



Founded by Shahla Zia

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## EDITORIAL

Our 'Planet Earth' is undergoing abrupt climate change and humans are the main cause of it. Atmospheric concentration of Carbon Dioxide and other greenhouse gases produced by industry, transport, deforestation and burning of fossil fuels, amongst other human activities, warm the planet and cause the global warming.

The developing countries like Pakistan are most likely to experience the drastic and immeasurable damages in shape of natural disaster such as floods, droughts, hurricanes, landslides etc. which are much higher than their share in climate catastrophes. This has initiated the debate of 'severe threat to survival on earth' around the world.

Climate change has always been a women's issue. Women across the world have shown resilience and leadership in protecting their communities, land, livelihoods, and natural resources. They play criti-

cal role in managing natural resources at family and community levels and are most affected by environmental degradation and climate change.

If we see the effect of climate change, it is drastically impacting the girls and women as compared to boys and men. In disaster hit areas, women & girls are the first ones who have to provide assistance to the elders and children of their families to escape and are also the last ones to leave the disaster areas because of their caregiving roles, lack of financial resources and limited rights to land and property. But when the women managed to leave those areas, they have to face other threats such as child marriages, unemployment, trafficking, harassment, abuse and gender-based violence.

Structural gender inequalities cultivate the culture where woman and girls are less likely to lead, make decisions, take actions, and advanced solutions to

combat climate change. They have less opportunities for their fair participation in global climate action movement due to multiple factors such as gender-based violence, harassment, lack of financial resources and etc. Men still fill 67% of climate-related decision making roles and women's representation in national and global climate negotiating bodies remain below 30%.

Our 'Planet Earth' desperately needs immediate actions to ensure the lasting and transformative changes when we fully account for and include all people who call it home. Efforts should be made for the greater recognition, participation, and funding in the climate action movement for girls and women. Governments should navigate fiscal reforms and enhancing governance to align finance with climate action. This includes national adaptation plans, climate inclusive framework and green budget tagging initiatives.

## Speakers demand women-led solutions for climate justice

By Waqar Ahmed

A launch event of the study on "Pakistan's Perspective on Climate Action and Role of Women" was organized by Aurat Foundation (AF), under the auspicious of "JAZBA"-Democracy and Empowered Women Programme. It was held to bring the attention towards the planet and the challenges of degrading environment, climate change, water challenges, and the loss of biodiversity and dwindling food resources as well as to discuss and engage women to take over the task of rebuilding earth and its resources for a safer climate, equitable living conditions and environmental justice.

The event gathered representation from all the major political parties as well as participation from the disabled and transgender community. It also included civil society organizations, women political workers, academia, and media, WLGs, Ministries of Pakistan and different NGOs. The chief guests for the event were Senator Sherry Rehman, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Climate Change.

The welcome remarks at the opening of the seminar were given by Mr. Naem Mirza, Executive Director Aurat Foundation. He welcomed all



Mr. Naem Mirza presenting shield to Senator Sherry Rehman, Minister for Climate Change

the participants to the seminar and said that climate change is actually global warming. He hinted towards the current imbroglio between the Supreme Court and the incumbent government and added that the temperature is very high everywhere, including in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the Parliament and other places. He said that we should aim to control this temperature and focus our energies on combating climate change.

He briefly explained that this research

"Pakistan's Perspective on Climate Action and Role of Women" highlights the long-term, mid-term and short-term recommendations and also provides a macro-economic framework to drastically reducing global warming and eventually shifting to renewable energy resources to save life on Earth.

Dr. Aliya Hashmi Khan, retired professor of Economics and former Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University and who also serves as a member of the general body of AF,

spoke next. She said that over the years Aurat Foundation's work has expanded in a number of different directions but it. Climate change is not being taken seriously in the context of gender.

She added what does it mean for the women of Pakistan. She cited the labour force statistics and said that if the total employed women in Pakistan then 68% work in the agriculture sector. Agriculture is not a homogenous sector but it also includes livestock as well. Women are not recognized as agriculture workers in the labour force statistics and they do not receive their due social protection due to this. She said that it is even more important for Pakistan to recognize the women who work in the agriculture sector.

The most important message coming out from today's deliberation is collecting periodic and updated information and data, especially on women working in agriculture and related activities. Labour force classifies women as an employee but there is no chamber for agricultural self-employed people and there is no women representation to speak about this fact.

At the end of her brief talk, she said that we cannot solve the issues of injustice without looking at a holistic picture

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# Speakers demand women-led solutions for climate justice

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and this report is very important in this regard since it talks about inter-government partnerships, partnerships with the donor community and also of the movements women are engaged in.

Ms. Simi Kamal, researcher and environmentalist presented the key findings of the research report. Her presentation was titled 'Women at the Forefront of Climate Action'. She said that this report is more of a think piece and aims to highlight major factors

She said the booklet is divided into five sections and starts from the basic concept of climate change, current global institutional architecture for climate change, the impact of climate change in Pakistan and policy response, and the final section talks about developing the platforms for climate action led by women.

