



CALL FOR INPUTS: SECRETARY-GENERAL ANALYTICAL STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF LOSS AND DAMAGE FROM THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

In response to a call for input for the Secretary-General's analytical study on the impact of loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change on full enjoyment of human rights, this submission addresses equitable methods and remedies employed in Pakistan. It is intended to be presented during the Human Rights Council's fifty-seventh session, encompassing the key categories outlined in the provided questionnaire.

1. Pakistan faces an increased frequency of floods, heatwaves, and water scarcity, impacting the right to life, housing, food security, and water access for over 33 million people.¹ Changing weather patterns contribute to crop failures, affecting farmers' economic rights, while diseases like dengue² and malaria³ pose health risks, particularly in vulnerable communities; malaria cases reached more than 1.6 million in 2022.⁴ Coastal areas, such as Thatta and Badin, face sea-level rise, challenging the right to a home and exacerbating housing, land, and property rights issues.⁵ These instances represent recurring challenges faced by communities across the country due to climate change.
2. To comprehensively address the impacts of climate-related loss and damage on human rights⁶ in Pakistan, a multifaceted approach is crucial. Utilizing quantitative data from meteorological agencies can track extreme weather events, while strengthened health surveillance systems can monitor the health impacts.⁷ Economic evaluations through the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)⁸ contribute to understanding the broader economic implications and government reports offer insights into infrastructure damage. Qualitative data, from community surveys and case studies, facilitated by community-based organizations (CBOs) and research institutions, provides perspectives from affected communities. Participatory approaches, such as community workshops, ensure local voices and traditional knowledge in impact assessments. Mechanisms like early warning systems from the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD)⁹

¹ Islamic Relief. (2023, June 22). Climate Crisis in Pakistan: Voices from the Ground. Relief Web. <<https://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/climate-crisis-pakistan-voices-ground>>

² British Red Cross. (2023, August 30). A year on from devastating flooding: what is happening in Pakistan? <<https://www.redcross.org.uk/stories/disasters-and-emergencies/world/climate-change-and-pakistan-flooding-affecting-millions>>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Pakistan Meteorological Department. Climate Change in Pakistan. <https://www.pmd.gov.pk/report_rnd.pdf>

⁶ The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2012) 'Applying a Human Rights-Based Approach to Climate Change Negotiations, Policies and Measures' available at, <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/InfoNoteHRBA.pdf>
<https://www.mocc.gov.pk/SiteImage/Policy/NCCP%20Report.pdf>

⁷ Zhu W, Wang S, Luo P, Zha X, Cao Z, Lyu J, Zhou M, He B, Nover D. A Quantitative Analysis of the Influence of Temperature Change on the Extreme Precipitation. *Atmosphere*. 2022; 13(4):612. <https://doi.org/10.3390/atmos13040612>

⁸ <http://www.ndma.gov.pk/>

⁹ <https://www.pmd.gov.pk/en/>

and modern technology collaborations with the National Disaster Risk Reduction Center (NDRRMC)¹⁰, enhances monitoring and assessment capabilities. Integrating human rights impact assessments into the National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR)¹¹ work ensures a comprehensive evaluation. Gender-responsive and inclusive approaches, facilitated by the Ministry of Human Rights, promote equitable data collection and analysis. Reporting and evaluation mechanisms through disaster management authorities, along with human rights impact indicators from the Human Rights Change Policy contribute to transparency and collaboration.

3. Incorporating climate considerations into Annual Development Plans and Budgetary Frameworks effectively mainstreams climate change actions into sectoral policies.¹² Collaboration with Planning and Development Departments can enhance this process. The 18th Amendment to the 1973 Constitution in 2010 increased provincial autonomy, devolving key functions to provinces.¹³ Provinces now manage education, health, water, sanitation, and economic activities, including environmental and climate change responsibilities. Despite this, three of the country's four provinces—excluding Balochistan —have developed specific policies, strategies, or action plans to address climate change. Examples of provincial action include Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Green Growth Initiative¹⁴ and Punjab's Punjab Green Development Program¹⁵. Pakistan has also received significant climate-related financing from Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to support low carbon emissions¹⁶ and have provided about US\$6.4 billion for climate-related investments over the 2015–2020 period.¹⁷
4. Adaptation and mitigation efforts for climate change require adjustments to building systems and urban planning.¹⁸ Utilizing the Miyawaki technique, the Prime Minister initiated an "urban forestation drive" in February 2021, with identified locations for urban forests in Islamabad and Lahore. The Clean Green Pakistan Movement, launched in November 2019, underscores the government's dedication to environmental sustainability through the Clean Green Pakistan Index.¹⁹

