

MINISTARY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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& ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION



Welcome to the Bi-Monthly Newsletter: Vol.1, Issue 2

Message from the honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan

Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif



Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

The World Environment Day is celebrated annually on June 5 to highlight the environmental challenges of our time. World Environment Day 2024 focuses on land restoration, stopping desertification and building drought resilience. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the global host of this year's edition. Urging the people to be part of the Generation Restoration program to ensure a better future for all, the prime minister, who is on a five-day visit to China, in his message to the nation, said that the people and Government of Pakistan joined the global community in recognizing their shared responsibility to protect their planet and fight climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The theme of this year's World Environment Day -'land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience,' - reminded the world of the humongous challenge that confronting it in terms of the billions of hectares of land that was being degraded, affecting almost half of the world's population and threatening half of global GDP. Rural communities, smallholding farmers and the extremely poor are hit the hardest. Pakistan stands firm in its resolve to combat environmental challenges and stands committed to contributing to global efforts towards sustainability. Initiatives such as the Green Pakistan Programme, Living Indus Initiative, and National Adaptation Plan, underscore our commitment to reforestation and ecosystem restoration, tackling issues of deforestation and biodiversity loss head-on. Pakistan's climate diplomacy efforts during COP27, particularly in establishing a Loss and Damage Fund were recognized widely and viewed positively by international experts. On the domestic front, Pakistan is actively working on developing sustainable long-term low-carbon development strategies with assistance from GIZ, Pathways 2050 platform, UNDP, and the World Bank. Additionally, robust afforestation programs are being implemented. Initiatives like the Recharge Pakistan, GLOF, and Sustainable Land Management Program (SLMP) demonstrate Pakistan's dedication to promoting sustainable agriculture practices. Despite facing challenges such as land degradation, and water scarcity, Pakistan remained steadfast in its resolve and efforts to address these issues through innovative solutions and collaborative partnerships. The global community needs to join hands to safeguard and preserve our environment, not only for the well-being of people but also for the survival of our planet.

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Message from the Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change

& Environmental Coordination



Romina Khurshid Alam

World Environment Day 2024

As we observe world Enivornment Day 2024, our global theme of "Ecosystem Restoration" calls us to action. This year, we emphasize the vital need to restore and rejuvenate our planet's ecosystems, which are crucial for sustaining life and combating climate change.

Pakistan, with its rich biodiversity and varied ecosystems, faces both unique challenges and significant opportunities in this journey. From the towering peaks of the Himalayas to the fertile plains of the Indus, our environment is integral to our identity and well-being.

Our government is committed to addressing environmental degradation through a comprehensive approach that includes reforestation initiatives, conservation of wetlands, and sustainable land management. We are also focusing on innovative solutions to combat pollution and support communities in adapting to climate impacts.

Today, I urge every citizen, community, and organization to join hands in this crucial effort. By supporting local and national environmental initiatives, adopting sustainable practices, and advocating for responsible stewardship, we can make a profound difference.

I also call upon every Pakistani to embrace this spirit of restoration. Let us all contribute to sustainable practices, support green policies, and advocate for environmental responsibility. By working together, we can reverse the damage done and build a healthier, more sustainable future for our country and the world.

Together, let us pledge to restore our ecosystems, safeguard our natural heritage, and ensure a resilient future for generations to come.

Robust plan must to sh owcase Pakistan's resilience-building initiatives at COP29: Romina Khurshid Alam

Islamabad, July 29, 2024: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change said that all-out efforts would be taken to project Pakistan's climate vulnerability and resilience-Chairing a first meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee on the 29the session of the Conference of Parties (COP 29) in the M/o Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, she urged the meeting participants to come with a concrete plan in close coordination with relevant federal and provincial departments to showcase Pakistan's resilience-building initiatives being implemented by federal government and provinces.

The meeting focused on preparations for the country's active participation in the upcoming COP29, a UN-led annual global climate summit, which is scheduled to kick off from from 11 to 22 November 2024 at Baku, Azerbaijan's capital.

"We must come up with a well-thought out plan to showcase the country's resilience-building measures with own resources and highlight the finance, technology and capacity-building needs to strengthen further the country's resilience against

building measures in different socio-economic sectors, particularly agriculture, water, energy, health, education and gender.

myriad climate risks through adaptation and mitigation measures," she urged the meeting participants

She pointed out that global community is very much cognisiant of the fact that Pakistan is among the few countries most affected by climate change, facing climate change-caused challenges like recurring and intensifying flooding, heatwaves and shifting monsoon patterns. "But, there is pressing need for the country to emphasise the need for financial and technical support needed to cope with these vulnerabilities, protect lives and livelihoods of the communities and socioeconomic sectors," Romina Khurshid Alam Suggested.

