reduce resistance and ensure their support in project.

2- Pakistan needs to stabilize its economy to regain the support of either of its creditors, including China. In this regard, the country needs to engage with IMF or other multilateral organizations to address macroeconomic challenges.

3- In phase-II, Beijing should utilize its expertise in upgrading the agricultural sector of Pakistan. It should also prioritize solar, wind and hydropower projects to address the persistent issue of energy crisis in Pakistan.

4- Pakistan should also ensure a smooth Governance in the region in order to avoid any unnecessary resistance in carrying out the projects.