¹⁰ <https://ndrrmc.gov.pk/>

¹¹ <https://www.nchr.gov.pk/>

¹² Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. (n.d.). *Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation into Development Planning: A Guide for Practitioners*. Retrieved from < <https://www.cbd.int/financial/climatechange/g-climatedapationguide-undp.pdf>>

¹³ Qamar Uz Zaman Chaudhry. (Asian Development Bank) *Climate Change Profile of Pakistan*. Retrieved from [Asian Development Bank](https://www.adb.org/publications/climate-change-profile-of-pakistan)

¹⁴ Author(s). (2015). *Green Growth Initiative of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan*. *The International Journal on Green Growth and Development*, 1(2), 125–132. Retrieved from https://bookstore.teri.res.in/docs/journals/IJGGD_Vol%201%20Issue%202_Article_4.pdf

¹⁵ <https://www.pgdp.pk/>

¹⁶ Ayaz, M. U., & Majeed, Z. (2022). *Green Financing to Support Energy Transition: Options and Challenges for Pakistan* (Policy Brief No. 82). <https://sdpi.org/assets/lib/uploads/Green%20Financing%20to%20Support%20Energy%20Transition%20Options%20and%20Challenges%20for%20Pakistan%20pb-82.pdf>

¹⁷ *Accelerating Green and Climate Resilient Financing in Pakistan* (November 2023). https://growthgateway.campaign.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/138/2023/11/231120_Accelerating_Green_Climate_Financing_Report_vFinal-003.pdf

¹⁸ UN-HABITAT. (2023). *Pakistan Country Report 2023*. Retrieved from https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2023/06/4_pakistan_country_report_2023_b5_final_compressed.pdf

¹⁹ <https://www.cleangreen.gov.pk/>

5. The CGPI evaluates neighborhood cleanliness and greenery, considering aspects like plants, general cleanliness, water safety, solid waste management, and hygiene. Objectives include promoting digitalization for climate adaptation, ensuring climate resilience in rural housing post-flood repair, mandatory solar water heater installation, supporting urban forestry, and raising awareness about the risks of single-use plastic to drive behavioral change.

6. Pakistan's major industrial sectors, such as steel, cement, sugar refineries, textiles, fertilizer, and petrochemical plants, are significant contributors to the country's greenhouse gas emissions.²⁰ The energy and agriculture sector already account for more than 85% of Pakistan's GHG emissions.²¹ The government aims to reduce these emissions by mandating aerosol emission impact assessments for new industries, promoting the "Cleaner Production" strategy, and encouraging Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, including the establishment of a fund to support carbon emission reduction efforts in the industrial sector.²²

7. The initial National Climate Change Policy (NCCP 2021) provided limited impact on sectoral programs despite guiding national adaptation and mitigation plans.²³ While Pakistan committed to modest measures in the 2015 INDC, significant progress has been lacking since. The Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), established in August 2017, now oversees key environmental and disaster risk management operations. Revisions to the NCCP in 2021 aim to link economic expansion with climate action, emphasizing policy integration.²⁴ New sectoral policies, including the 2019 Alternative Renewable Energy Policy²⁵ and the 2020–2023 Strategic Plan for Energy Efficiency & Conservation²⁶, strengthen decarbonization efforts. The 2019 National Electric Vehicle Policy (NEVP) for 2020–2025 encourages the growth of the electric vehicle supply chain by reducing import duties on batteries and charging equipment.²⁷

8. Pakistan, with its advantageous political economy and an increasing public awareness of the dangers and seriousness of climate change, is poised to address climate challenges effectively. The Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Program (TBTP)²⁸ serves as a significant afforestation project in the country. The Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Program (TBTP) is a key afforestation initiative. The 'Protected Area Initiative'²⁹ launched in 2020 aims to expand protected areas, fostering tourism,

