

NDRMF COP-28 Newsletter

# PAKISTAN PERSPECTIVE

on



COP28

#### **COP Introduction**

Conference of the Parties (COP) is an annual gathering of countries that are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The UNFCCC is an international environmental treaty that was established in 1992 with the goal of addressing climate change and its impacts.

The background of COP can be attributed to the rising acceptance of the necessity of global collaboration to address the challenges posed by climate change. The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 marked the adoption of the UNFCCC where nations recognized the scientific consensus about the human-induced nature of climate change and the necessity of collective action.

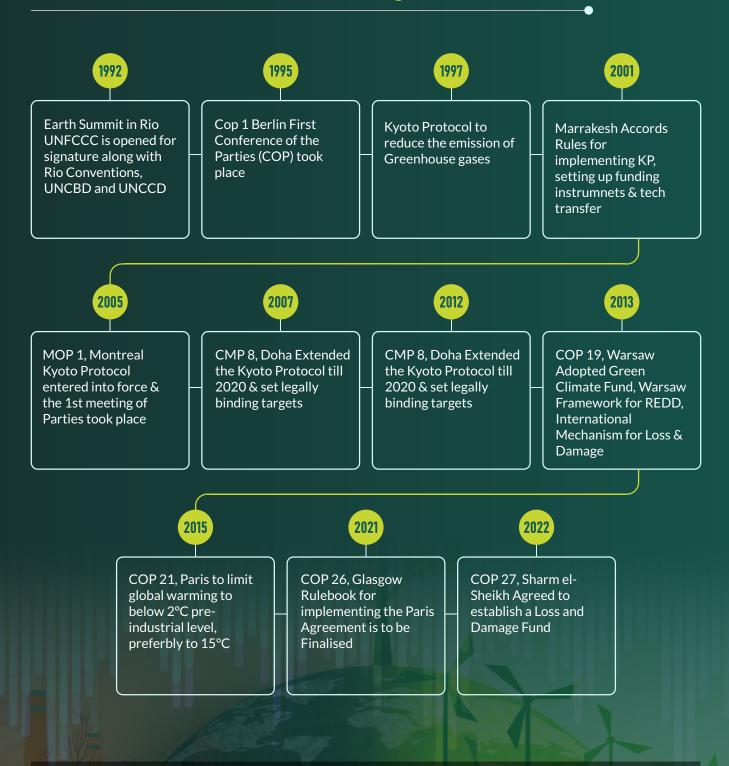
The first COP took place in Berlin, Germany in 1995, and since then, it has been held annually in different locations around the world.

The COP serves as a platform for countries to come together and discuss global efforts to combat climate change, negotiate agreements, take decisions and set targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Since then, COP meetings have played a crucial role in shaping international climate policy. Key milestones include the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 that established binding emission reduction targets for developed countries, and the Paris Agreement in 2015, which set the goal of limiting global warming to well below 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels.

The government officials, scientists, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders are on the same platform to discuss climate-related issues, share knowledge and experiences, and work towards finding solutions, in the COP summit. The urgency with which the world must deal with climate change and its effects on ecosystems, economies, and communities has increased the significance of these conferences.

## **Milestones of Climate Change Conferences**







The 27th United Nations climate change conference (COP 27), took place in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, from November 6 to November 18, 2022. In order to reaffirm the agreements made in the Paris Agreement, the COP 27 was held with the theme "Together for Implementation".

#### The five key take away messages from the COP 27 includes:



## Establishing a dedicated fund for Loss and Damage

A breakthrough agreement to provide loss and damage assistance for vulnerable nations severely affected by floods, droughts, and other climate disasters.

#### A clear intention to maintain 1.5 °C within reach

Countries reaffirmed their dedication to keeping the increase in global temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels at COP27. Emphasized to be is in a crucial decade for climate action.





#### Accountability for Businesses and Institutions

This new phase of implementation entails a renewed emphasis on accountability for the commitments made by industries, corporations, businesses and organizations. In 2023, UN Climate Change will focus on the transparency of commitments from organizations and institutions.

#### **Financial Support Mobilization for Developing Countries**

From mitigation to adaptation to loss and damage to climate technology needs sufficient funding in order to function properly and produce the desired outcomes. On this crucial issue, COP27 established a pathway to direct more general financial flows in the direction of low-emissions development and climate resilience. The COP 27 demonstrated that at least USD 4-6 trillion of investments are anticipated to be needed annually for the world to transition to a low-carbon economy.