She emphasized that Pakistan has been vocal about the importance of adaptation strategies in resilience building against various fallouts of the climate change. Given the reason, the country has put forward proposals for increased support to enhance resilience in vulnerable communities and



sectors, such as agriculture and water management with increased focus on adaptation measures in the resource-poor countries like Pakistan.

While highlighting the country's mitigation measures, the PM's climate aide said that the country would also apprise the global community at the COP29 that while Pakistan's carbon footprint is relatively small compared to some other countries, it is already making efforts to cut its climate altering carbon emissions as a responsible nation by increasing its use of renewable energy, promoting e-vehicles and mass transit system, increasing forest cover, adopting smart farming techniques.

She also pressed on need for highlighting that the country would also advocate for greater international cooperation and fair climate finance. need for developed nations to fulfill their financial commitments to support developing countries in their climate action efforts.

Earlier, PM's climate aide said that the follow-up COP29 preparation committee meetings will held weekly for consultative sessions with sector experts, including representatives from various relevant ministries, organizations and provinces.

Secretaries from ministries of climate change, Finance Division, Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Economic Affairs Division, Foreign Affairs Division, Executive Director of SDPI Abid Suleri, Salman Ahmed of Mckinsey & Company, Additional Secretary Ministry of climate change,

Joint Secretary from PM's office and other members of the committee from different government and non-governmental organizations, Deputy Director (Media & Advocacy) Muhammad Saleem and PRO to PM's climate aide Muhammad Arshad Chaudhry also attended the meeting.

Building disaster resilience of socio-economic sectors PM's top priority. Romina Khurshid Alam

Islamabad [July 26, 2024] -Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam said that climate change-caused various disasters mainly floods and heatwaves are now a major cause of massive socio-economic damages in Pakistan. But, the present government is taking all-out policy measures to enhance the country's climate resilience against the recurring and intensifying disasters.

Chairing a high-level meeting on Strengthening Pakistan's Shield against Climate Change Impacts, Romina Khurshid Alam that said despite poor economic conditions, the country remains committed to overcoming environmental and climate risks through whatever financial resources are available.

Pakistan can avail from its funding and technical



"Climate change significantly impacts Pakistan, affecting various aspects of life and the environment and these negative fallouts have left no option for us but to focus on building climate adaptation and improving disaster preparedness to protect lives and livelihoods of our people and environment," the prime minister's climate aide said. "However, we are coordinating with national And international

capacity-building facilities to build up the coresilience

organisations such as

Global Shield to help Pakistan avail existing funding resources for building the country's socio-economic resilience through climate risk mitigation policy initiatives," she added.

During the meeting Deputy Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Pakistan, Van Nguyen briefed the PM's climate aide about the Global Shield and how

against the various climate risks, particularly disasters.

During the meeting representatives from the ministry and UNDP-Pakistan both sides discussed at length the matters related to the climate risk mitigation, climate finance for adaptation and mitigation measures, agriculture insurance, urban flood resilience.

Sharing details during the meeting, Regional Director South Asia at the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) & Vulnerable Twenty Group (V20), Hamza Ali Haroon apprised the PM's aide Romina Khurshid Advisor further said that the Vulnerable Twenty Group

(V20) together with the Group of Seven (G7) and other supporting countries launched the Global Shield against Climate Risks initiative to provide and facilitate more and better pre-arranged protection against climate and disaster related risks for vulnerable people in the highly climate risk-prone countries.

The CVF is a South-South cooperation platform and a voluntary, non-treaty organization for vulnerable developing countries specifically focused on climate change action and policy. It represents some 1.74 billion people worldwide and is made up

of 68 members from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East, and the Pacific, Hamza Haroon informed the PM's climate aide.

While appreciating members of UNDP-Pakistan, Global Shield and CVF for their interest in building Pakistan's climate resilience through funding and technical capacity, Romina Khurshid Alam said that she will extend her government's full support and engage with them to build the resilience of the people and economy of the country.

PM's climate aide lauds CDA for launching monsoon tree planation drive



ISLAMABAD, July 22, 2024: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam urged planting trees and emphasised the need for

coordinated efforts to make tree plantation campaigns a success. Addressing a monsoon tree plantation ceremony here at Trail-3 arranged by the Capital Development Authority, she said: "Planting trees is the best viable way to deal with impacts of climate change including soil erosion and torrential floods. They are

also the most effective way to capture and store heattrapping carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas, thus playing a crucial role in mitigating climate change."