She said the time has come for women to take over the task of rebuilding the earth and its resources for a safer climate, equitable living conditions and environmental justice. She further added that global economies are failing to produce economic, environmental and social justice for people and planet Earth and said that the current mantra of 'build back better' will never deliver until we challenge the current capitalist and development paradigms of perpetual growth in a finite world.

Ms. Kamal said that moving to a global economy based on zero growth and eventual de-growth seems essential to severely curtail and then end fossil fuel emissions. She said that almost 30 million people have been affected by the recent floods in Pakistan.

She said that the way forward includes long-term, medium-term and short-term measures and actions. She said that demonstration of political will by federal & provincial governments should be a priority. In the medium term, we need to make the water min-



**Irfan Mufti, Team Lead SAP-PK, Ms Mumtaz Mughal Director Program AF, Dr. Aliya Hashmi Khan, Member BoG-AF, Mr. Luke Myers, Counsellor, Development and Head of Cooperation GAC, Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel, Ms. Nousheen Khurram Project Manager JAZBA.**

istry and the flood commission more effective, changing the narrative around women and climate change as well as developing an extensive training program on ecosystem-based adaptation.

In the very short term, we need to be able to know globally but act locally. One way to mitigate climate change is by putting women on key committees



**Senator Sherry Rehman expressing her views**

as well as developing programs for selected climate-vulnerable areas in different geographical zones.

Amb. Shafqat Kakakhel, Chairperson Board of Governors SDPI, praised the researcher for producing a very useful booklet on climate change and how to deal with it. He said that the short, medium and long-term measures given in the report are all achievable and he

hopes that Pakistan can summon the political will and mobilize the resources in order to achieve this task. He concluded by saying that we are at a crossroads and it is for humankind to decide whether we will be able to save the planet from climate change-related disasters.

Ms. Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada, said that we need



**Dr. Shahida Rehmani, MNA presented with plant**

to create strong partnerships among national and international actors focused on climate change. She said that it is a part of her organization, Club de Madrid's main aims and objectives.

Luke Myers, Counsellor, Development and Head of Cooperation, Canadian High Commission, Islamabad said that today's event is important to highlight the challenges Pakistan's women face in their fight against climate change. He said that it is not a competition that which country is among the worst hit with regards to climate change since we are all facing extreme weather events.

Dr. Shahida Rehmani, MNA and Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus Pakistan, said that this is a very important subject and applauded the efforts of Aurat Foundation in organizing this seminar. She praised the qualities of the minister of climate change and said that Pakistani women are not behind anyone.

Senator Sherry Rehman, Minister for Climate Change said that without a doubt, the accelerating climate crisis is

our greatest challenge. Pakistan has experienced more than its share of climate calamities.

She said that Climate action and women are not niche subjects but they are central to our system. She said that Pakistan is at the frontlines of climate change and there should be a climate emergency declared in Pakistan.

She further added that women are better consumers of nature, they have very little to work with and have very low disposable incomes.

It is the women who make the wheels of our agriculture and economy turn. Women are responsible for running a household but yet these numbers do not show up in the official data.

She commended the research report produced by Aurat Foundation and said that the critically important theme is touched in this research. The gendered aspects of climate stress have been documented over several years, yet the evidence to bolster policy recommendations has been slower to come in. This research report also makes a useful contribution in this respect and provides an intelligent advocacy tool for enhancing women's inclusion and agency in climate action.

She recommended that we can and must take the requisite steps to protect our communities through overhauling systems, applying resources where necessary and overturning stress and vulnerability through meaningful adaptations.

Irfan Mufti, Team Lead SAP-PK, said that the visuals and optics of this issue are daunting and that we have reached an incredible level.

He said that we need to fight for our right's share within the international arena and continue our battle against climate change.

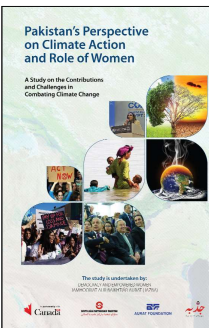


**A view of audience**

# Recommendations Critical for Climate Justice

## Democracy and Empowered Women: Jamhooriyat aur Baikhtiar Aurat (JAZBA) Programme (A Report by Aurat Foundation)

Aurat Foundation prepared a Study Report on 'Pakistan's Perspective on Climate Action and Role of Women' in collaboration of SAP-PK and Global Affairs Canada. The author of the report is Simi Kamal, a climate change and environment professional and women's right campaigner. The report gave an overview about the basic concept of climate change, the global discourse around it and women's key role in organizing grassroots movements for climate justice around the world. The report further discussed the efforts made by Pakistan's Ministry of Climate Change under the dynamic leadership of Senator Sherry Rehman. The report has made an effort to turn the attention towards the pressing environmental challenges facing our planet. This study report has emerged as an advocacy tool by making a useful contribution in policy recommendations for enhancing women's inclusion in climate action movement.