#### Move towards Implementation

The decisions made during COP27 reflect a strong emphasis on implementation; that they seeking to boost countries' efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce impact of irreversible consequences of climate change.





#### **Loss and Damage Fund**

- COP27, held in Sharm El Sheik in Egypt marked a significant turning point in the push to create loss and damage fund. It was one of the main topics of discussion at the conference and after intense negotiations a deal was finally struck. A significant step forward for climate justice has been made with the agreement to compensate countries and communities suffering from the severe effects of climate change.
- The aim of the Loss and Damage Fund is to provide financial assistance to poorer nations as they deal with the negative consequences that arise 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 fund up and running.
- The financing of the new Loss and Damage Fund is still yet to to be ironed out. As it stands, it's unclear where this money will come from and how the fund will be aligned with existing UNFCCC funds. For example, will the financing for the Loss and Damage Fund be redirected from other funds and by repurposing money that was originally set aside for climate change mitigation measures?
- Although it is generally accepted that developing countries who are adversely affected by the unavoidable effects of climate change would be the Loss and Damage Fund's beneficiaries, the precise scope is being figured out
- Subsequently, the transitional committee in its 5 th meeting in Dubai, agreed on hosting of the Lost and Damage fund in World Bank for fiscal four years. However, questions relating to provision of additional funding for the Fund, eligibility of countries remains unresolved.

#### **About COP 28**



The U.A.E. will host the 28th Annual Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) from 30 November to 12 December 2023 at Expo City Dubai.

COP28 will continue the discussion from Sharm El Sheikh. specifically integrating business and private sector stakeholders into the conversation more so than in any previous COP. As recent COPs have highlighted, the private sector has a key role to play in creating new technologies to mitigate and reverse the effects of climate change, and in committing to reduce and ultimately replace activities that contribute to the deterioration of the environment and global temperature rises. The U.A.E. government plans to include the private sector in the COP discussions in a meaningful and practical manner that leads to tangible, lifesaving climate change results.



The U.A.E. plans to leave its mark on the COP process by ensuring that COP28 is impactful on all fronts, including mitigation, adaptation, finance, and loss and damage. Previous COPs have united governments in action around climate change, but the goal COP28 is to unite everyone in action. COP21 in 2015 which resulted in the Paris Agreement is often lauded as the most impactful COP. With the planned first Global Stock take since Paris, COP28 is expected to make its profound mark in the climate action landscape. The U.A.E. government plans to distinguish this COP from previous ones through several critical agenda items.

#### Following are a few key elements that highlight the differences:

- The U.A.E. has called for COP28 to be a "COP for all and a COP of action." This COP will aim to integrate private sector stakeholders in discussions alongside government leaders. Additionally, public and private entities will make tangible commitments, announcements, and financial pledges at COP28.
- This year's COP will feature much more industry participation than in previous COPs.
- The "Blue" and "Green" zones of COP28 will seamlessly integrate from a logistical standpoint, enabling industry participation in important conversations central to COP.
- COP28 will serve as the culmination of the first two-year Global Stock take since the Paris agreement.
- COP28 will be the first comprehensive assessment of global progress to mitigate climate change under the Paris Agreement.

- The Global Stock take is expected to show that the world is off track across the board.
- The inclusion of the oil and gas sector as well as stakeholders from the renewable energy sector will ensure private sector engagement in substantive discussions regarding responsible, phased energy transition.
- The Global South will be well represented at COP28. The U.A.E. recognizes that climate change is a global phenomenon, and that all voices must be brought to the table. Operationalizing "loss and damage" agreements from COP 27 will be key.
- Climate finance will be front and center in an effort to meet the need for funding the energy transition.
- Significant increases in renewable energy, hydrogen, oil and gas decarbonization, will take center stage.



#### **COP 28 Thematic Program**

The COP28 thematic program aims to bring together a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including all levels of government, business and investor, civil society, young people, frontline communities, indigenous peoples, and others, around specific solutions that must be scaled up this decade in order to keep global average temprature within limits of 1.5 degrees, mobilize large-scale financial resources, and increase resilience. This is an indicators of answer to the Global Stock take, which looked at global climate action and support, identified gaps, and collaborated to come up with solutions for 2030 and beyond.