Ms Alam. Said further that growing forests is vital to our environment and human well-being for numerous reasons, including ecological, economic, social, and health benefits. Trees absorb pollutants such as carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide, and they release oxygen, improving the quality of the air we breathe.

Also, trees help in maintaining the water cycle by preventing water runoff, enhancing groundwater recharge, and maintaining the hydrological balance. Birds, insects, and other wildlife, contributing to biodiversity, PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted.

She also appreciated the CDA's monsoon tree plantation drive under which the civic agency plans to plant one milling trees on Margalla Hills and other parts of the city.

The drive was launched here at a ceremony by Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar after planting a sapling along with Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam.

They also provide habitats for various species of said that Margalla Hills are identity of Islamabad and it is a collective responsibility of citizens and government to protect these hills from hazards.

Mr Tarar said that climate change is a major challenge and by more planting more and more saplings, this challenge could be confronted. He urged all segment of the society to actively participate in tree plantation campaigns to safeguard the future of coming generation.

CDA Chairman Mohammad Ali Randhawa informed the event participants that tree plantation drive aimed to promote environmental conservation and combat the challenges posed by heat wave and human activities.



Tackling plastic pollution vital for environmental sustainability, public health: PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid

Islamabad [July 22, 2024] – Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam that plastic pollution has emerged as a serious concern for Pakistan, which has aggravated further the environmental degradation problem being faced by the country with significant economic and health crisis.

"Plastic waste, if not managed properly, degrades our ecosystems, affects public health, and hampers our sustainable



developmental goals," the PM's aide warned while addressing as a chief guest at a high-level roundtable discussion on plastic waste management in the country here at a local hotel.

Organised by the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental

Coordination in collaboration with international partner organisations, the roundtable discussion aimed at sharing knowledge, showcasing successful interventions and exploring opportunites for collaboration.

The discussion was attended by various stakeholders including top key government officials, representatives of national and international nongovernmental organization, academia, researchers, students and media. Highlighting the present government's plastic waste management policy measures, Romina Khurshid Alam informed the participants, "We have established a robust regulatory and policy framework to control the transboundary movement of plastic waste in line with the Basel Convention.

The Basel Convention establishes standards for the transboundary movement of hazardous waste, solid waste, and municipal incinerator ash, including notice to and written confirmation from the receiving country prior to export, she explained.

The PM's aide Romina Khurshid highlighted that tackling plastic pollution through efficient management of plastic waste was must for protection of human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, management, transboundary movements and disposal of hazardous and other wastes.

She said that the federal federal and provincial governments, along with stakeholders, diligently follow the Standard Operating Procedures designed to ensure compliance with national laws and international agreements.

the Import Policy Order of Pakistan has been meticulously designed in accordance with national laws and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) requirements to control the transboundary movement of plastic waste. And, these movements are regulated through the Web-Based One Customs (WeBOC) system operated by Pakistan Customs, Romina Khurshid added.

She said further that the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) has taken significant strides in banning single-use plastics and polythene bags, as well as D2W technology that causes the generation of microplastics, hoping that these measures would prove to be crucial steps towards mitigating plastic pollution.

She said that none of us can afford to ignore the reality that plastic, due to its low price and ease of use, continues to be an integral part of our everyday lives. Therefore, impactful solid waste management and raising awareness among all stakeholders are imperative, Romina Khurshid added.

"Therefore, we must ensure that our citizens understand the environmental and health impacts of plastic waste, and we must equip them with the knowledge and tools to reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover plastic products effectively," the PM's climate aide stressed.

She said that by working together, we can overcome the challenges posed by plastic waste and move towards a sustainable future.

'Govt to establish world class mountaineering school in GB': PM's aide

ISLAMABAD, July 19, 2024: Romina Khurshid Alam, the coordinator to the prime minister on climate change and environmental coordination, announced on Sunday that the government will establish a world class mountaineering school in Gilgit-Baltistan to promote sustainable and environment-friendly climbing in the country.

The PM's aide said this institution would offer structured training and educational facilities tailored to mountaineering, Sherpa training and sustainable tourism practices, aiming to promote world-class, environment-friendly mountaineering and tourism in the country's northern regions.

At a meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee to Establish the Mountaineering School in Gilgit-Baltistan, Ms Alam said the plan is being implemented in close coordination with the Gilgit-Baltistan government to set up the first government-run mountaineering school of world-class standard in Skardu.