### Long Term Measures

#### Demonstration of Political Will by Federal and Provincial Governments

The low priority afforded to climate change and water issues in the government and in the country as a whole, means that the hard decisions are yet to be taken. The unprecedented rainfall and storms of 2020 and 2022 and the floods of 2022 have shown us that Pakistan cannot wait to take urgent decisions to control emissions, pollution by agriculture, industry and cities and consumption by the elites, while supporting the poor and vulnerable to cope with climate change impacts. Women will need to be placed on the key platforms that will take these key decisions: standing committees in Senate, National and Provincial Assemblies, Council of Common Interest, key ministries.

#### Building on Recent Progress in Climate Change Policy

Much progress has happened over recent years in revising Pakistan's climate policy framework, setting ambitious targets for adaptation, calling for a reappraisal of women's vulnerability and gender-sensitive objectives to address women's differentiated burdens in climate stress.

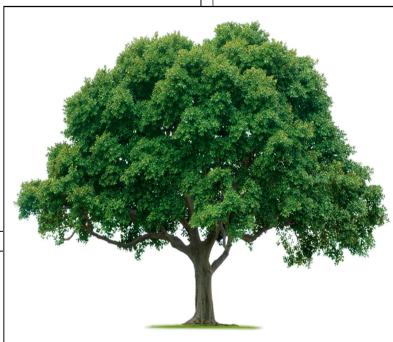
The recently introduced Climate Change Policy (2021) and submission of the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (2021) pay due attention to women. The next step here should be detailed framework of action and measures for inculcating women's leadership in climate change.

#### Development of Climate Change Institutional Architecture at Provincial Level

There is a huge jump from federal level policy to grassroots level action. Given that there are already provincial Climate Change Policies and some kind of action plans available, an institutional architecture requires to be developed that clearly lays out responsibilities for climate adaptation and resilience, including emergency action when needed. This should include the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), Local government at Divisional, District and UC levels, armed forces, police and rangers. Rural Support Programs (RSPs) can line up in tandem with various levels of local government whenever there is a crises or emergency triggered by a climate event.

#### Strategic Thinking by National and Provincial Commissions

It is not necessary that it must be the climate change, environment and water ministries that should take on the gender agenda. It can be the other way around as well. The National and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women, the Human Rights Ministry, National Commission on Human Rights and the Provincial Human Rights Commissions can take on the climate change agenda as part of their own work, and strengthen gender leadership in the climate-related sectors from that powerful route. This will require long-term engagement with these institutions to apprise them of the climate challenges and how women's empowerment and human rights are inextricably linked to climate justice.



#### Reinstatement of Functioning Local Government

Experience in Pakistan has shown that gender interventions (and indeed other forms of development interventions) in both urban areas and rural communities are ineffective unless backed up with services and support available through a functioning local government at the doorstep. Pakistan cannot hope to institute the many good policy clauses and mechanisms in the Climate Change Policy documents without empowered and effective local government structures. Preparedness and resilience measures will remain useless without local area arrangements for adaptation, evacuation, recovery and rehabilitation. By its very definition, climate adaptation has to be actualized from the bottom up and that is where building women's leadership is so crucial.

#### Setting up Pakistan's Own Panel of Experts on Climate Change

The bottom line is that we all have to learn to live with climate change and its impact on land, water and the environment. Advances in climate and water sciences and technology will tell us how this can be done. All citizens need to understand what they have to do to conserve and better use water, keep the air clean and control pollution. It is essential to develop a group of Pakistani scientists, academics, experts and researchers, both women and men that can form the basis of Pakistan's own high-level climate change panel to advise the government and all sections of Pakistani society on adaptation and resilience. Part of the stated mandate of this group will be gender mainstreaming in climate adaptation.

### Medium Term Measures

#### Paradigm Shift towards Ecosystem Based Approaches Managed by Women

It has been argued elsewhere in this document that ecosystems embody a functioning relationship between climate, land, water, biodiversity and occupations/livelihoods of people. A change in the climate triggers changes in all the others.

Ecosystems can be seen as smaller units within much larger natural regions and can, therefore, be approached and managed more practically. It is therefore, recommended that the theoretical basis of such interventions based on ecosystems be developed in the medium term. What this implies is that all, or almost all, development interventions in Pakistan will eventually use the ecosystem approach.

