

Pakistan

High Level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change

Talking Points

Event Background

This high level forum during the COP 22 is being organized in the recognizing that developing countries are increasingly playing a role in the global climate change policy and governance process and have delivered widely-recognized contributions which merits to be shared in promoting the South South Cooperation. The Forum is aimed to achieve following:

1. Discuss challenges and opportunities in the new implementation stage, deepen exchanges among developing countries such that they can better address climate change and achieve sustainable development, and maintain and increase momentum towards wider South-South Cooperation
2. Expand global partnerships for the Southern countries and enhance the capacity and readiness of developing countries to implement their Nationally Determined Contributions for the Paris Agreement and contribute to global sustainable development.
3. Take stock of their on-the-ground experiences and share successful cases and good practices to enlarge the impacts of South-South Cooperation in the context of implementation of the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Climate Change Context of Pakistan

- Although Pakistan is one of the most at-risk country when it comes to impacts of Climate Change but the country is also a bright example of climate resilience while maintaining the scale of economic and social growth for our growing population.
- Although Pakistan's contributions to the global GHG emissions are miniscule but we are constantly challenged by the climate induced disasters. According to the Global Economy rankings, the share of Pakistan in total global GHG emissions is merely 0.8 percent and it is ranked as 135th in the list of global emitters on a per capita basis. However, due to geo-physical conditions, climatic extremes, high degree of exposure and

vulnerability, Pakistan is ranked number three in the 2012 assessment of the Global Climate Risk Index 2014 with over 6 billion USD losses specifically due to climate change.

- These risks are real and threats are not immediate but also happening around us. It forced us the government to take policy actions, compelled our communities adapt to the changes and pushed out private sector to re-adjust their business practices accordingly. Hence, a broad set of policy measures has been put into action and many more are in the pipeline to be implemented.
- I will only list through the government policy actions here which I am confident carry a lot potential for south south cooperation. And I am here to listen the measures from other countries which we can carry with us replication in our country through a collaborative fashion.
- The government of Pakistan becoming aware of climatic risks to our economy and threats to our people and put into place the National climate Change Policy in 2012 and to ensure its implementation also prepared a comprehensive implementation framework. Our National Climate Change Policy encompasses all the key sectors of the economy and clearly spells out the priority areas and actions to be taken. Not surprisingly, Agriculture, Water and Energy are key sectors profoundly exposed to the both immediate and long term threats of climate change. Admittedly all these at-risk sectors are also critical for the economic growth and social development of future Pakistan. This compels us to integrate climate change considerations deeply and tightly into our national development planning process and we committed to do so.
- Pakistan is currently at the crossroads of economic development, offering a promising potential for mitigation and adaptation with a favorable opportunity to embark upon low emissions developmental pathways. Fundamental ingredients of development, such as energy needs, food and water consumption levels, and infrastructure development and transportation and communication channels are expected to grow manifold in the coming years. Consequently GHG emissions are likely to witness

exponential growth, unless cleaner and sustainable technologies can intercept the developmental trajectory and engineer the desired change.

- Recently concluded and submitted INDC of Pakistan shows a trajectory of increasing emissions levels as well as desperate need for adaptation actions. Estimated emissions quantification shows a four-fold increase in GHG emissions by 2030. This quantification takes into consideration addressing the current energy crisis, projected population growth as well as substantial boost in trade and other economic activities due to China Pakistan Economic Corridor – commonly known as CPEC.
- In the relevance of this event – South South Cooperation, allow me to indicate that CPEC itself is a good example of south south cooperation. The scope of the project not only includes road and railway networks, and energy projects and significant increase in trading activity but also working collaboratively on environmental considerations and common social-economic agendas. We believe expected diversification of the economy would result into economic resilience and social resilience and help us to better cope with future threats. It indeed is an approach of addressing climate change through trade and economic cooperation.
- Another key component of our INDC study is adaptation. Our adaptation needs are massive and diverse. While we are seeking financial and technical assistance from international and multilateral agencies, we are here to hear and learn from other countries and partners. Eco-system based adaptation strategies and approaches are on our priority list as part of our long-term climate change policy. Our INDC study provides an estimate of our adaptation cost which is the level of resources we are trying to mobilize.
- Lastly, I would like commend the organizers for organizing this high level Forum on such an important topic. Indeed there is a huge potential for south south cooperation which need be harnessed and institutionally supported. I am sure some of the areas I was able to highlight in Pakistan will generate some interest for other countries to establish some mutually cooperative arrangements.