The school aimed to equip aspiring mountaineers and



climbers with skills and knowledge needed to safely enjoy mountains while respecting the local environment, values, and cultures of the communities living in the area.

"This initiative also seeks to create new employment opportunities for local communities and promote sustainable mountaineering and climbing," she said.

The PM's aide noted that Gilgit-Baltistan, celebrated for its scenic towering peaks, including K2, the world's second-highest mountain, has long attracted adventurers and explorers from around the globe.

The region's untapped potential for promoting mountaineering and climbing can be realised through the provision of skill development training and facilities.

"By equipping local and international participants

with necessary skills and knowledge at the proposed mountaineering school in Skardu, we aim to foster a new generation of mountaineers and tourism professionals committed to preserving the natural and cultural integrity of Gilgit-Baltistan," Ms Alam said.

The meeting also discussed the curriculum for mountaineering and climbing, skill development modules, rescue training, site identification for the school, training programmes for local tour guides, and potential funding and collaboration opportunities for the school's establishment and management.

The meeting was attended by officials of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission, GB Planning and Development Department and members representing the mountaineering community.

Pakistan, UK agree to bolster cooperation on climate change



ISLAMABAD, July 19, 2024: Pakistan and United Kingdom have agreed to bolster cooperation to combat the pressing issues of climate change and environmental degradation.

An agreement to this effect reached at a meeting between Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam and a UK Embassy delegation led by Development Director, Jo Moire in Islamabad.

Highlighting the threats related to climate change, Romina Khurshid Alam said shifting weather patterns significantly impacted agricultural productivity and threatening food security and livelihoods.

She said Pakistan has suffered from an economic loss of billions of dollars from climate-related disasters in the past. The Coordinator stressed the importance of bridging civil society, academia, and corporate sectors of both nations to address the emerging threats of climate change.

Romina Khurshid Alam also highlighted the urgent need for tangible actions to mitigate global warming impacts, pre-emptively address flood risks, and support vulnerable farming communities.

PM's aide urges depts to ensure protection of lives during heatwave, possible floods

ISLAMABAD, July 14, 2024: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam urged all federal and provincial departments to complete measures to protect the lives and livelihoods of people from ongoing heatwaves and possible monsoon floods.

She also directed all provinces, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), to ensure the maintenance of sufficient stocks of disaster relief items to ensure in-time preparedness against above-normal rainfall.

In a statement, the PM's coordinator was chairing the meeting of the second National Task Force on Global Warming and Heatwaves with representatives of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Global Change **Impact Studies Centre** (GCISC), ministries of science and technology, climate change, national health, services and information, Pakistan Meteorological Department and officials from the provincial governments joining through video link.

She urged all relevant federal and provincial departments to enhance



their preparedness concerning the threat of flooding during the upcoming monsoon spell, stock maintenance and heatwave effects.

Romina emphasised the timely execution by all stakeholders of the NDMA's National Action Plan regarding flood threats in southern Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan. She also stressed the inclusion of lady health workers and midwives in the medical relief camps to be established by concerning federating units during emergency situations.

The PM's aide said the country's vulnerability to climate change-caused disasters would continue to deepen as the disasters, particularly heatwaves and floods were becoming more intense and frequent as the

world continued to heat up because of untamed heattrapping carbon emissions.

"The adverse socioeconomic impacts of the disasters are unlikely to be overcome as long as the well-coordinated disaster risk mitigation or prevention measures are not taken jointly by all federal and provincial departments," Ms Alam said.

She assured of her ministry's unwavering support at all levels so that the country's disaster vulnerability was lessened through effective collaboration among the federal and provincial departments, mainly the national and provincial disaster management authorities, health, education, agriculture, water and energy departments.

The PM's aide said like many other parts of the world, Pakistan was also year in May and in the previous years. Changes in weather patterns contribute to unpredictable and extreme temperature variations.

Highlighting the country's heatwave vulnerability, Romina Khurshid said Pakistan had become highly vulnerable to heatwaves due to its geographical location, shifting climate patterns, declining or changing rainfall patterns, expanding summer season untamed illegal tree-cutting and urbanisation.

Meanwhile, meeting participants suggested that addressing the country's vulnerability to heatwaves required a multi-faceted approach, including improved urban planning, better infrastructure, awareness campaigns on heatwave preparedness and measures to mitigate climate change.

experiencing the adverse repercussions of global warming, leading to more Additionally, investing in early warning systems and improving access to healthcare services could help reduce the impacts of heatwaves on vulnerable populations, they added.

