

UN CLIMATE ACTION: PROMISES VS. REALITY

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(Views expressed in the brief are those of the author, and do not represent those of ISSI)



Climate change is the leading environmental concern for the global community today. The way scientists and policymakers define global environmental problems is complex, ranging from systemic to cumulative.¹ Systemic environmental issues are those that occur because of a change in the global system, like greenhouse gas emissions which impact the whole world. On the other hand, global environmental problems can also be labelled as cumulative, which occur across the globe but are not necessarily linked to a global system.

Despite the devastation caused by climate disasters around the globe, such as the wildfires in Greece and the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan in 2022, countries in the Global North are yet to respond with the urgency that is needed. The progress towards addressing these issues has been unhurried at best. In addition, the Russian-Ukraine war has made countries, such as the United Kingdom backtrack on their pledges to reduce emissions by restarting some of their closed coal-fired power stations to meet their domestic demand.² Hence, further slowing down whatever progress was made since the signing of the Kyoto Protocol.

- 1 B.L. Turner II, Roger E. Kasperson, William B. Meyer, Kirstin M. Dow, Dominic Golding, Jeanne X. Kasperson, Robert C. Mitchell and Samuel J. Ratick, "Two Types Of Global Environmental Change: Definitional And Spatial Scale Issues in Their Human Dimensions," pp.14–22, *Arizona State University*, 1990, <https://www.public.asu.edu/~bturner4/Turner%20et%20al%201990.pdf>
- 2 "Emergency Coal Power Plants Used For First Time as UK See Cold Snap," *BBC*, March 7, 2023, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-64879044.amp>

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The UNFCCC was signed by 154 states at the Earth Summit in 1992³ to provide an international platform to address climate change. Under the UNFCCC, the Annual Conference of Parties, or COP in short. While every COP has been a highlight due to its outreach, it has, however, failed to achieve its end goal and has ended with a weak form of agreement, vowing to come up with an achievable target with good results in the next.

Under the banner of UNFCCC, several international agreements have been made, most significantly the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

Kyoto Protocol: The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997 but was not enforced until 2005 as all countries that accounted for 55% of global emissions were required to ratify it.⁴ One of the main reasons behind the failure of the Kyoto Protocol was that developing countries were not required to reduce emissions immediately due to their limited financial capacity.

Most countries in the Global South were limited by their capacity to afford the technology required to reduce emissions effectively and transition into a more environment-friendly future, arguing that the developed countries responsible for the most significant emissions must cut on their emissions first.

The agreement that was heralded as ‘environmentally strong and economically sound’⁵ fell victim to a tug of war between the developing and the developed countries, as the developed countries did not agree with this arrangement. Furthermore, countries with the largest greenhouse gas emissions did not respond to the Kyoto Protocol with a strong level of commitment including the US. The protocol lacked an enforcing mechanism, which could have helped to guarantee cooperation. Eventually, it was time to replace this international treaty with a different one, with the same hope of trying to bring the international community to one page on the issue of climate change.

Paris Agreement: The Paris Agreement was adopted by 196 Parties at COP2 in 2015 and entered into force by 2016.⁶ It has primarily been regarded as an improvement on the Kyoto Protocol agreement,

3 “What is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,” *United Nations Climate Change*, <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/what-is-the-united-nations-framework-convention-on-climate-change>

4 “Kyoto Protocol Comes Into Force,” *Guardian*, February 16, 2005, <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2005/feb/16/sciencenews.environment#:~:text=It%20was%20first%20negotiated%20in,to%20the%20deal%20last%20year>

