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PAKISTAN'S BATTLE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE: INNUENDOES AND WAY FORWARD

THESIS STATEMENT:

For the reason that climate change influences every being on the planet Earth, it's quite real phenomenon. Since thousands of the years, earth has been facing recurring consequences of temperature alterations.

ABSTRACT: Climate change has now become a global phenomenon. It doesn't only impact internationally but also regionally and nationally. And now it's a primary threat to national security of Pakistan. Pakistan contributes a very little to climate change but its one of the most vulnerable country

to climate change. In 2012, Pakistan devised a national policy in order to combat climate change challenges and it also outlines policies for every different aspects of climate change. This paper aims to analyse the influence of climate change on Pakistan's National Security and suggests policy recommendations at regional, national and international levels.

Key Words: Climate Change, National Security, Global Phenomenon, Vulnerable.

## INTRODUCTION:

"All across the world, in every kind of environment and region known to man, increasingly dangerous weather patterns and devastating storms are abruptly putting an end to the longrunning debate over whether or not climate change is real. Not only is it real, it's here, and its effects are giving rise to a frighteningly new global phenomenon: the man-made natural disaster" - Barack Obama, April. 3, 2006 Since the beginning till today, climate change has advanced from environmental challenge to threat to National Security of a country particularly Pakistan. Currently, it's the most debated issue of the world as it has devastating impacts not only on human life but also it has acidified oceans to such an extent that it has become fatal to marine life. Additionally, it has caused the 6th greatest plant extinction of the history. If climate change is not tackled on time it can really upset social as well as political conditions. It can act as a catalyst to destabilize already critical conditions of politics and society because Pakistan is already facing threat to National Security and not combating it will make matrix more complex. Therefore, proper policies and their implementation is required at each level i.e. Regional, National and International levels. Example of food deficiency can clearly illustrate the threat Pakistan is facing due to climate change because 54 million out of 180 million people are food deficient. Floods, droughts and continuous changing climate have caused threats to agriculture sector where as water scarcity has caused threats to human security. However, Pakistan lacks a framework to fight over the subject of threats to National Security of itself.

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## CLIMATE CHANGE: AN INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE

Though climate change has affected each and every region of the climate but Asia and Africa is specifically most vulnerable to this. These two regions collectively form 850 million people who are undernourished. The contiguous diseases like malaria, hepatitis and dengue predominantly exist in these areas. It is estimated that by 2020, agriculture will fall by 50% in Asia. In Africa by 2050, 600 million people will face water scarcity and in Asia more than a billion people will be devastated by floods and droughts. In previous decade Pakistan, mainly Sindh and Baluchistan faced continuous floods and

droughts. Pakistan's adaptation plan is still incomplete because it lacks strategies and modifications in accordance with emerging human needs and demands.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE: RAMIFICATIONS ON PAKISTAN

For sustainable development it is very important for Pakistan to make its environment stable and eradicate problem of climate change effectively. Though Pakistan has very tiny contribution in greenhouse gas emissions but it ranks as 7th most vulnerable country to climate change. Climate change has proved to be a threat multiplier for the National Security of Pakistan (discussed later in this paper.).

The most noticed outcomes of climate change in Pakistan: • Natural disasters induced by weather; • Intense and frequent heat waves; • Droughts; • Continuous changes in precipitation patterns; • Water availability periods.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY OF PAKISTAN:

To regulate the climate change adaptation and mitigation, the government of Pakistan has framed a number of policies and actions. In 2012, the document of policies to combat climate change was formed.

This policy document acknowledges: • The growing risk of future extreme natural hazards due to climate change

- Detailed pictures of vulnerabilities faced by all sectors, ecoregions and socio-economic classes.

This document also includes some threats caused by climate change:

1. Increased health risks 2. Climate change induced migrations 3. Increase in amount of saline water in Indus Delta. It affects agriculture, breeding grounds of fish and mangroves. 4. Projected sea level rise causes threats to coastal areas. 5. Increased cyclonic activity due to high sea surface temperatures 6. Decrease in already scanty forest covers 7. Natural migration of extremely affected plant species 8. Water-stressed conditions.