²⁰ Qamar Uz Zaman Chaudhry. "Climate Change Profile of Pakistan." Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/357876/climate-change-profile-pakistan.pdf>

²¹ (2022). Pakistan: Selected Issues, *IMF Staff Country Reports*, 2022(027), A008. Retrieved Jan 31, 2024, from <https://doi.org/10.5089/9798400200212.002.A008>

²² Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan. (2021, October). *National Climate Change Policy*. <https://mocc.gov.pk/SiteImage/Policy/NCCP%20Report.pdf>

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Government of Pakistan. (2019). Alternative and Renewable Energy Policy 2019. Retrieved from https://www.icimod.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Alternative-and-Renewable-Energy-Policy-2019_Pakistan.pdf

²⁶ National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA). (2020). *Energy Efficiency & Conservation Strategic Plan 2020-23*. https://climate-laws.org/document/energy-efficiency-conservation-strategic-plan-2020-23-by-national-energy-efficiency-and-conservation-authority-neececa_6d9b

²⁷ Uddin, M. (2020, January 10). Pakistan's National Electric Vehicle Policy: Charging towards the future. Retrieved from <https://theicct.org/pakistans-national-electric-vehicle-policy-charging-towards-the-future/>

²⁸ <https://mocc.gov.pk/ProjectDetail/M2QzOWJmMjUtTU3MC00NmFkLWE4YmMtZDFhMmRlOGU2NGRh>

²⁹ <https://tbtp.gov.pk/protected-areas-initiative.php>

job creation, and conservation efforts. The Sindh government has implemented the REDD program to reduce carbon emissions in the region.³⁰

9. However, climate change disproportionately affects women in Pakistan, especially those in rural³¹ areas reliant on agriculture, with 80% of women facing displacement.³² In 2023, 650,000 pregnant women lacked healthcare access, resulting in outdoor childbirth.³³ Eight million girls and women lacked basic menstrual hygiene products and toilets, exacerbating gender inequalities and limiting education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Climate-induced displacement increased the risk of gender-based violence, leading to child marriages for food during climate-induced starvation worldwide.³⁴
10. A holistic approach has been adopted to advance climate change commitment:
 - a) Pakistan's 2021 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)³⁵ signifies a transformative shift in climate action, emphasizing innovation and inclusivity. Key initiatives include the Recharge Pakistan Program targeting water recharge, flood risk mitigation, and ecosystem resilience, along with a commitment to expanding protected areas.
 - b) Pakistan pledges a 15% unconditional emission reduction by 2030, with an additional 35% reduction conditional on climate finance. Strategies include a focus on renewable energy, eco-friendly transportation, and reduced coal reliance.³⁶
 - c) NDC 2021 introduces the National Action Plan (NAP) for decarbonization and green growth at the provincial level, initiated in August 2022.³⁷
 - d) Signing the Global Methane Pledge in 2021, Pakistan aims for a 30% reduction in methane emissions by 2030.³⁸ A long-term, low-emissions development strategy (LTS) is underway in response to global climate agreements.
 - e) Conversion from imported coal-based power plants to local coal or solar.³⁹
 - f) Women's empowerment aligns with climate goals through initiatives like the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Afforestation Project and the Ehsaas Emergency Cash. The Government is developing a Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) to integrate women and youth into climate action, addressing gaps and enhancing coordination. The revised Nationally

³⁰ Government of Sindh, Environment, Climate Change and Coastal Development Department, Directorate of Climate Change (2022) Retrieved from https://docc.sindh.gov.pk/files/DoCC/Sindh%20Climate%20Change%20Policy_June%202022.pdf

³¹ Ranjitha Puskur, Avni Mishra. (October 4, 2022). "Rural women in Pakistan are the most affected by 'apocalyptic' floods." <https://gender.cgjar.org/news/rural-women-pakistan-are-most-affected-apocalyptic-floods>

³² Zainab Waheed. "Climate Change's greatest victims are women and girls." <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/blog/climate-changes-greatest-victims-are-women-and-girls>

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Pakistan. (2021). Pakistan Updated NDC 2021. Retrieved from <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Pakistan%20Updated%20NDC%202021.pdf>

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ <https://www.ccacoalition.org/partners/pakistan>

³⁹ Enerdata (2022). Pakistan will convert imported coal-based power plants to local coal or solar <https://www.enerdata.net/publications/daily-energy-news/pakistan-will-convert-imported-coal-based-power-plants-local-coal-or-solar.html>.