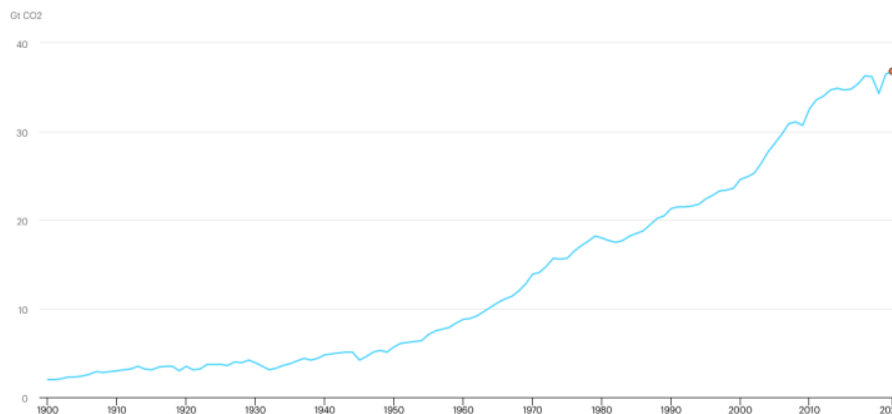
5 Francesco Bassetti, “Success or Failure? The Kyoto Protocol’s Troubled Legacy,” *Foresight*, December 8, 2022, <https://www.climateforesight.eu/articles/success-or-failure-the-kyoto-protocols-troubled-legacy/>

6 “The Paris Agreement,” *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*,

however, like its predecessor; the Paris Agreement over the years has also failed to deliver on its expectations. Surprisingly, this agreement was signed while knowing that the pledges made would not be enough to meet the temperature targets suggested by the scientific community to avert more significant climate disasters.

Under the Paris Agreement, Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) have been made to achieve the target of reducing emissions for each country party to the agreement. Moreover, they were made through consultation with UNFCCC to ensure the plan would be practical and achievable. Moreover, technology transfer under the Paris Agreement has been weak because it has yet to provide incentives for the private sector to participate in the transfer of environmentally sound technologies,⁷ thus making it another shortcoming of the international agreement to address climate change.

The world is not on track to meet its INDC targets, and even if they do meet those, predictions show an 80% chance of temperatures rising around 2°C by 2060.⁸ According to the International Energy Agency, energy-related CO₂ emissions grew by 0.9% in 2022, as shown in the graph below.



Source: *Global CO₂ Emissions from Energy Combustion and Industrial Processes, 1900-2022*.⁹

https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement?gclid=Cj0KCQjwz8emBhDrARIsANNJjS4BSIO2dsyKHGEY3Mu6_HR2k8gX6_qfD4jvBwMuzTjWJ-BbPKieA1gAaAgCwEALw_wcB

- 7 Nicola Sharman, "Inter-State Climate Technology Transfer Under the UNFCCC: A Benefit-sharing Approach," *Review of European, Comparative & International Environmental Law*, July 11, 2022, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/reel.12454>
- 8 Noah Diffenbaugh, "Earth Likely To Cross Critical Climate Thresholds Even If Emissions Decline, Stanford Study Finds," *Stanford University*, January 30, 2023, <https://news.stanford.edu/2023/01/30/ai-predicts-global-warming-will-exceed-1-5-degrees-2030s/>
- 9 "Global CO₂ Emissions From Energy Combustion And Industrial Processes 1900-2022," *International Energy Agency*, Paris, <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/global-co2-emissions-from-energy-combustion-and-industrial-processes-1900-2022>

The August 2021 IPCC report expressed great alarm, with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres calling it a code red for humanity.¹⁰ The IPCC report for 2023 further stressed that global warming will exceed 1.5°C during the 21st century and make it harder to achieve below 2°C target. To express alarm, the UN is calling this “an era of global boiling”¹¹ rather than calling it global warming because temperatures are soaring, with July 2023 declared as Earth’s hottest month ever recorded. With multiple cases of wildfires in different parts of the world, the UN is trying to use stronger language to beckon countries into taking more serious action to address this global issue.

Furthermore, there are gaps between projected emissions from implemented policies and those from INDCs. China’s INDCs are committed to carbon neutrality by 2060 but have made multiple coal-fired power plants in other countries. We are falling behind the levels needed to meet climate goals in various regions.

The G20

The G20 countries account for 78% of overall emissions, an alarming number.¹² Moreover, 15 have yet to make a net-zero carbon emissions plan.