#### Making the NDMAs and PDMAs Deliver on their Mandates

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) were originally set up to actually manage climate disasters and emergencies and not function as just regular government departments with the same structures and processes. Over the years they have become more and more bureaucratic and cumbersome and re now seen as implementers of foreign funded projects. There is an opportunity to change the objectives and make these organizations into rapid response outfits, whose first job is to have on hand climate emergency plans at all times and the ability to coordinate all other rapid response institutions, so it actually manages the immediate impacts of climate disasters. They need to practical gender sensitive measures in the emergency response plans, and to have women appointed to all its levels of decision-making.

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# Recommendations Critical for Climate Justice

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## Ecosystem Approaches as the Basis of Redirecting Existing Climate Change Platforms

There are several institutions, platforms and initiatives that can be pressed into service for developing ecosystem based approaches, or whose objectives could be aligned better with the requirements of climate change mitigation and adaptation. Within these institutions space will have to be created for women.



Protests outside the UN climate summit in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt

## Making the Water Ministry and the Flood Commission more Effective

It is very clear that the major impact of climate change globally, and especially in Pakistan, is on water resources, water regime and water systems. This means that the water Ministry, the Flood Commission and the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) cannot work on business as usual. There is opportunity to change the objectives of these institutions and their rules of business to make them responsive to the merging climate challenges in the water sectors, not just theoretically but in practical ways, shifting their focus away from constructing large infrastructure and towards nature based solutions.



Protesters are calling for concrete action on climate.

## Developing Extensive Training Program on Ecosystem-based Adaptation

Capacity building of government functionaries, especially at district level, NGO planning and field staff, local development organizations and women's groups would be needed. All of these would require separate packaging of the basic content. These would then have to be tested and translated into local languages and a cadre of trainers developed.

## Developing a Toolbox for Supporting Local Action

A Toolbox for local action can be produced with policy, management, and capacity building tools for ecosystem based programming - including specific gender mainstreaming tools - from which relevant ones can be selected for each project site or area. It would also be useful to increase the understanding of women towards ecosystem based adaptation. The Toolbox would contain the new approaches and methods described in these sections.

## Inducting Young Women into Climate Change, Environment and Water Sectors

It is time to mainstream the strength and resilience of women to ward off further crisis, tackle the impacts of climate change, develop rational use of water, improve land and water management and achieve water and food security. It is time to break the glass ceiling in these sectors and bring on Pakistan's talented women and girls. Pakistan must invest in women as drivers of climate adaptation and climate resilient measures, water management and conservation, environmental stability, agricultural management and food security. We have seen Pakistani girls and women bloom in the digital and economic sectors. They can bloom in these sectors too.

## Identifying Climate Vulnerabilities and Developing Mitigation and Adaptation Plans

Figuring out possible climate vulnerabilities, which are likely to be quite different for women and men, would be a fairly new area of approach and research in Pakistan, especially in the context of ecosystems. A blueprint of how to do this would be a good contribution to climate change programming, in the form of mitigation and adaptation plans. In each site specific solutions will be needed to enhance the resilience of vulnerable women to live with and manage the shortage of water, reclaim unproductive land, develop nature-based solutions, revive old methods of foraging and collection of environmental goods and eco-system services.

## Changing the Narrative around Women and Climate Change

Pakistan's sensibilities about women's leadership and involvement in climate, environment and water sectors is archaic. Fetching, carrying and managing domestic water, community-based sanitation work, hygiene practices and local environmental entitlements continue to be seen as women's domain, while national discussions, debates, decisions, infrastructure and initiatives on climate change and water are still seen as men's domain. Women continue to face many gender-based discriminatory practices which often determine their access to climate change adaptation measures and compensation. Except for Pakistan's current Climate Change Minister, Senator Sherry Rehman and one Advisor (former), women remain largely invisible in the climate change ministry and provincial departments. There are very few women in the water institutions of the country, water-related ministries and department, water industry and water businesses. But there are several women working on climate change, environment and water in NGO and academic sectors.

Women are seen mostly as 'affectees' of the climate and water crises and are therefore, bracketed as part of the problem. Now they have to become part of the solution. That is the change in the narrative that must happen in the medium term. By several estimates, women provide at least half the agricultural workforce, even if not remunerated or accurately counted. Women in Pakistan are not only careful users of water but also the custodians of water and environment knowledge and practice that is key to managing the impacts of climate change. This is another message to be embedded in the new narrative. As Pakistan faces a bleak future in terms of climate change, too much and too little water, high population growth rates and the depletion and pollution of its atmosphere, wetlands and ecosystems, it is essential to accept women as a legitimate group for high-level engagement. They must now be recognized as a party to the debate in the country on climate change, dams, water infrastructure, water distribution, irrigation, agriculture, food security and environmental degradation.

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# Recommendations Critical for Climate Justice

## Short Term Measures

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### Streamlining Processes, Removing Barriers and Facilitating Advancement of Women

The recent rains and floods have shown us that we cannot wait and short-term plans and actions are needed immediately.