NCCP has designed set of policies and actions to achieve sustainable developed environment. Those policies are discussed below:

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environment. Those policies are discussed below:

1. Prior to all, complete address of challenges to climate change is required 2. Integration of national policies and climate change policies 3. Adaptation and mitigation steps to be taken in cost-effective manner 4. Ensuring water, food and energy security 5. Reduce the floods, droughts and tropical storms caused by intense and extreme weather conditions

After the climate change policy, the government of Pakistan has created a committee for the implementation of climate change policy. The name of committee is National Climate Change Policy Implementation Committee. This committee is composed of: • Chairman (federal minister for climate change) • Secretaries for Ministries a) Climate Change and Planning And Development b) Foreign Affairs c) Science and Technology d) Industries and Production e) Finance f) Water and Power g) Food and Agriculture h) Health and Defence • NDMA chairman (National disaster management authority) • Secretaries of provincial, AJK, GB, FATA environmental departments • Heads of a) Global change impact studies centre b) Pakistan meteorological department c) Pakistan environmental protection agency d) National energy conservation centre • Chief of environmental, planning and development division • Three representatives from corporate sectors • Three eminent experts from the field • Director general of climate change

#### CLIMATE CHANGE- PRIMARY THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY OF PAKISTAN:

Climate change has proved to be an ultimate threat to security of the world. The effects drawn by climate change have titled the concentration of world from everything to droughts, floods and storms.

Catastrophes happen at political, humanitarian, geographical, military and economic level which cause political instability and also weaken the domestic governments. In Pakistan, climate change has caused insecurity ramifications in all sectors like social, economic, geographic and political. Climate change in Pakistan has now become a multi-dimensional issue which dire instability problems to social, political and geographical sectors eventually leading to impacts on national security of Pakistan.

“We cannot discuss climate change without the military discussion—climate change is a flourishing threat to worldwide peace and security, particularly for Pakistan. Pakistan was at the 10th position in 2014 CRI of vulnerable states list and today lies at the 7th. 70% of the world’s states, including Pakistan are facing climate change as a national security challenge, today.”

Lt. Gen. Tariq Wasim Ghazi, a member of the Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change (GMACCC)

Economy is one of the most crucial pillars for Pakistan’s stability, the development and advancement. Since climate change has negative relationship with economy, climate change has proposed very critical implications for Pakistan because water scarcity is very dangerous for Pakistan. Pakistan’s greatest part of population is relied upon agriculture and agriculture is depended upon water availability and agriculture plays significant role in improving Pakistan’s economy.

#### STRATEGIES TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE IN PAKISTAN AT ALL LEVELS:

##### ❖ INTERNATIONAL LEVEL:

It’s clear that climate change is a global phenomenon happening almost in every part of the world. Developed countries are the major contributors to the main cause of climate change but the countries that suffer from this problem are those who contribute very little i.e. Pakistan contribute 0.8% to greenhouse gases, but its 7th most vulnerable country to this devastating phenomenon. For this reason, there is need for collaboration and cooperation among countries to work together and combat climate change. Following steps should be taken on international level:

- There should be easy access to international for a for developed, under developed and developing countries so that they may be able to highlight the effect of climate change on their national security specifically for countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- International community should organize training workshops to provide access to global environment facility.
- Major powers should take responsibility to ensure the working and participation of country at the forum
- Pakistan must practice strategies formed under Conference of Parties COP-21 under the UN framework convention of Paris.

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#### ❖ NATIONAL LEVEL:

On national level, basic measures could play a key role in order to face the calamities caused by climate change. These include specifically three areas which could be proved helpful in challenging with climate change problems:

➤ ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS: The division under climate change committees can take short as well as long term initiatives to overcome the problems caused by climate change because organizations and institutions provide them with platform to practice their devised plans and strategies.

➤ INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT: Mobilization of provincial, regional and local government is really essential because it ensures the implementation. Dams like Diamer Basha, Akhori, Kalbagh and Munda are source that provide regulated flow of water down the Indus River that help in preservation of ecology and also play role in keeping safe inhabitants of locals. However, these dams are less in number.

➤ AWARENESS: Raising awareness through campaigns, media and workshops really makes a huge difference as it highlights the threats coming that compels the government and locals to take immediate actions.

#### ❖ REGIONAL LEVELS:

➤ Regional organizations like SAARC can play its part to design a treaty\convention for cooperation of environment. ➤ South Asia can can adopt the approaches and technologies. ➤ Region can even initiate rehabilitation agreements on response to natural disasters.