1. The EU has made significant movement towards meeting its targets. However, environmentalists argue that this may not be enough in this new era of ‘global boiling.’¹³ The EU made a collective plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 55% until 2030.¹⁴ Still, the recent trend of coal power plants being restarted to address the energy crisis triggered by the sanctions placed on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine is putting climate commitments made by the EU into doubt.

¹⁰ “Secretary-General Calls Latest IPCC Climate Report ‘Code Red for Humanity’, Stressing ‘Irrefutable’ Evidence of Human Influence,” *United Nations*, August 9, 2021, <https://press.un.org/en/2021/sgsm20847.doc.htm>

¹¹ Victoria Bisset, “The U.N. Warns ‘An Era of Global Boiling’ Has Started. What Does That Mean?” *Washington Post*, July 29, 2023, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/07/29/un-what-is-global-boiling/>

¹² “Cut Global Emissions By 7.6 Percent Every Year For Next Decade To Meet 1.5°C Paris Target - UN Report,” *United Nations Environment Programme*, November 26, 2019, <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/cut-global-emissions-76-percent-every-year-next-decade-meet-15degc>

¹³ “Era Of Global Boiling Has Arrived,’ Says UN Chief As July Set To Be Hottest Month On Record,” *Guardian*, July 27, 2023, <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2023/jul/27/scientists-july-world-hottest-month-record-climate-temperatures>

¹⁴ “Milestone or Stumbling Stone?,” *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung*, March 30, 2022, <https://justclimate.fes.de/e/milestone-or-stumbling-stone-fit-for-55-russia-ukraine-war>

2. Under the Biden administration, the US has pledged to reduce 50%-52% of their 2005 emission levels by 2030 as part of their NDC to the Paris Agreement.¹⁵ However, like the other G20 nations, the US needs to take further action to meet its emission targets as their policies at the moment are insufficient.¹⁶
3. According to the Climate Change Performance Index, Russia continues to underperform in lowering its emissions. In 2020, only 3.06% of Russia's total energy was generated from renewable sources.¹⁷ Furthermore, the country has adopted policies that have promoted fossil fuel extraction and export, which makes reaching the Paris Agreement target even more difficult.
4. China has been scrutinised for exporting pollution through its Belt and Road Initiative through projects that have proven harmful to the environment through deforestation, threatening the biodiversity of areas.¹⁸
5. India is the third largest emitter after China and the US and has recently become the most populous nation in the world, has a massive responsibility to make sure the country's future is aligned with the objectives set in the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC. The country is being pushed by global leaders to opt for a different development route compared to the majority of the Western countries, but India, along with other developing nations argues that they should be allowed to develop in the same manner as the developed countries, before converting to more climate-friendly strategies.
6. Brazil is home to 60% of the Amazon Forest and its main source of emissions is deforestation. Brazil's pledges to reduce its emissions have been seen to lack credibility as the Bolsonaro administration duration saw a sharp increase in deforestation levels and a reduction in science and environmental agency's budgets. The new administration is expected to be more proactive in its approach to meeting its Paris Agreement targets.

¹⁵ "The United States of America Nationally Determined Contribution," *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, April 15, 2021, <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/United%20States%20NDC%20April%2021%202021%20Final.pdf>

¹⁶ "USA, Country Summary," *Climate Action Tracker*, August 16, 2022, <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/usa/#:~:text=Insufficient-,The%20US%20will%20need%20to%20implement%20additional%20policies%20to%20reach,targets%20under%20the%20Copenhagen%20Accord>

¹⁷ "Russian Federation," *Climate Change Performance Index*, 2023, <https://ccpi.org/country/rus/>

¹⁸ "WWF and Greening the Belt and Road Initiative," *World Wildlife Fund*, November 2, 2017, <https://www.wwf.org.hk/en/?19680/Feature-Story-WWF-and-Greening-the-Belt-and-Road-Initiative>

7. Canada's Emissions Reduction Plan is intended to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and reach net-zero emissions by 2050.¹⁹ However, the government's actions show otherwise, with them starting oil projects like Bay du Nord that will produce 200,000 barrels of oil per day starting in 2028.²⁰ This decision goes against the International Energy Agency's 2021²¹ report that new oil and gas development will push the planet towards further increase in temperatures.
8. Japan has also been subject to making weak proposals to lower its emissions. They stated that they would continue to meet their previous pledge, created in 2015, of decreasing emissions by 26% in 2030, despite the UN repeatedly asking states to be more ambitious with their commitments.