#### Knowing Global but Acting Local

In the case of climate change and its impact, streamlining the global-local linkage is really important. The rapid pace of change means that we must forever be learning from other parts of the world and acting quickly. We have also seen how adaption in the context of the nexus of women and climate change must be local to be effective.

Women's knowledge of local environment and water systems is essential, and their leadership inevitable, if local communities are to manage the expected cycles of floods and droughts and other manifestations of climate change. This knowledge includes reclaiming unproductive land, reviving old methods of irrigation, foraging and collection of environmental goods, water conservation and management, and enhancing eco-system services.

Identification of alternative livelihoods for vulnerable communities, which are likely to face diminishing returns from activities such as fishing and agriculture, is also a key to building resilience.

#### Putting Women on Key Committees

While Pakistan pursues Loss and Damage funding globally, its official women and human rights platforms and NGOs should be lobbying for putting women on decision-making bodies and committees inside Pakistan. The barriers against induction of women to key bodies and platforms should be challenged and removed.

As a first step the Water Commission and the Climate Commission, chaired by the Prime Minister, should be fully activated and appoint the requisite independent experts, including women experts, to enable rational discourse.

#### Lobbying for Local Government

Women empowerment advocates should be active-

ly lobbying for putting functional local government with elected representatives in place, at least one-third of whom should be women. The political parties will resist, but this lobbying is essential for removing the hurdles in its institution.

#### Facilitating Pakistani NGOs to Address the Nexus of Climate Change and Women

Pakistan already has a cascade of NGOs, from grassroots to national level. Reducing legal and structural hindrances for them would facilitate more extensive climate change resilience, preparedness and adaptation. Impact can also be maximized by strengthening inter-NGO networks and coordination.

NGOs are already widely functioning in rural areas and can play a prime role in changing the gender narrative as espoused by men and women. Devising content challenging gender norms and then using this content to disseminate can result in driving rural communities towards a positive spin on gender transformation for climate resilience and adaptation.

NGOs are also best equipped to engage with women and conduct gender and environmental awareness trainings to increase the understanding of gender concepts at the community and institutional levels. A critical mass of women, once mentored and mobilized for participation and transformative leadership can drive preparedness and resilience.

#### Doing the Homework for Climate Funding

In the meanwhile, provincial government departments, Rural Support programs, women's NGOs and academics should already have plans in place to build local preparedness, climate adaptation and resilience in the most climate-vulnerable and climate-affected areas, including the areas affected by the 2022 floods.

When funds come in from Loss and Damage mechanisms, the Green Climate Fund, UN system and other funding initiatives, several local and regional gender-mainstreamed interventions should already be prepared and ready.

#### Redirecting the Energies of Women Who Served in Elected Local Government

While the local government system has been

replaced by a largely moribund administrative local government, some of those dynamic women have migrated into NGOs and poverty alleviation initiatives. The energy and training of these women should be harnessed for building resilience to climate change and ecosystem-based models and initiatives. NGOs and local organizations should hire them or induct them as volunteers.

#### Inserting Ecosystem Based Adaptation into Integrated Floods and Droughts Risk Management

It is now recognized, and we have seen in Pakistan, that too much water and too little water is perhaps the largest climate change impact. Adaption to this impact is a major challenge faced by Pakistan. There is an opportunity in the short term, to insert this component in existing climate change programming on floods and droughts across Pakistan as an experiment to see if prior planning for local ecosystem management, regeneration and security can ward off the worst impacts. The Toolbox, as described above, would contain the tools to use in these circumstances.

#### Direct Gender Interventions in Relief Operations

In case of existing projects or programs in any sector where climate change can have impacts (food production, livestock, livelihoods, water management, fisheries), direct gender interventions can be made in the short-term. These interventions can include relief, recovery and rehabilitation. More complex and coordinated interventions can be designed and implemented through women's groups around natural resources, water, climate change and environment.

#### Addressing Gender Based Violence

It is clear that women should be seen as powerful agents of change whose participation in planning and implementation processes is necessary if the impact of climate change is to be addressed and successful adaptation initiated.

However, women's issues and problems at the local level must be considered in the wider context of their relationships to ecosystems and the living environment, social status, access to resources and opportunities, control over assets, their social vulnerability, and propensity to be victims and survivors of violence.

## Pakistan's Vulnerability to Climate Change Threats

The important climate change threats to Pakistan are:

1. Considerable increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, coupled with erratic monsoon rains causing frequent and intense floods and droughts;
2. Projected recession of the Hindu Kush- Karakoram-Himalayan glaciers due to global warming and black carbon so to deposits from indigenous and trans-boundary pollution sources, threatening water inflows into the Indus River System;
3. Increased siltation of major dams caused by more frequent and intense rains in the catchment areas and subsequent floods;
4. Rising temperatures resulting in enhanced heat and water-stressed conditions, leading to reduced agricultural productivity;
5. Increasing air pollution from agriculture, transport and industry resulting into smog inflicting huge loss to aviation, reduced mobility, loss of lives in

6. Further decrease in the already scanty forest cover, from too rapid change in climatic conditions to allow natural migration of adversely affected plant species and wildlife habitat;
7. Increased intrusion of saline water in the Indus delta, adversely affecting coastal agriculture, mangroves and the breeding grounds of fish;
8. Threat to coastal areas due to projected sea level rise and increased cyclonic activity due to higher sea surface temperatures;
9. Increased stress between the upper and lower riparian regions in relation to sharing of water resources;
10. Increased health risks and climate change induced migration.

