

Current Affairs Test-1

Tajyaba Balom

001-CSS24-NOV15B1

LMS ID - 33186

Q-2

LOSS AND DAMAGES AND COP-27

Introduction:

The concept of loss and damages was floated at the platform of COP-27 in 2022 at Sharm-el-Sheikh.

Conference of Parties under UNFCCC has been discussing the funds allocation since COP-13 but there wasn't any practical step taken towards establishing it. Before analyzing the loss and damages fund, which was the major agenda of COP-27, we'll have to understand loss and damages concept.

Loss and damages:

Loss and damages means the loss and destruction caused by natural events that can not be controlled and that are a result of anthropogenic changes to the climate leading to extreme weather patterns.

(UNFCCC)

• Pakistan and COP-27:

Pakistan faced the most devastating floods of history in 2022 causing damage of almost \$30 Billion. These floods submerged $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the country and caused damages to human lives, infrastructure, food crops and livestock. An estimated number of losses included 1M homes, 1800 people dead, 200,000 cows and other livestock and thousand of acres of crops loss including wheat, rice, cotton etc. It is important to note that Pakistan only contributes 0.7% to global carbon emissions but is 5th most affected country by climate change. (World Bank)

For the above mentioned reasons, Pakistan was initiator of debate of loss and damages fund and it was acknowledged by the attendees that this fund should be established.

• Creation of Loss and damages fund:

COP-27 was very important in terms that it initiated the debate of loss and damages

fund and got a consensus that it should be immediately created. Loss and damages fund was indeed documented in COP-27 but its existence was only on paper and observers were quite skeptical about it. Pledges were also made to create a fund of \$100 Billion ~~but~~ but there wasn't any materialization.

- Loss and damages fund and narrative of Global North:

Loss and damages fund basically requires developed countries to pay the developing and climate stricken countries - for the carbon emissions the global North produced in process of industrialization that ultimately caused global warming and climate change. It is a compensation for the damages caused in the Global ~~North~~ South, to be paid by developed countries.

However, Global North is reluctant to pay and has a stance that developing countries like China and India are emitting more carbon

than Global North. China emits 21%, India emits 9% while USA emits 15% and EU emits 17% of global carbon emissions.

• Narrative of Global South:

Global South on the other hand holds a narrative that Global North has reached optimum industrial growth while Global South is still on the way. It is unfair for Global North to blame developing countries for the climate change.

However, China has a policy of phasing down by 2030 and phasing out by 2050.

Other developing countries have similar policies.

COP-28 and practical materialization of loss and damages fund:

COP-28:

COP-28 happened from 30th Nov-12 Dec in UAE and was the biggest COP in its history. More than 7000 delegates joined from all over the world and over

150 heads of states, chairmen of MNCs and non-state actors like NGOs joined COP-28.

- COP-28 started with a bang:

Despite so many suspicions attached with the loss and damages fund, it was materialized on the very first day of COP-28.

Sultan - Ahmed - Al-Jaber, the president of COP-28 announced the establishment of loss and damages fund and approved \$100 Million to the fund in order to show the seriousness towards the implementation. Other countries also contributed to the fund including:

Germany = \$100 Million

UK = \$57 Million

US = \$27 Million

France = \$100 Million

The total allocated fund so far amounts around \$720 Million dollars. The total need of the world is far more than the funds pledged or allocated.

• \$720 Billion loss and damages fund:

A tiny drop in the Ocean:

The materialization of loss and damages fund is indeed a practical and positive step in the right direction but the problem lies in the volume of funds allocated. According to a report of World Meteorological Organization the world is around 1.4°C above the pre-industrial level and the greenhouse gases have increased more than 50% in the environment. Moreover with the current speed of transitioning towards green energy the future seems bleak for climate vulnerable countries.

According to another report, the developing countries will need 492-560 Billion dollars per year to cope with the climate catastrophe. The commitment of the global actors towards loss and damage funds and towards increasing its volume is still cloudy.