Lessons from COP 27

COP 27 in 2022 concluded with the breakthrough of creating the 'Loss and Damage Fund'²² that is dedicated to financially assisting countries most vulnerable to climate change and immediate assistance in the face of a climate disaster, such as Pakistan due to its catastrophic floods in 2022. The Loss and Damage Fund was hailed as a significant achievement because it was the first time the need for financial assistance was recognized as a step and policy option towards climate justice.²³

The general atmosphere for the next COP is being gauged as hopeful but taken with a grain of salt as average temperatures continue to rise and every natural disaster has fingerprints of climate change.

¹⁹ "2030 Emissions Reduction Plan – Canada's Next Steps for Clean Air and a Strong Economy," *Environment and Climate Change Canada*, March 29, 2022, <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/03/2030-emissions-reduction-plan--canadas-next-steps-for-clean-air-and-a-strong-economy.html>

²⁰ "Government Accepts Agency's Recommendation on Bay du Nord Development Project, Subject to the Strongest Environmental GHG Condition Ever," *Impact Assessment Agency of Canada*, April 6, 2022, <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/news/2022/04/government-accepts-agencys-recommendation-on-bay-du-nord-development-project-subject-to-the-strongest-environmental-ghg-condition-ever.html>

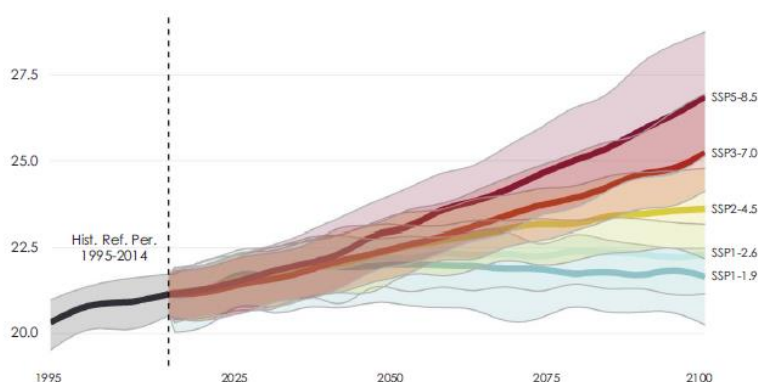
²¹ "Pathway to critical and formidable goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 is narrow but brings huge benefits, according to IEA special report," *International Energy Agency*, May 18, 2021, <https://www.iea.org/news/pathway-to-critical-and-formidable-goal-of-net-zero-emissions-by-2050-is-narrow-but-brings-huge-benefits>

²² "COP27 Reaches Breakthrough Agreement on New "Loss and Damage" Fund for Vulnerable Countries," *United Nations Climate Change*, November 20, 2022, <https://unfccc.int/news/cop27-reaches-breakthrough-agreement-on-new-loss-and-damage-fund-for-vulnerable-countries>

²³ "What is Climate Justice?" *Center for Climate Justice, University of California*, 2022, <https://centerclimatejustice.universityofcalifornia.edu/what-is-climate-justice/#:~:text=Climate%20justice%20connects%20the%20climate,least%20responsible%20for%20the%20problem>

Additionally, the World Bank Group also launched a similar initiative to the Loss and Damage Fund called the ‘Global Shield,’²⁴ a joint initiative by the G7 and V20 (which is represented by the finance ministers of 58 of the countries most vulnerable to climate change). The fund aims to strengthen social protection schemes and climate risk insurance. Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Fiji, Ghana, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Senegal will be the first recipients of “Global Shield Packages.”²⁵

Pakistan played a significant role in COP27 in ushering support for the Loss and Damage Fund.²⁶ The move once more highlighted the privilege Global North has in comparison to the Global South in not just addressing the issue of climate change as they please but also bearing the repercussions of climate change-related devastations.