## **COP28 Themes - Pakistan's Remarkable Commitments**

#### **Pioneering Climate Action**

In its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for climate action in 2021. Pakistan has set forth an audacious vision to combat climate challenges. With an unwavering determination, Pakistan aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15% through its domestic resources and an impressive 35% with the support of international grants by 2030. Moreover, the nation aspires to transition to 60% renewable energy and embrace 30% electric vehicles by 2030. An equally bold step involves banning coal imports while expanding nature-based solutions.



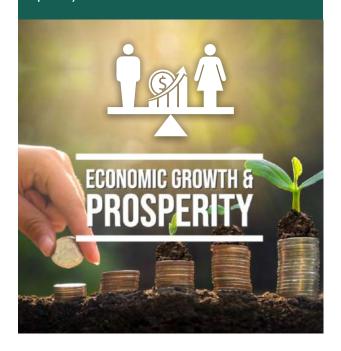
#### **Championing Health Recovery and Peace**

National Health Vision 2025 envisions improving the well-being of all Pakistanis, with a particular focus on women and children. It aims to provide financial protection and universal access to high-quality, essential health services, tailored to the needs of vulnerable populations, all while reinforcing responsive and resilient health systems. Given the health, population and climate challenges, Pakistan underscores and acknowledged the implications for regional integrations.



#### **Economic Prosperity and Gender Equality**

Pakistan's vision is to foster economic growth through expanding trade linkages with various global partners, including the EU, Russia, North America, East Asia, and its neighbors, with a special emphasis on collaboration with China, Central Asia, the Middle East, and India. Concurrently, Pakistan has demonstrated its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by ratifying numerous international human rights conventions. It has also introduced progressive pro-women legislation across all four provinces, leading to an impressive 57% reduction in gender parity.



#### **Transforming Energy and Industry**

Pakistan sets forth an ambitious goal to reduce its estimated emissions by a substantial 50% by 2030. Of this ambitious target, 15% will be achieved through domestic resources, while the remaining 35% relies on international grant financing, amounting to a remarkable USD 101 billion for energy transition. Pakistan's commitment to sustainable development extends to indigenous communities, as it has initiated numerous community development projects dedicated to their welfare.



#### Multifaceted Urbanization and Transport Initiatives

With the highest urbanization rate in South Asia, Pakistan recognizes the pressing need for organized and financially independent city governments. As a response, Pakistan is actively involved in the development of planned cities, infrastructure improvements, green building practices, and strict adherence to building codes. Furthermore, extensive programs have been launched across cities to enhance transportation systems and urban life.

#### Empowering Youth, Advancing Education

Pakistan, with a burgeoning youth population, has introduced an array of initiatives to empower its young population. These encompass paid internships for graduates, technical and vocational training programs, and provincial, national, and international scholarships, reaffirming the nation's commitment to nurturing its future leaders.

#### Preserving Nature and Ecosystems

Pakistan's National Conservation Strategy prioritizes Institutional Strengthening, Mass Awareness Campaigns, and the provision of Legal and Economic Incentives to ensure the conservation of natural and man-made ecosystems, underscoring the nation's dedication to environmental preservation.

#### Sustainable Food, Agriculture, and Water Policies

Pakistan is fully dedicated to implementing policies aimed at eradicating poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. The nation aspires to promote sustainable food production systems, covering crops, livestock, and fisheries, with an ambitious target of achieving an average growth rate of 4% per annum. Emphasis is also placed on making agriculture more productive, profitable, climate-resilient, and competitive, all while prioritizing water conservation.

#### NDRMF Role and Scope for COP28

NDRMF also conducted several side events at the COP 26. The events program primarily included topics such as Pakistan's Ecosystem Restoration initiatives, depicting the objectives and achievements of the country, describing barriers and opportunities for Financing Nature based solutions and inclusiveness in the processes. The events comprised of moderated sessions, panel discussions and question & answer sessions.

- Technical support in development of Country Stance for COP-28
- Technical expertise to the COP 28 Pakistan delegation in relation to Climate Change, Climate
- Finance, Carbon Markets, Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster Risk Financing etc.
- Engage stakeholders via Pavilion at COP28 and arrange Seminar, Workshop etc.
- Showcase NDRMF interventions and Success stories for resource mobilization
- Engage and arrange Private Sector dialogues on Climate Change and Carbon Markets.
- Showcase and highlight GoP Climate Change related intervention.
- Speaking opportunities: Participate in events to report GoP climate action and highlight national commitments towards addressing climate change.
- Enable youth to participate in COP28 and develop their careers (mentorship, workshops, etc.)