Determined Contributions (NDCs) of Pakistan also feature a focused plan and strategy for the integration of women and youth in comprehensive climate action.⁴⁰

11. The formulation of effective measures for climate action and awareness necessitates a comprehensive and coordinated approach, specifically addressing the critical challenges posed by human rights and climate change in Pakistan. The following recommendations outline specific actions that can be adopted:

I. Nationwide Climate Action Initiatives:

- Conduct nationwide surveys to assess the perspectives and capabilities of key partners.
- Establish an initiative for climate change education based on survey findings.

II. Public Awareness and Education:

- Increase public awareness of energy and water conservation, emphasizing climate change impacts on biodiversity and forest ecosystems.⁴¹
- Integrate climate change topics into formal education through public-private partnerships, student involvement, and community mobilization.⁴²
- Enhance environmental education programs to include awareness of aerosol pollution.

III. Sustainable Transportation Practices:

- Promote regular vehicle maintenance, enforce strict emission standards, and encourage the adoption of fuel-efficient and electric vehicles as per the Electric Vehicle Policy-2020.⁴³
- Explore the use of biofuels for local transportation to enhance environmental sustainability.

IV. Targeted Public Outreach and Collaboration:

- Promote climate change awareness through targeted public outreach and education.
- Foster collaboration with the private sector and prioritize raising awareness as a key governmental initiative.

V. Gender-Responsive Approaches:

- Incorporate a gender-responsive approach, recognizing women's specific needs and ensuring their participation in decision-making.

⁴⁰ National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) (2022) Climate Equity: Women as Agents of Change. Retrieved from <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/pk/CLIMATE-EQUITY-Women-as-Agent-of-Change.pdf>

⁴¹ Teaching the Future. (2023). Report: Teaching the future – climate, citizenship and digital teaching – curriculum and pedagogical guidelines. Retrieved from <https://teachingthefuture.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Teaching-the-future-%E2%80%93-curriculum-report.pdf>

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Lee, J.; Baig, F.; Talpur, M.A.H.; Shaikh, S. Public Intentions to Purchase Electric Vehicles in Pakistan. *Sustainability* 2021, *13*, 5523. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13105523>

- Promote gender equality across society and integrate gender perspectives into climate policies to safeguard women's rights and foster sustainable development.⁴⁴

VI. Comprehensive National, Regional, and Global Strategies:

- Establish a strong national framework addressing the intersection of human rights and climate change.
- Reinforce environmental laws, implement comprehensive climate change policies, and tailor national strategies to address vulnerabilities of marginalized communities.
- Invest in capacity-building programs, awareness campaigns, and social protection programs for vulnerable populations.⁴⁵
- Encourage regional collaboration and knowledge-sharing initiatives to address shared climate challenges.⁴⁶
- Advocate for increased international climate finance, equitable distribution of climate funds, and technology transfer through global cooperation.⁴⁷
- Engage in international forums to raise awareness about the human rights implications of climate change and advocate for stronger integration of human rights considerations in global climate policies.

In view of the above, the success of addressing the critical challenges in Pakistan depends on a collaborative, multi-level approach that recognizes the interdependence of human rights and climate change. Implementing these recommendations will contribute to sustainable and equitable development in the country and beyond.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ Pakistan's Domestic Implementation of its International Human Rights Obligations. <https://www.pc.gov.pk/uploads/report/Domestic.pdf>

⁴⁵United Nations Development Programme. Climate Equity: Women as Agents of Change.

<https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/pk/CLIMATE-EQUITY-Women-as-Agent-of-Change.pdf>

⁴⁶ Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan. National Climate Change Policy. <https://mocc.gov.pk/SiteImage/Policy/NCPP%20Report.pdf>

⁴⁷ United Nations Development Programme. Development Advocate Pakistan (Vol. 7).

<https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/pk/DAP-Volume-7-Empowering-our-Youth-English-version-11.pdf>

⁴⁸International Institute for Sustainable Development. Stakeholders Report on SDG Progress and Challenges in Pakistan.

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/stakeholders-report-on-sdg-progress-and-challenges-in-pakistan/>