Source: *Projected Annual Mean Temperatures between 2015 and 2100 in Pakistan.*²⁷

Pakistan has been at the forefront of bearing the brunt of the changing global whether it's in the form of heatwaves, unprecedented rains, or floods. Pakistan is home to the largest number of glaciers outside the Polar Regions;²⁸ an essential source of fresh water for an agriculture-dependent economy.

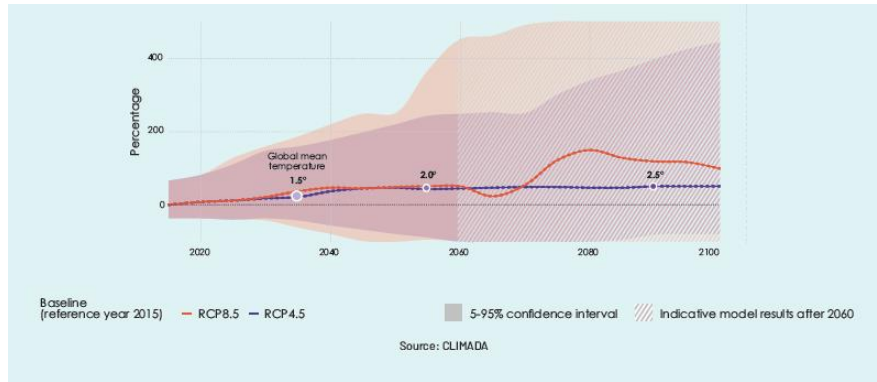
²⁴ “World Bank Group Launches Global Shield Financing Facility to Help Developing Countries Adapt to Climate Change,” *World Bank*, November 14, 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/11/14/world-bank-group-launches-global-shield-financing-facility-to-help-developing-countries-adapt-to-climate-change>

²⁵ “National Adaptation Plan,” *Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination*, 2023, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZjO2EtBo8fgSQBE_IYDIOHueSr0Dk_z6/view

²⁶ “Pakistan Welcomes the Historic Decision of COP27 to Establish the Fund for Loss and Damage,” *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan*, November 20, 2022, <https://mofa.gov.pk/pakistan-welcomes-the-historic-decision-of-cop27-to-establish-the-fund-for-loss-and-damage/>

²⁷ “National Adaptation Plan,” *Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination*, 2023, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZjO2EtBo8fgSQBE_IYDIOHueSr0Dk_z6/view

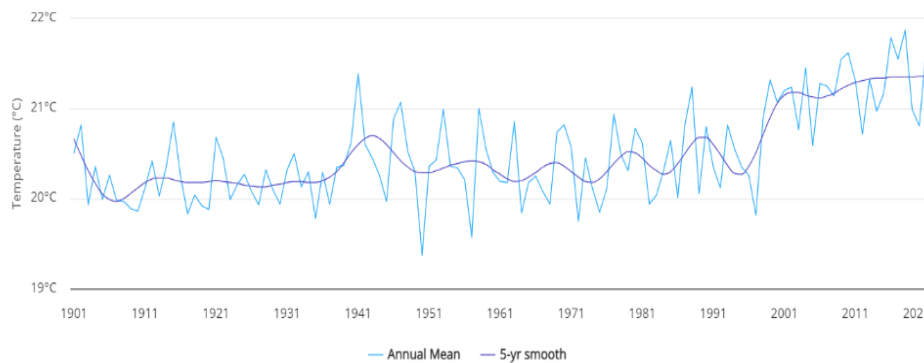
²⁸ “Pakistan Has More Glaciers Than Almost Anywhere On Earth. But They Are At Risk,” *Washington Post*, August 12, 2016, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/pakistan-has-more-glaciers-than-almost-anywhere-on-earth-but-they-are-at-risk/2016/08/11/7a6b4cd4-4882-11e6-8dac-0c6e4acc5b1_story.html



Source: *Projected Impacts of Climate Change, Annual Expected Damage from River Floods in Percentage*²⁹

However, the rising temperatures are accelerating the rate at which these glaciers are melting and diminishing their numbers. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated that approximately by 2100, the glaciers in the Himalayas could shrink by two-thirds.³⁰ The immediate effects of this are being faced by the residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan province in the form of floods and landslides.