NDRMF mandate for "Making Pakistan Resilience" sharply aligns with the over-arching goals and objectives of COP. In pursuant to its mandate, NDRMF has taken the lead in working with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MOCC) and assisting other Government and non-government entities for effective COP participation.

In this regard, NDRMF is organizing a number of events at the COP. Focus of NDRMF participation will be on Lost and Damage Fund, Climate Finance, Capacity Building and mobilization of Private Sector for Climate action.

#### What is stake for Pakistan?

**Are We Ready?** 

## Bilal Anwar

CEO-National Disaster Risk Management Fund



## Two key messages clearly stood out from the recently concluded United Nation's Global Stocktake Synthesis Report:

- 1. While action on climate change is proceeding, much more is needed now on all fronts.
- 2. To strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, governments need to support systems transformations that mainstream climate resilience and low GHG emissions development. Against this globally agreed set of conclusions, COP28 presents a critical opportunity to put the world on sustainable and low emissions pathways.

From developing countries perspective this COP session is even more crucial. Many of the COP27 decisions and policy work laid out should in principle be conclusively accomplished in UAE. COP 28 will be practical demonstration of adhering to the principles of inclusivity, climate justice and facilitating financial and technical support to the developing countries. And catch up on the promises and commitments made in the previous COPs as well as other international development forums.

It may be emphasized that out of the USD 100 billion pledged by developed countries to the developing countries annually, so far only USD 80 billion has been dispersed since the Paris Agreement in 2015. The financing gaps remains humongous and are widening.

Pakistan being one of the top ten climatically vulnerable and at-risk country has not been able to greatlybenefit from the concessional international climate finance to support its climate policy actions such as the implementation of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). More starkly, even marginally accomplish the rehabilitation and resilience actions arising out of the last year floods and have no financing readily available for its recently concluded National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

Unrealistic high hopes are pinned to the coming into the action of the Loss and Damage Fund (L&D) in UAE. L&D fund must become operational sooner but it must be aligned with the needs of the developing countries. A number of contentious issues still remained to be addressed including the fundamental question to ensure that financing for L&D Fund is additional, at scale and sustainability of flow of funding is warranted. Further, it is aligned with its core objective of exclusively financing the areas and geographies which are threatened and damaged due to climate change.

As we may recall that after the devastating floods 2022 in Pakistan, killing over seventeen hundred people and economic losses and damages amounting to over USD 30 billion, Pakistan at COP27 overpoweringly voiced the case for compensation to the developing countries. Pakistan will continue to push for the operationalization of the L&D Fund at COP 28 in pursuant to the principles of compensating the irreversible economic losses and damages due to direct impacts of climate change.

In parallel, Pakistan must lead the narrative and demand for uncluttering the international climate finance system to enhance the flow of climate finance. It is now a common concern that implementation of climate action and policy has been largely undermined due to inherently fragmented international climate finance infrastructure. Developing countries need fast and at scale access to finance to leverage their domestically available public and private capital for climate action and resilience building.

However, this has long been deterred due to characteristic and structural complexities in accessing finance. With L&D Fund becoming live at COP 28 it indeed is a high time that structural and fundamental challenges of the system are meaningfully addressed.

This might be the most effective and operative way of ensuring some form of climate justice for the developing countries to be achieved at COP28.



The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is pleased to actively contribute to COP 28, focusing on mobilizing climate finance to strengthen mitigation and adaptation.

As a nation committed to sustainable development and climate action, the UAE recognizes the urgent need to address the challenges posed by climate change.

By collaborating with NDRMF and other stakeholders we aim to promote resilience, enhance disaster risk management, and drive a sustainable climate-resilient future for our nation and the global community.





#### Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi

UAE Ambassador in Pakistan



Pakistan recognizes the urgent need to address climate change and its impacts on our nation and the global community. Through our commitment to sustainable development and climate action, we are actively working towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy, and building resilience to climate-related risks.

For COP 28 we are looking forward to enhancing climate adaptation, mobilizing climate finance, capacity building, and technology transfer. NDRMF is playing an active role in COP 28 and working towards a sustainable and resilient future and their contribution to global efforts in combating climate change is greatly valued.