The above threats may lead to major survival concerns for Pakistan, particularly in relation to the country's water security, food security and energy security. *\_ National Climate Change Policy*



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# Five Key Takeaways from COP27

## Establishing a dedicated fund for loss and damage

COP27 closed with a breakthrough agreement to provide loss and damage funding for vulnerable countries hit hard by floods, droughts and other climate disasters.

This was widely lauded as an historic decision. Why? Because for the first time, countries recognized the need for finance to respond to loss and damage associated with the catastrophic effects of climate change, and agreed to the establishing of a fund and the necessary funding arrangements.

Although the details will need to be hammered out over the coming year - who should pay into



the fund, where this money will come from and which countries will benefit - it's "an important step towards justice," said the UN Secretary-General.

A 'transitional committee' will make recommendations on how to operationalize both the new funding arrangements and the fund for consideration and adoption at COP28 next year. The first meeting of the transitional committee is expected to take place before the end of March 2023.

"This outcome moves us forward," said Simon Stiell, UN Climate Change Executive Secretary. "We have determined a way forward on a decades-long conversation on funding for loss and damage - deliberating over how we address the impacts on communities whose lives and livelihoods have been ruined by the very worst impacts of climate change."

## Maintaining a clear intention to keep 1.5°C within reach

The world is in a critical decade for climate action. This is not hyperbole - the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says limiting warming to around 1.5°C requires global greenhouse gas emissions to peak before 2025 at the latest, and be reduced by 43% by 2030. That's seven short years from now.

However, the world is currently off course to keep 1.5°C within reach. A stark report from UN Climate Change shows implementation of current pledges by national governments puts the world on track for a 2.5°C warmer world by the end of the century.

At COP27, countries reaffirmed their commitment



to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

That means the global economy must "mitigate" climate change - in other words, we must reduce or

prevent the emission of greenhouse gases to get us to where science says we need to be by 2030. In line with that, a mitigation work programme was established in Sharm el-Sheikh, aimed at urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation. The work programme will start immediately and continue until 2026 when there will be a review to consider its extension.

At COP27, governments were also requested to once again revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their national climate plans by the end of 2023, as well as accelerate efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

## Holding businesses and institutions to account

This new phase of implementation also means a new focus on accountability when it comes to the commitments made by sectors, businesses and institutions.

"There is absolutely no point putting ourselves through all that we've just gone through if we're going to participate in an exercise of collective amnesia the moment the cameras move on," said Stiell, who promised a new focus on accountability during his opening speech at COP27.

The transparency of commitments from business-



es and institutions will be a priority of UN Climate Change in 2023. The UN Secretary-General asked UN Climate Change to come up with a plan early next year on how to ensure transparency and accountability with non-state actors.

UN Climate Change has a public platform - the Global Climate Action Portal - that is already being used to register pledges, publish transition plans, and track annual reporting on implementation. But it needs to be scaled up.

## Mobilizing more financial support for developing countries

Finance is at the heart of all that the world is doing to combat climate change. Mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, climate technology - all of it requires sufficient funds to function properly and to yield the desired results.

On this crucial topic, COP27 created a pathway to align the broader finance flows towards low emissions and climate resilient development.

The COP27 cover decision, known as the Sharm el-



Sheikh Implementation Plan, highlights that a global transformation to a low-carbon economy is expected to require investments of at least USD 4-6 trillion a year.

Delivering such funding will require a swift and comprehensive transformation of the financial system and its structures and processes, engaging governments, central banks, commercial banks, institutional investors and other financial actors.

## Making the pivot toward implementation

Of course, climate pledges aren't worth the paper they're written on if they aren't taken off the page and turned into concrete action.

That's why COP27 was expected to be one of "implementation."

On the opening day of the conference, UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell called for aligning "every corner of human activity" with the 1.5°C goal, saying "Paris gave us the agreement and Katowice and Glasgow gave us the plan, Sharm



el-Sheikh shifts us to implementation."

But what does a shift to implementation mean and what will it look like?

For starters, the package of decisions adopted at COP27 have a strong focus on implementation - they aim to strengthen action by countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change, as well as boost the support of finance, technology and capacity building needed by developing countries.