The graph below shows the changes in temperature records of Pakistan from 1901 to 2021. The last two decades have shown a sharp rise in temperatures.



Source: *Observed Average Annual Mean-Temperature of Pakistan for 1901-2021*.³¹

Pakistan's contribution to global emissions is almost negligible considering its population, yet it is the most vulnerable to climate change. Pakistan experienced a 0.76°C rise in temperature during the last 40 years, while the temperature in the mountain environment was recorded as 1.5°C.³²

²⁹ "National Adaptation Plan," *Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, 2023*, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZjO2EtBo8fgSQBE_IYDIOHueSr0Dk_z6/view

³⁰ Prof. Mohammed Khaja Qutubuddin, "Melting Glaciers in Pakistan: A Call to Action for the G20 Summit to Address the Situation," *Earth.Org*, April 24, 2023, <https://earth.org/melting-glaciers-in-pakistan/>

³¹ "Pakistan," *Climate Change Knowledge Portal, 2021*, <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/pakistan/climate-data-historical>

In COP27, the Prime Minister of Pakistan made considerable contributions to the climate conference as the vice chair through:

1. Rallying support from all countries for the idea of climate finance which materialised in COP27 in the form of the 'Loss and Damage' fund.
2. Spreading awareness that most countries are not prepared to address environmental changes brought on by climate change, particularly in the Global South.
3. Reviving the concept of climate justice, which had been stalled for several years.
4. Displaying exceptional diplomacy skills in reaching consensus among all participating states on new goals.
5. Being one of the 'pathfinder' countries in the 'Global Shield against Climate Action'³³ programme that is set to support vulnerable countries in need of immediate finance in implementing mitigation and adaptation measures.

Pakistan National Adaptation Plan - 2023

Pakistan's Climate Change Ministry has unveiled an ambitious 'National Adaptation Plan' for 2023-2030, which focuses on at-risk sectors like water resources, agriculture, forestry, disaster preparedness and human health.³⁴ A fund has been placed to help in implementing policies. The plan will also address the migration threat triggered by changing climate. The Plan is seen as an initiative that can encourage other developing states to replicate in their countries and play a more serious role in addressing climate change.

The National Adaptation Plan is a thorough guidebook in steering the country towards effectively addressing climate change and implementing climate finance initiatives. The plan provides a complete overview of the several risks and weaknesses the country faces by categorizing areas of need. Moreover, it aims to involve every collaborator in the efforts towards building resilience against climate-related threats.

³² Chaudhry, Q. Z., A. Mahmood, G. Rasul and M. Afzaal, "Climate Indicators of Pakistan. *Pakistan Meteorological Department, August 22, 2009*, <https://www.pmd.gov.pk/CC%20Indicators.pdf>

³³ "The Global Shield Against Climate Action," *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, April 29, 2023, https://unfccc.int/documents/627984?gclid=CjwKCAjwloynBhBbEiwAGY25dD92nmfeAh4HTnvG1ArlvpTnt62fKJGCIWCV2Tm-N_rDyugrqYB5ARoCNukQAvD_BwE

³⁴ "National Adaptation Plan," *Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, 2023*, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZjO2EtBo8fgSQBE_IYDIOHueSr0Dk_z6/view

The guiding principles for the National Adaptation Plan include placing climate adaptation at the heart of all decision-making while thinking strategically for the future. The decision-making will be based on scientific findings, as well as incorporate domestic information. Furthermore, long-term nature-based solutions will be given priority, which will preserve and protect the local population's interests holistically. The plans designed will be kept flexible, keeping in mind the changing nature of climate, and will ensure that each individual in society is accounted for. Lastly, all stakeholders will be involved in adaptation measures, while simultaneously working on making improvements where possible by utilizing new information.