#### **Ahmad Irfan Aslam**

Minister for
Climate Change and Environmental
Coordination

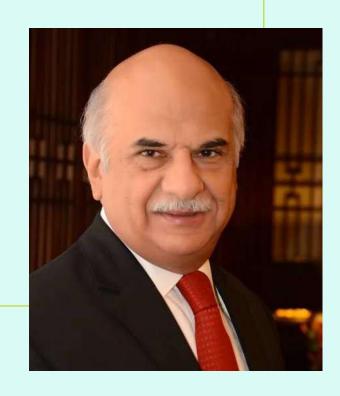


Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Government of Pakistan

In the wake of challenge of global climate action, NDRMF's vision for COP28 emerges as a profound embodiment of our unwavering commitment to a world that is both resilient and sustainable. Drawing inspiration from the milestones achieved at COP27, we are dedicated to bolstering the resilience of Pakistan, a nation particularly vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change.

NDRMF passionately advocate for the transformative potential of carbon markets as a driving force behind sustainability. We wholeheartedly champion the establishment of a robust Loss and Damage Fund, recognizing its paramount importance in addressing climate-related challenges. As an indigenous solution for enhancing national resilience, extend an open invitation to share our expertise and lessons learned.

We maintain an open-door policy, aiming to facilitate global actions and decisions with localized solutions, ultimately serving as a bridge to translate global commitments into meaningful actions. NDRMF eagerly anticipate sharing our experiences and knowledge with the world, fostering mutual benefit and progress.



#### **Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan**

Chairman NDRMF,
Deputy Chairman Planning Commission





Yong Ye
Country Director
Asian Development Bank

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), as Asia and the Pacific's climate bank, has been using innovative strategies and financing to assist Pakistan tackle climate challenges including through its support to the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) and Federal Flood Commission (FFC, MoWR) to strengthen country's resilience, adaptation, and mitigation capacities.

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ADB is actively contributing to COP 28 through regional and country operations. ADB is partnering Pakistan to increase climate finance, disaster resilience, transition to clean energy, and build institutional capacity to accelerate climate action and promote sustainable development in the country.

Through our extensive experience and expertise in climate-centered development, we aim to stimulate innovation and create a more sustainable and climate resilient future for all.



The World Bank recognizes the challenge that climate change poses to Pakistan's development and growth.

As part of our country strategy and program, we are committed to enhancing the resilience of Pakistan to climate impacts by supporting climate-smart investments, strengthening disaster risk management systems, and mobilizing resources through our technical and financial expertise.

By working closely with NDRMF and other partners, we aim to accelerate climate action, support vulnerable communities, and achieve the goals set forth in COP 28.





#### **Najy Benhassine**

Country Director
The World Bank



**Muhammad Fawad Hayat** 

Head Climate Change National Disaster Risk Management Fund-NDRMF



In the grand tapestry of climate action, our vision for COP28 shines brightly. Building upon the successes of COP27, we at NDRMF are dedicated to strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities, driving innovation, and mobilizing vital financial resources for climate action.

Our collaborative spirit knows no bounds as we engage communities and ensure inclusivity. In addition, we're passionate about the potential of carbon markets to drive sustainability and advocate fervently for the creation of a robust Loss and Damage Fund, recognizing its significance in addressing climate challenges.

Let's work together to create a world that thrives in the face of adversity.



The most climate-impacted nations like Pakistan have all eyes fixed on COP28. It is going to be a big test for world leaders to take concrete and decisive steps to combat the existential threat to the world. It is a moment to realize the long-term

commitments made under the Paris Agreement.

The Loss and Damage fund is the most significant first step and an opportunity for climate justice to take hold. The future of the 'Loss and Damage Fund' is in the hands of world leaders, and much depends on how successfully they reach an agreement to operationalize the fund – as early as the climate crisis demands.

Islamic Relief shares the same purpose with NDRMF in fostering partnerships to formulate a roadmap for garnering support for climate change challenges in Pakistan.





#### **Asif Sherazi**

Country Director
Islamic Relief Pakistan



**Syed Javid Gillani** 

Executive Director

Muslim Hands Pakistan



Although Pakistan contributes minimally to environmental degradation and yet we regard climate change as a crucial national security concern. Conferences like COP28 play a critical role in. The significance of COP28 lies in its potential to drive global cooperation, shape climate policies, and pave the way for collective action towards addressing global climate change, discuss strategies to be climate resilient and last but certainly not the least a more sustainable future. Muslim Hands truly understands and believes in creating a "Climate Friendly World" with collaborative approach.