During the meeting, the PM's coordinator took exception to the illegal tree cutting in the country's various parts, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Romina Khurshid also said recurring fire incidents in the forest areas, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Murree, Nathiagali and Islamabad, had added only salt to injury.

She said untamed deforestation had only aggravated the country's vulnerability to the impacts of floods.

frequent and intense heatwayes as witnessed this

"Because forests play a crucial role in reducing flood risks by regulating water flow, stabilising soils, and providing natural flood control mechanisms, protecting and restoring forest ecosystems are essential components of comprehensive flood risk management strategies, particularly in areas prone to flooding," she added.

PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid directed the inspector general of Pakistan (Forest), Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination to coordinate with all provincial stakeholders on the subject and submit the report after the Eid vacations.

She also advised the Ministry of Science and Technology to come up with innovative technology for aerial firefighting.

Romina Khurshid chairs meeting on establishing mountaineering school in Gilgit Baltistan

ISLAMABAD Jul 13, 2024: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam chaired PM's committee meeting on establishing a mountaineering school in Gilgit Baltistan to promote sustainable green tourism, mountaineering education and local community engagement ensuring environmental conservation.

Romina Khurshid stressed the need for such initiatives that can help slow down global warming and overcome the devastating impacts of climate change, particularly in mountain regions.

The meeting decided to form three sub-committees that will design a comprehensive curriculum, identify suitable locations, prepare a detailed budget, engage with relevant considering accessibility, environmental impact.

The second sub-committee headed by Secretary Federal Education will design a comprehensive curriculum for the Mountaineering School, incorporating international best practices and standards in mountaineering, rescue operations, and environmental conservation. Establish training programs for instructors and staff, ensuring high-quality



The committee discussed a thorough plan for the establishment of a mountaineering school, overseeing the implementation process from conception to reality.

Addressing the meeting the PM's aide said the success of the project is in team work and the suggestions of all the participants will be incorporated to finalize the establishment of the mountaineering school.

stakeholders and establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to establish mountaineering school.

The first sub-committee will be headed by Secretary Inter Provincial Coordination will prepare a detailed feasibility, assessing the potential sites, infrastructure requirements, and financial implications, identify suitable locations for the construction of the Mountaineering School,

education and skill development for students.

The third sub-committee headed by National High Altitude Mountaineering, Naila Kiyani will engage with relevant stakeholders, including the Government of Gilgit Baltistan, local communities, mountaineering associations, and international experts, to ensure comprehensive input and collaboration.

Facilitate coordination with the Government of Gilgit Baltistan to align the project with regional development plans and secure necessary approvals and support, establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress of the project, assess outcomes, and ensure accountability of the project.

Federal secretaries from ministries of Federal Education and Professional Training, Inter Provincial Coordination and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan and executive director, NAVTTC attended the meeting while ex-Minister for Tourism, Gilgit-Baltistan, Ghulam
Muhammad and Gilgit-Baltistan, and
representatives from EvK2-CNR, tourism
educationists from KIU
Hunza and Baltistan
University and
mountaineers including
Naila Kiani participated in
the meeting online

Waste management strategies needed to protect Deosai's ecosystem: Romina Khurshid Alam



Islamabad, July 9, 2024: The Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam has underscored the pressing need for robust waste management strategies to safeguard the delicate ecosystem of Deosai National Park.

During a meeting with Ex-Senator and Ambassador (Honorary) Wildlife, Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari who called on her on Tuesday, the PM's Coordinator highlighted the critical issues affecting Deosai National Park, including solid waste generation from visitors, overgrazing by livestock, and inadequate resources for proper park management.

She emphasized that the park's ecosystem is under threat due to the lack of a comprehensive waste management plan.

Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam urged the concerned authorities to implement a

robust waste management strategy to address the challenges facing Deosai National Park.

Alam stressed that a wellplanned waste management system would not only protect the park's biodiversity but also promote sustainable tourism and support the local community.

She suggested banning disposable plastic items in the park and raising awareness among visitors to address this environmental challenge.

Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari briefed the Coordinator about his recent visit to Deosai National Park, emphasizing the importance of addressing the issue of Bakkarwaals and their impact on the wildlife and ecosystem of Deosai National Park. He noted that the park generates substantial income from visitor footfall, with only 25% of the park's income at the disposal of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO). To improve the management of the park, the DFO should be given more autonomy to rationalize expenditures and develop a yearly roadmap.

Leghari recommended initiating road maintenance from Chillam to Sadpara

Check Post, providing special monthly ration packages per post in Deosai, new uniforms suitable for both summers and winters, increasing the number of staff for the protection of wildlife in Deosai, provision of essential weapons, and POL support for effectively carrying out surveillance and anti-poaching efforts.