The plan has been categorized according to what sectors need to be regarded as high priority;³⁵

1. **Agriculture-Water Nexus:** Pakistan is greatly dependent upon it for its economic and social well-being, particularly its rural population. Adaptation policies will focus on providing incentives for farmers to adopt climate-smart methods and improve irrigation methods that will persist through climate disasters.
2. **Natural Capital (Land, Water, and Air):** It contributes around 13-15% to Pakistan's per capita wealth and is under threat from ecosystem changes. Adaptation policies include moving towards sustainable land management, wastewater management and introducing the air pollution-climate change nexus.
3. **Urban Resilience:** Keeping in mind Pakistan's rapidly increasing population, climate change-induced migration needs to be kept in check and nature-based solutions need to be sought to improve land regulation, as well as develop greener urban settlements.
4. **Human Capital:** access to health and educational facilities needs to be improved, especially in areas that are experiencing climate events. There will be a focus on incorporating climate adaptation in health and education policies to increase climate resilience.
5. **Disaster Risk Management:** to reduce damage to infrastructure and loss of life, a better understanding of climate disasters is needed, and an early warning system is placed to strengthen disaster response.

³⁵ "National Adaptation Plan," *Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, 2023*, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZjO2EtBo8fgSQBE_IYDIOHueSr0Dk_z6/view

Has The UN Failed When It Comes To Climate Change?

In many ways, the UN has enjoyed various successes, particularly over the fact that no state has left the international organization. However, how it addresses a contemporary issue like climate change cannot be compared because our world has not experienced such a crisis before. While the UN's efforts to eliminate the usage of chlorofluorocarbons were a success, and we are on a steady track to healing the ozone layer,³⁶ climate change is far more complex than that.

In the recent past, the UN has come under increased criticism as it has failed to address climate change since the first warning of global warming three decades ago. Moreover, it has failed to achieve and ensure the sustainable upholding of climate change mechanisms that are not just relevant today but also have long-driven achievements.

The UN's pleas to make more substantial pledges are being brushed aside by many nations while being completely aware that climate disasters will spare no one. This can make a case for an ages-old analysis that perhaps the UN lacks teeth to implement its policies, especially when convincing the great powers to submit themselves to rules and regulations. The developed countries maintain the fear that by committing to fund climate change-related projects in developing nations, they will become legally bound to pay for future damages caused by climate disasters.

Countries that are actively facing distressful situations resulting from climate disasters are more inclined to understand the reality of this global crisis compared to people that are partially experiencing it. Furthermore, in the case of the Paris Agreement, remains a non-binding agreement with no penalties for violating it, and many countries party to the agreement continue to do so, despite the outcries from the scientific community of IPCC and the UN.

Conclusion

Implementing environmentally friendly policies requires stronger incentives for sustainable energy investment and consequences for failing to meet international climate agreements. The UN must demand greater cooperation from nations to achieve net-zero emissions, as climate disasters escalate.

Pakistan has taken a firm stance on climate change and climate justice, notably after the devastating 2022 floods. The country's proactive approach has engaged the global community in discussions

³⁶ Jaclyn Diaz, "The Ozone Layer is on Track to Recover in The Coming Decades, The United Nations Says," *NPR*, January 10, 2023, <https://www.npr.org/2023/01/10/1147977166/ozone-layer-recovery-united-nations-report#:~:text=if%20current%20policies%20stay%20in,by%202045%20over%20the%20Arctic>

covering emissions reduction, water management, plastic recycling, and more. Pakistan's delegation at COP27 successfully engaged with both developing and developed nations, reinvigorating efforts to meet Paris Agreement targets.

The slogan "What happened in Pakistan, won't stay in Pakistan," coined by the Prime Minister at COP27, sent a powerful message globally. Pakistan's role in advancing the 'Loss and Damage' fund was instrumental in preventing COP27 from being viewed as a failure. Maintaining this progress will be challenging but essential for reducing global emissions and supporting the most vulnerable.