# Celebrations of International Women's Day

On the eve of International Women's Day, Aurat Foundation organized a cake cutting ceremony at the premises of Dar-ul-Aman. The purpose of the celebrations at Dar-ul-Aman was to engage the women survivors in positive way to come out of their distressful situations and enjoy the present moments of their lives. Celebrations were organized under the auspicious of the "JAZBA" Programme on 8th March, 23.

Event started with the recitation of Quran Pak. After that, Ms. Nosheen, National Project Manager gave a brief history of International Women's Day. She shared the stories of women role models and the struggle they had to go through. She said that women of today have to struggle harder to get her dreams come true.

Ms. Shamaila Tanvir, Manager paid tribute to the women in distress and stressed on the importance of women roles in making their lives better. She emphasized on the importance of sisterhood and said that these women are braver who take steps for themselves.



**Aurat Foundation celebrated International Women's Day at the premises of Dar-ul-Aman**

The decision of leaving home is not so easy and you are brave enough to take such decisions but we also need to analyze the situation and act accordingly.

Ms. Aliya Mirza, famous poet and Artist stressed that women also need to understand their roles and responsibilities equally. Women are a role model for other women who are suffering from domestic violence that they can take a stand for themselves. She shared that there are government and private

organizations in Pakistan that are working for such women and would provide them the assistance they need: Shelter, legal assistance, medical assistance, etc.

Ms. Ayesha, Manager Dar-ul-Aman explained the working methodology of Dar-ul-Aman. She said that dar-ul-aman is all about gender-based survivals. We're open 24 hours, we take any type of case that is related to gender-based violence and we even receive every type of case. We provide

them different services according to their needs that includes medicine services, psychological services and if we are unable to cater a GBV survival in-house so we refer them to other facilities. She told that we have in-house medical officers, in-house psychologists, a panel of lawyers consisting of 10 people in which 1 lawyer is from Christian community so they can deal with GBV survival that are not Muslim so they can feel comfortable.

Ms. Nabeela, Deputy Director SW&BM shared some success stories of Dar-ul-Aman in order to motivate these women. She shared that Government is willing to provide support to women in distress and offering different services for their assistance in their difficult times. committed to work with Aurat Foundation in future and to empower the women that reach out to Dar-ul-Aman with the help of Aurat Foundation.

This event ended with cake cutting ceremony and distributing some gifts among the residents of Dar-ul-Aman.

## Embrace Equity: Challenging Stereotypes

Aurat Foundation always committed to women's cause and remain at the forefront for the protection of women's right. This year, Aurat Foundation with collaboration of Social Welfare Department of Punjab celebrated the International Women's Day at the premises of Government run Women's Protection Center, Rawalpindi on 8th March, 2023.

After the recitation Ms Nosheen Khurram gave a brief introduction of Aurat Foundation that AF is working for woman empowerment and betterment of woman for almost 30 years. AF works for woman in every walk of life even if its politics or domestic violence. Nigar Ahmad and Shehla Zia were the two woman who established Aurat Foundation and fought for

woman are fully aware of their rights they can fight for themselves. Islam has also given strict instructions about woman's rights but still in Muslim communities' woman are not given their equal rights, any right to inheritance in property, domestic violence against women. But we have to fight for our rights and Aurat Foundation will be working for woman's right in future as well.

After this Hania Muneer, a student of Sanat Zar, Rawalpindi presented a short speech on the present condition of woman in our society. After the speech few girls from 'Kashana' presented a Table and a song on "Kon Kehta hai mai be-Ikhtiar hon". Ms. Huma Naqvi presented her poem for women's rights.

Ms Aaliya Mirza, a famous Poet and Artist presented her poem specially written for woman "Kure dan main phenki hui Aurat".

Ms Aqeela, Woman Protection Officer from Crisis center, Rawalpindi gave a brief session on the working of crisis center. Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Human Rights centers are recently converted to Woman Protection centers throughout the Punjab. Being a woman protection officer, my duty is to work against domestic violence as we receive a lot of cases of GBV. We work according to the nature of the case and looks out for the strengths and weaknesses of the case, arrangement of missing documents and further refers the case to lawyers present in their panels. Law officers perform regular follow-ups with the lawyer as well about the status of case.



**Girls from 'Kashana' presented a Table on a song "Kon Kehta hai mai be-Ikhtiar hon"**

Ms. Nabeela, Deputy Director of Social Welfare department shared her thoughts with the audience. This day is being celebrated all over the world. She said that each day is a woman's day. No home is home without a woman. Woman is responsible for managing her households and upbringing of her children, no one else in this world can perform these tasks better than a woman, educated or uneducated.

