

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Positions for G-77

I. Post-COP21: Developing Incentives for Alleviating the Economic and Social Effects of Climate

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan recognizes the issues climate change poses both economically and socially, specifically, in terms of the effects of reduced rainfall and increased temperature. Nationally, Pakistan has seen a 10%-15% decrease in rainfall across the coastal belt and hyper arid plains and 0.6-1.0°C in arid coastal areas, arid mountains, and hyper arid plains.¹ Pakistan works hard to promote the conservation of water and livestock because agriculture contributes approximately 70% of the country's export earnings.² Internationally, Pakistan is a signatory to United Nations Framework Convention for Climate change (UNFCCC) and has worked with other member states, such as the United Kingdom and the United States, to create a sizable "Green Climate Fund." Pakistan is also a member of the local Climate Fund, Clean Development Mechanism Global Environmental Facility, and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.³ Through these organizations, Pakistan knows that carbon emissions can be reduced and the conservation of environmental resources can be achieved. It is paramount that these goals are achieved soon, before it is too late.

Even though Pakistan has one of the lowest carbon emission rates in the world, it is extremely vulnerable to the changing climate. Agriculture is the cornerstone of the economy in fact, in 2014 and 2015, agriculture accounted for 20.9% of Pakistan's GDP. Nearly half of the population depends on agriculture as a source of income, but climate change now threatens that.⁴ Over the past decade, rainfall has decreased significantly and is slowly encroaching on the viability of farmers raising crops. According to Muftah⁵ "the shrinking Indus delta has made the remaining water too saline and polluted to be used for drinking or agriculture.⁶ If food production were to halt, the effects would detrimental to Pakistan, they are at risk of having a failing economy that could potentially send the country into a depression. On an even wider scale the United States imported goods from Pakistan [largely agricultural goods] at nearly 3.7 billion dollars in 2013 and the U.S and Pakistan operate at a deficit of 2 billion dollars⁷. If the trends of climate change continues Pakistan will not be the only one to suffer, rather the effects would be felt through the world market.

Not only can economies suffer as a result of climate change, but the livelihoods of all people would as well. The potential food and water shortages could cause millions of civilians' health being threatened and possible starvation as agriculture industries are destroyed. With the rising sea levels, floods endanger the clean drinking water of the people of Pakistan. This was exemplified by the flood of 2010 in Pakistan, where thousands lost access to clean water and nearly two thousand civilians died. The possibility of contracting diseases increases with powerful storms caused by climate change as well; diseases such as malaria are provoked by climate variability and with the right conditions can lead to an outbreak. Currently, Pakistan is developing many different strategies, such as creating Agricultural Universities to educate people on conservation of energy and its importance, in an effort to preserve

¹ "National Climate Change Policy." LEAD Pakistan. April 2011. Accessed September 18, 2016. http://www.lead.org.pk/cc/attachments/Resource_Center/NAP/pakistan.pdf.

² "Pakistan's Food and Agriculture Systems." USAID. March 2009. Accessed September 18, 2016. http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pnado507.pdf.

³ Khan, Farrukh Iqbal. "Institutional Arrangements for Climate Change in Pakistan." Sustainable Development Policy Institute. July 2011. Accessed September 18, 2016. Institutional Arrangements for Climate Change in Pakistan.

⁴ "Pakistan Economic Survey 2014-15 : Agriculture." Ministry of Finance. 2015. Accessed September 18, 2016. http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey_1415.html.

⁵ An organization dedicated to provide English-speaking audiences with incisive analysis on countries in the Middle East and North Africa

⁶ Atique, Asma. "The Water Crisis in Pakistan May Be a Bigger Threat than Militancy." August 18, 2015. Accessed October 27, 2016. <http://muftah.org/the-water-crisis-in-pakistan-may-be-a-bigger-threat-than-militancy/#.WBjRWNIrJdh>.