He also suggested relocating the Chilam check

post near Sheosar Lake and moving the Sadpara check post to Ali Malik Top to improve accessibility and convenience for visitors to Deosai National Park.

Additionally, he recommended installing welcome gates at the entrance of Deosai National Park to enhance the tourist experience.

PM's aide, Romina Khurshid Alam for launching TV channel to promote climate-resilient agriculture

Islamabad, July 7, 2024: The Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has unveiled plans to launch a dedicated TV channel tailored to support farmers in combating the impacts of climate change.

PM's aide in a statement said that the idea of this innovative channel aims to educate farmers on climate adaptation strategies, disaster management techniques, and sustainable practices to mitigate environmental degradation.

The Coordinator said the channel will leverage the services of Pakistan Television (PTV) to broadcast programs in six regional languages, She said the government seeks to empower farmers with knowledge and tools to build resilience against



ensuring that vulnerable communities receive timely information.

The programs will be telecast through local PTV stations at the provincial level, maximizing and localizing the coverage and reach, she added.

Romina Khurshid Alam also engaged with a private channel to amplify the voice of the Climate Ministry, promoting clean and green initiatives.

Climate change, leveraging the power of media.

She emphasized the importance of media support in enhancing climate change coverage and rearrange journalism prioritise.

She noted the TV channel will provide farmers with timely information and guidance on adapting to climate-related challenges, including weather alerts to enable preemptive measures.

She said adding, the channel will also feature initiatives promoting women's income generation, gender empowerment, and environmental sustainability.

She stated media teams from relevant climate change departments and TV initiatives will collaborate to strengthen our efforts protecting the socioeconomic impacts of climate change on the farming community.

During different meetings convened in June over global heat waves and floods, the PM's aide directed relevant institutions to strengthen official media teams to keep the vulnerable communities informed about climate change timely.

She said the goal is to sensitize media to report on climate change before potential flash flooding and glacial lake outbursts in vulnerable regions.

Romina Khurshid Alam is optimistic that this TV channel initiative will be a groundbreaking step towards a more climateresilient and sustainable agricultural sector in Paki

Lenders urged to adopt ESG practices

ISLAMABAD, July 2, 2024: The government has urged the microfinance institutions (MFI) to integrate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles in their functions to help mitigate the impact of serious risks, including climate change.

With a gross loan portfolio of Rs546 billion, these institutions provide essential financial support to millions of citizens who are economically vulnerable.

These views were expressed by the Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam during a workshop hosted by Zero Point Partners for Mobilink Bank in Islamabad.

She said that a significant portion of microfinance borrowers work in sectors highly exposed to climate risks, such as agriculture and small-scale manufacturing.

"Integrating ESG practices can help MFIs assess and mitigate these risks, ensuring long-term viability for borrowers," she added.

According to a statement, Ms Alam further said the integration of ESG practices can result in a triple win — reducing risk, attracting investment, and driving innovation for long-term sustainability.



She highlighted that the Ministry of Climate Change is committed to sustainable development, balancing environmental protection with economic growth.

Initiatives like the National Climate Change Policy and National Adaptation Plan are aimed at reducing the environmental impact and building resilience, she added.

Judiciary's role imperative to ensure 'Climate Justice' amid galloping environmental degradation: Romina

Islamabad, June 8, 2024:
Coordinator to the Prime
Minister on Climate
Change, Romina Khurshid
Alam on Saturday said the
role of judiciary has become
imperative to ensure
'Climate Justice' through
oversight of policy
decisions and interventions
to address galloping
impacts of environmental
degradation on the country.

She said while addressing as chief guest at the closing ceremony of the climate change conference titled "Navigating Climate Governance: Executive Action and Judicial Oversight" organised by the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan here at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Romina Khurshid Alam said the judiciary safeguards public dignity and interests against threats to environmental justice, whereas the Supreme Court had set great precedent through landmark environmental judgements.

She added that the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination had developed robust policy frameworks like Climate Change policy, Climate Change Act and also initiated ambitious

projects like GLOF-II, Living Indus Initiative, Green Pakistan Programme and creation of National Climate Change Authority to spearhead climate action.

After the 18th amendment, she said the four provinces had established their climate change policy whereas the remaining two were to make their policy by the Supreme Court.

She added that technological advancement, innovation, coordination and collaborations among all stakeholders were critical to ensure allinclusive climate resilience.