Muslim Hands has been working relentlessly to play its role by c supporting eco-friendly and green initiatives and advocating for climate-conscious policies, and raising awareness within communities about the importance of environmental stewardship. We believe active participation in local and global discussions on climate issues can help influence broader changes in policy and behavior which is the utmost need of the hour.

We have full assurance that the commitment, zeal and dedication with which we are working with NDMRF will truly be instrumental in creating a dynamic partnership model towards building a safe, brighter and greener future for generation to come.

COP28 is a pivotal moment for the world, marking a critical juncture in our collective efforts to combat climate change and achieve transformative global climate action. The event's ambitious agenda calls for inclusivity, transparency, pragmatism, and results-oriented actions. In this context, PHF has been at the forefront of fostering collaboration, information sharing, and coordinated response efforts.

NDRMF's role in financing and supporting projects that enhance Pakistan's resilience to disasters and climate related challenges is invaluable.

We are confident that our partnership with NDRMF will serve as a model for effective collaboration, ultimately benefitting the people of Pakistan in their quest for a more sustainable and resilient future.





Country DirectorPakistan Humanitarian Forum





The Pakistan NDC's and NAP represent important elements of countries' responses to climate change, in line with the Paris Agreement, The two are interrelated, NDCs communicate the goals and targets that are envisioned for adaptation, while NAP elaborate how adaptation will be planned, implemented and monitored. As such, the NAP can function as the operational vehicle for implementing adaptation-related commitments that are included in an NDC.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC's) is a climate action plan

Signatories to the Paris Agreement are required to establish NDCs and update every five years.

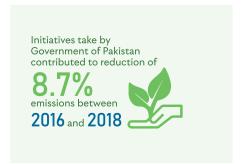
Pakistan NDCs showcases GoP's progress in climate action that ranges from policy and programs on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to technology-based interventions.

Pak-NDC outlines a broad range of potential adaptation and mitigation measures. These are the measures that can lead Pakistan to a climate compatible and low carbon development pathway, provided adequate technical and financial resources are made available by global partners NDCs international development and finance institutions.

Pakistan intends to set a cumulative ambitious conditional target of overall 50% reduction of its projected emissions by 2030, with 15% from the country's own resources and 35% subject to provision of international grant finance that would require USD 101 billion just for energy transition. To reach the target, Pakistan aims to shift to 60% renewable energy, and 30% electric vehicles by 2030 and completely ban imported coal.



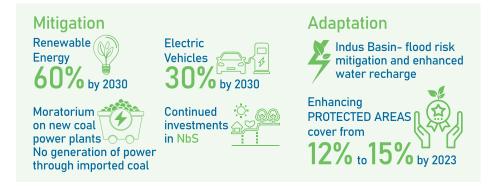








**High Priority Actions** 



#### **Pakistan National Adaptation Plan**

Pakistan created its first-ever seven-year National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for the years 2023 to 2030. The Pakistan National Adaptation Plan (NAP) provides a framework for implementing adaptation, promoting inclusivity, and facilitating collaboration among different stakeholders, and serves as an effective tool for climate finance mobilization.

The plan intends to address the country's adverse impacts from climate change. Having the fifth-highest population in the world and producing less than 1% of global CO2 emissions, Pakistan is still currently one of the top 10 countries suffering the most from climate change. Pakistan's NAP aims to promote sustainable growth, build collaboration, ensure inclusivity, and foster resilient development. It provides an overview of the country's climate risks and vulnerabilities, and of the NAP process, vision, and principles.

#### The plan lays out an adaptation strategy and priorities in seven key areas:



**Management** 

**Social Inclusion** 

## **Guiding Principles of NAP**

#### **Integrate Climate Adaptation** Make it a core part of all decisions **Think Strategically** Plan for the changing climate across generations **Make Evidence-Based Decisions** Rely on scientific data and local knowledge **Promote Nature-Based Solutions** Prioritize nature protection for climate change **Act Locally** Understand and address local risks and opportunities **Leave No One Behind** Prioritize inclusivity and support vulnerable groups Think Ahead and Stay Flexible Proactively adapt to changing conditions **Address Inequity** Choose actions that promote social justice **Coordinate and Collaborate** Partner for effective adaptation efforts **Build Capacity & Knowledge** Enhance adaptation planning and understanding