• Pakistan and loss and damages fund:

Pakistan can benefit greatly from loss and damages fund as it is 5th most vulnerable country in terms of climate change disasters. Pakistan is also grappling with domestic problems like inflation, dwindling economy, food and water crisis etc. It is unable to support another frontier in the form of climate catastrophe. There are several options for Pakistan to benefit from loss and damages fund:

- First of all, Pakistan needs to put house in order, make resilient and long term policies and ensure fair allocation of the fund to the cause of climate.

- Pakistan is struggling with debt trap. Another option for Pakistan is in the form of Debt swaps for Climate. Pakistan can demand debt swaps for climate funding, meanwhile creating capacity to deal with problems caused by climate change.

- Pakistan can use loss and damages fund to build resilient infrastructure at home and can cope with the energy crisis by transitioning to clean energy sources like solar and hydal instead of dependence on fossil fuels.
- Pakistan can also ask for loans and grants. It can acquire loans on easier terms and for long term return policy.

Q-3

One China Two Systems policy

Introduction:

One China two systems policy was introduced by the leader of Chinese Communist Party Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s.

One China Two Systems Policy means that China will have Sovereign right over another territory (Hong Kong, Taiwan) but that territory can have its own political and economic system.

• This policy is mainly directed towards Taiwan in an effort to reapproach the territory and bring Taiwan under the rule of People's Republic of China.

• PRC or mainland China considers Taiwan its territory and believes in One China while Republic of Taiwan disagrees to that.

• Taiwan : The bone of contention :

Taiwan is very important strategically for China as well as USA, therefore there is a conflict of narratives when it comes to Taiwan - b/w USA and China.

→ China's take on Taiwan:

China and Taiwan got into conflict due to ideological differences between the Chinese Communist Party and Taiwanese Nationalist Party since the time of civil war. China considers Taiwan its sovereign territory and expresses it very ~~carefully~~ openly. Taiwan and its public on the other hand have developed a

distinct identity over time and on the basis of different political (democratic) and economic (capitalist) systems consider themselves separate entity from mainland China.

Xi Jinping very clearly said,

"Anyone, who'll try to interfere in Taiwan will have to face China's military retaliation."

On another occasion China's Foreign minister said on the intervention of USA in Taiwan:

"America is playing with fire, America does not have any idea how China will respond."

China's interest in Strait of Taiwan:

Strait of Taiwan is very important for both China and USA. China is non-signatory of UN sea laws and has made it clear that area around the 9-dash line is China's territory. This territory is very important for China's trade around the world.

◦ Strait of Taiwan and USA:

Taiwan's strait is important for USA as it is America's route to Indo-Pacific region. America can not compromise of this important sea route and with increasing tensions with China, Taiwan holds more importance for USA than ever.

◦ Taiwan and USA's defense Agreement:

USA has a very confusing stance on Taiwan. It acknowledges and recognizes Taiwan as territory of China but also enforces Taiwan's right to self-defense. Trump signed a new defense agreement with Taiwan and Nancy's visit to Taiwan reinforced America's support to Taiwan's separatist agendas. Taiwan holds importance for USA for trade and other reasons too. Biden said:

"If Taiwan is attacked, America will defend it."

However later on, Antony Blinken

- the Secretary of the state changes stance on this statement.

- Importance of Taiwan in US-China Semi-conductor race:

Taiwan is very important for the semiconductor industry. 90% of the global semiconductor production happens in Taiwan. These chips are the jagular veins for the survival of electric and electronic industries of both countries hence their GDP.

Importance of Chips in defense:

Chips are very important for arms industry as they are used in aircrafts, armaments and most importantly semiconductors are very important for AI advancements.

- Military power show in Taiwan by USA and China:

Taiwan is highly militarized as both China and USA are flexing muscles to show the importance of Taiwan for them.

USA has deployed heavy navy in the Taiwan sea. USA has sent its most modern Destroyer ship in the Pacific ocean.

China on the other hand held military exercise around Taiwan in order to show its military might and establish that it can take over Taiwan.

• Implications:

China is set to go to any extent to establish that Taiwan is China's sovereign territory and to implement one China policy.

The use of force will not be a surprise. On the other hand USA's defense deal with Taiwan, its stakes in Taiwan and its take on defending Taiwan from military intervention of China can pose a serious challenge, not only for the parties involved but for the whole region.

There is another very critical point here that Taiwan is set to have its national elections that might

change the course of events.