Ambassador of Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov in his special remarks extended his felicitations to the Supreme Court for successfully holding climate change conference. He said Azerbaijan was committed to host COP-29 global climate moot in Baku amid extremely evident impacts of climate change amid surging Greenhouse Gas emissions disrupting nature of balance globally.

He added that recently President designate of COP-29, Mukhtar Babayev acknowledged Pakistan's climate action commitment, whereas Azerbaijan was elected in December 2023 unanimously by all countries that showed its credibility.

Ambassador Farhadov said Azerbaijan would mobilise international community on reducing carbon emissions and unite the entire world for collective efforts.

"Climate finance will be an important part of the negotiations at COP-29, whereas Azerbaijan has put climate action at the heart of its policies and interventions. Azerbaijan is the leading country of the region in renewable energy transition," he said.

Earlier, during the panel discussion titled "Court-ing Climate Change", Ahmed Rafay Alam, Environmental Lawyer and Climate Activist said the earth's delicate ecological balance that enabled human species to implement activities like agriculture to support prevailing civilization was at risk. He added that the previous year was the hottest evert since the past 2000 years that eroded the delicate balance between nature and human civilization which was over.

He added that the previous year was the hottest evert since the past 2000 years that eroded the delicate balance between nature and human civilization which was over.

He added that the previous year was the hottest evert since the past 2000 years that eroded the delicate balance between nature and human civilization which was over.

"Asian heatwave 2024 has decimated crops in Sindh, whereas the wettest month of 2024, April caused over hundred deaths, whereas pneumonia killed hundreds of children in Punjab," he said.

He pointed out that existing environmental law only dealt with industrial pollution and did not address biodiversity in totality, whereas the legal system needed to adapt with the changing world.

Director Federal Judicial Academy, Muhammad Amir Munir said Pakistan has 133 constitutional Court judges whereas members of district judiciary were 3200 whose verdicts remained less publicized.

He urged the members of judiciary to consider not only legal but also environmental perspective in line with the UN, international laws and treaties with human rights and security at its core.

Judge Lahore High Court, Justice Jawad Hassan said the Supreme Court had passed remarkable judgements that made Pakistan a better country by the rest of the world.

He commented that climate justice was for adaptation, whereas the court's role should be oversighted to ensure that the funds intended to address climate resilience initiatives were spent accordingly.

"Judiciary in Pakistan protects investments and it's a green judiciary. However, with the arrival climate finance pouring into Pakistan, there will be a floodgate of cases in Pakistan," Amir Munir said.

Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan, Justice Ayesha A. Malik said there was an increase in the cases of climate change litigation, adding, "There is no direct or ready formula to connect climate change with human rights but there is something that has to be crafted and brought into the system. Judges can't resolve climate change but rather identify rights and duties and state action which is necessary."

She added that the courts could encourage the government and relevant departments to mull over climate change impacts and devise policies accordingly for a resilient society and better climate governance.

"Women are the most impacted during climate crisis, whereas community participation is important that gives government insight to the issue and the court can enhance government insight and humanize the issue for propitious and well-coordinated actions," she said.

Justice Ayesha Malik the courts have developed public private partnerships through judgements for infrastructure development, whereas the court directs government to submit regular reports to monitor and ensure compliance that would create data, required information, ongoing monitoring, addressing delays, transparency and accountability in the system.

"The judiciary has to adopt innovative and creative approach towards climate change cases, think about planet and coming generations read and update yourselves to think climate, rights and create solutions," she said.

Senior Puisne Judge,
Supreme Court, Justice
Syed Mansoor Ali Shah
said all judges needed to
consider and uphold human
rights during climate cases
and would have to develop
biocentric approach to
restore nature instead
human-centric approach.

"When you protect nature's dignity you automatically protect human dignity. However, the Apex Court is thinking over incorporating green alternate dispute resolutions (ADRs) in our approach, whereas

commercial courts would be the best venue for addressing climate change cases at district level," he said.Justice Shah underlined that the nation would have to bring change in its lifestyle amid changing climate, whereas the apex court should also consider low carbon footprint and efficient energy consumption prospects to conserve environment.

PM committed to promoting environmentally-sustainable mountaineering, PM's aide Romina Khurshid

Islamabad, July 21, 2024: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam emphasised that efforts have been launched on the PM's directives to set up mountaineering school in Gilgit-Baltistan having structured training and educational facilities specifically tailored to mountaineering, sherpa training and sustainable tourism practices in Pakistan's north to promote world-class environmentalfriendly mountaineering, climbing and mountain

While chairing a second review meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee to Establish Mountaineering School in Gilgit-Baltistan held here in the climate change and environmental coordination ministry, Romina Khurshid Alam said, "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is very much instrumental for setting up the mountaineering school in

tourism.