Mr. Rana Shahid the Chief Guest of the event addressed the audience, starting with a huge round of applause for all the woman, on the occasion of Woman's Day. He said that today we have discussed about the woman rights and woman empowerment in detail. If we talk about entrepreneurship, being a Muslim our first role model should be Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W), when he married Hazrat Khadija (R.A) who was an entrepreneur and an empowered woman and in my point of view she was the first entrepreneur woman of Islam. Even in Quran not only the basic human

rights are discussed but other rights are also provided and discussed i.e, the inheritance of property. One main segment of woman empowerment is to provide them the freedom to work. But in our society woman are not provided with these rights. For this purpose and to empower woman the Government of Punjab, Social Welfare departments, Skill Development Centers and Sanat Zar are working. Our woman Protection Center, I call it our center of excellence is working in Multan and I can claim that there is no other department all over Asia like this department.

Ms. Shamaila Tanvir emphasized the importance of sisterhood and asked women to know their worth. Women always need to support each other and raise their voice if they see any violation of women's rights. The event ended with certificate distribution among the Social Welfare department for supporting AF throughout the JAZBA project. Ms Shumaila Tanvir distributed these certificates.



women rights. She addressed the audience about the importance of woman's day and why it is celebrated. This day gives us an opportunity to analyze where woman stand in our society, what further efforts need to be done for betterment of woman rights. This day is an opportunity to raise awareness of rights gaps, and to celebrate progress and the achievements of individual women. "Knowing is Blessing", if

# Champions of Women's Rights in Pakistan

## 4th HUM Women Leaders Award 2023

By Shamaila Tanvir

HUM Women Leaders Award held every year by HUM Network Ltd. honoring 11 remarkable women and 1 dynamic man from Pakistan and abroad, and recognizing the recipients for their outstanding contributions and achievements in various fields, including women & human rights, social work, healthcare, education, journalism and art.

This year, Naeem Ahmed Mirza was among the 11 women from various walks of life who received the 4th HUM Women Leaders Award in recognition of their exceptional and tremendous services for women empowerment. Their tireless efforts have made a significant impact on the lives of millions of women across Pakistan. The awards presented to the distinguish personalities during a thrilled and excited ceremony, held at the prestigious Jinnah Convention Center, Islamabad on 18th February, 2023.

Mr. Naeem Ahmed Mirza, Executive Director of Aurat Foundation, a champion of women's rights and gender equality in Pakistan, received the prestigious HUM Women Leaders Award 2023 for his unwavering dedication to creating a just and caring society where women and men are recognized as equals. As the Executive Director of Aurat Foundation, Naeem has led the way in mobilizing public pressure for women's social, political, and economic empowerment and helped to end violence against women and girls. This award was presented by First Lady of Pakistan Mrs. Samina Alvi, who praised Mr. Mirza for his dedication and contribution to the field of women's empowerment.

Dr. Quratulain Bakhteari, founder of Institute for Development Studies and Practices in Baluchistan, honored with award for her outstanding contributions to community development in Pakistan's most underserved province. The award was presented to her by President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi.

An award was presented to Dr.



President of Pakistan Mr. Arif Alvi honors Dr. Quratulain with HUM Women Leaders Award

Naseem Salahuddin, an illustrious figure in the field of public health and a pioneer in promoting the study and



First Lady of Pakistan Mrs Samina Alvi honors Naeem Ahmed Mirza with HUM Women Leaders Award 2023

of the organization's exceptional work in advancing humanitarian causes.

significant contribution to promoting health and development through research and policy formulation.



understanding of infectious disease in Pakistan, for her outstanding contributions to public health and education.

Ms. Abida Malik, founder of Behbud Association, honored with a Golden Plate at the Kashmir HUM Women Leaders award 2023, in recognition

Ms. Ronal Lakhani, the founder of Special Olympics Pakistan, was awarded for her instrumental contributions in advocating for and empowering differently-abled people.

An award was honored to Dr. Zeba Sathar, a visionary leader who has made

Ms. Amna Nawaz was presented with award in recognition of her journalistic brilliance and fortitude in the most influential newsroom of the world.

Ms. Laraib Atta breaks barriers and inspires the next generation of women in the creative industry. Kashmir HUM Women Leaders award 2023 celebrated her outstanding achievements in visual effects and dedication to empowering women.

Ms. Sabina Khatri Khan, the founder of the Kiran Foundation and Ibtidai School, received the award for her groundbreaking work in providing trauma-informed education to mothers and children in Lyari and Kati Pahari.

Ms. Karen Armstrong was also recognized with an award for her outstanding contribution to religious history and culture. As a global influencer, she has made significant impact on society.

An award was presented to Ms. Khawar Mumtaz, CEO of ShirkatGah. She is also founding member of WAF, which was formed to promote women's equal rights in Pakistan. Award was received by Ms. Ameen Saiyid on her behalf.

Ms. Parveen Saeed, founder of 'KhanaGhar', was honored with award for her humanitarian efforts to end hunger in Pakistan.



A group photo of Winners of the 4th HUM Women Leaders Award 2023