⁷ "Pakistan." Office of the United States Trade Representatives. May 4, 14. Accessed October 18, 2016. <https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/south-central-asia/pakistan>.

water for agriculture and livestock as a backup system due to low rainfall; however, this is not enough. A fundamental change needs to be made in climate policy. The first change Pakistan would like to initiate would be funding research centered around sustainable living.

As an incentive to lower carbon emissions, the Republic of Pakistan proposes that the World Trade Organization establish a trade network where tariffs would be reduced for the Member States who have a reduced their carbon emissions by at least 5% by 2020. If every Member State achieves this small goal by 2020, it would drastically alter the state of the world and put the Earth on a track to recovery. We call on fellow Member States to prioritize the creation of the Climate Change Trade Network. Pakistan looks forward to working with other Member States to change the future of our world.

II. Protecting and Aiding New Enterprises in Developing Countries in the Global Market

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan understands the importance of new small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in developing nations. Nationally, SMEs contribute to over 80% of the non-agricultural labor force and an overwhelming majority of the total enterprise. Pakistan has worked tirelessly to provide safety for SMEs through the development of the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (SMEDA) which helps SMEs to overcome the difficulties that they face.⁸ In the past decade, organizations such as SMEDA have contributed to exponential growth and success of SMEs and in the future wishes to expand its influence to a variety of developing nations.

Since Pakistan's partition from British India in 1947, the economy of Pakistan has only grown larger. Although Pakistan is still a developing nation, "it has developed a highly diversified base of manufactured products for domestic and world markets and the per capita incomes have expanded more than six-fold in US Dollar terms."⁹ With the 34th largest economy in the world, Pakistan has much room for improvement and could possibly become one of the largest economies in the world if the trend of growth continues.¹⁰ Domestically Pakistan has been investing in themselves, which combined with foreign investments, has laid down the framework for the fast growing economy they have.

At a global level, Pakistan has partnered with other Member States to advance the Commonwealth of Learning (CoL) which aims to support the development of education and learning institutions in developing nations. Through the CoL, Pakistan wishes to focus on investing in the education of youth to help promote economic growth in future generations. By focussing on children, especially girls, partners of CoL intend to not only further education, but close the gender gap in developing nations.¹¹ Furthermore, Pakistan has partnered with other Member States to work on the Small Enterprise development (SEED) project for developing nations. SEED works with the national stakeholders of developing nations to provide policy guidelines and training materials to promote growth, thus increasing investment. Being a developing nation, Pakistan understands the importance of investing in developing nations and wishes to contribute to other Member States with a goal of protecting new enterprises in the early stages of development and ones that are yet to have begun. In the coming years, Pakistan hopes to see more investments allocated towards education and development that will help yield a prosperous outlook for future generations.

Pakistan knows that many Member States struggle with the development of SMEs and understands how important they are to economic growth. Member States know that many developing Member States, such as Pakistan, rely heavily on SMEs. With the protection and financial support from developed Member States, more developing nations can build SME's. We believe providing start-up funds to begin the development of SME's then implementing fiscal money management programs, at each Member State's' discretion, will help SME's grow. Pakistan hopes soon to see many developing nations start emerging as leaders in the global market.

⁸ "State of SMEs in Pakistan." Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA). Accessed September 25, 2016. http://www.smeda.org/index.php?option=com_content.

⁹ Husain, Ishrat. "Economy of Pakistan - an Overview." Bank for International Settlements. September 2005. Accessed September 18, 2016.

¹⁰ Husain, Ishrat. "Pakistan and India Economies Compared." Institute of Business Administration Karachi. Accessed September 18, 2016. http://iba.edu.pk/News/speechesarticles_drishrat/Indo_Pak_economies_compared.pdf.

¹¹ "Project Profile: Commonwealth of Learning - Institutional Support 2015-2018." Project Profile: Commonwealth of Learning. September 21, 2016. Accessed September 18, 2016. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/cpo.nsf/vWebCSAZEn/2BA5E954D7476A4D85257E9F0035A8BF>.