Gilgit-Baltistan and other mountain regions of the country."

Establishing such facilities that would help equip aspirant mountaineers and mountain climbers with the knowledge and confidence to enjoy the mountains safely while respecting the local environment, values and cultures of mountain communities and fellow climbers would prove an important imitative for promoting sustainable and environmental-friendly mountaineering and climbing in the country, the PM's climate aide said.

"A plan is being implemented in close coordination and support with the Gilgit-Baltistan government to set up first government-run mountaineering school of the world-class standard in Skardu. It also aims to open

new vistas of employment opportunities for the local mountain communities and help promote sustainable and environmental-friendly mountaineering and climbing," remarked the PM's aide.

Romina Khurshid said that the picturesque Gilgit-Baltistan has long been celebrated for its scenic towering peaks, including K2, the second highest mountain in the world. The region is rich in natural beauty and cultural heritage, attracting adventurers and explorers from around the globe.

However, the region holds a great untapped potential for promoting mountaineering and climbing despite through arrangement of mountaineering skill development trainings and facilities, she added.

"By equipping local and international participants with the necessary skills and knowledge at the proposed mountaineering school to be established in Skardu soon, we aim to foster a new generation of mountaineers and tourism professionals who are committed to preserving the natural and cultural integrity of Gilgit Baltistan," the PM's climate aide stressed.

Earlier, the meeting discussed at length the mountaineering and climbing curriculum, modules for relevant skill development, rescue trainings, identification of

site for building
mountaineering school,
training programme for
local tour guides and
potential funding
opportunities and
collaboration opportunities
for establishing and
managing the proposed
mountaineering school
facility.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Additional Secretary Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Zulfiqar Younas, Deputy Secretary (CC) Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Ministry Dr. Mazhar Hayat,

Secretary, Inter-Provincial Coordination Ministry Nadeem Irshad Kayani, Secretary federal education & professional training ministry Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, senior official representative of National Vocational and Technical Training Commission, Gilgit-Baltistan Planning & Development Department, Leading Pakistani mountaineer Naila Kiani PRO to PM's Coordinator Muhammad Arshad Chaudhry, Deputy Director Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Ministry Muhammad Saleem.

PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid lauds Qatar's support to boost Pakistan's climate resilience

Islamabad: July 4, 2024: A high-level threemember technical delegation of Qatar, led by Colonel Ahmed Abdullah Al-Abdullah, Wednesday called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam.

During the meeting held here at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, both sides discussed at length the various matters of bilateral interest and collaboration regarding climate risk management, environment conservation, water management, energy, forest



and disaster risk management.

PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid briefed the Qatari

delegation about Prime Minister's various clean and green initiatives being implemented to boost Pakistan's climate resilience and protect lives and livelihoods of the country's vulnerable communities.

"The present government led by Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is more focused on engaging with various countries through climate diplomacy to boost global climate action so as to deal with adverse fallouts of the global warming and

During the meeting, she also highlighted challenges and impacts of global warming, climate change, heatwaves and devastating floods during monsoon seasons being faced by the country.

Romina Khurshid Alam told the delegation that Pakistan is grappling with increasingly severe impacts from climate change, posing significant challenges to its environment, economy, and people.

"The country is continuously experiencing a rise in average temperatures, leading to more frequent and intense floods and heatwaves across the country. These extreme heat events not only threaten public health but also strain energy resources and exacerbate water scarcity issues," the PM's climate aide told the Qatari delegation.

She added, "The frequency of extreme weather events such as floods and droughts has been increasing. These events disrupt agricultural productivity, cause loss of lives and livelihoods and strain already fragile infrastructure."

During the meeting she also highlighted that the water stress, exacerbated by the climate change during recent years has emerged to be a critical and added that "Pakistan is heavily relies consequent disasters, particularly heatwaves, floods, land erosion and sea-level rise," Romina Khurshid apprised the Qatar's official delegation.



on its river systems for agriculture and domestic water supply, but climate impacts are altering water availability and quality, further straining these vital resources."

The PM's climate aide also shared progress on various initiatives of the present government related to climate change risk mitigation, environmental conservation, water efficiency, energy conservation, tree plantation programme, flood risk management and heatwayes.

Head of Qatar delegation Colonel Ahmed Abdullah Al-Abdullah lauded Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's initiatives of environment conservation, climate risk management, disaster management, Green Pakistan Programme, Living Indus Initiative, Glacial Lake Outburst flood management and Urban Resilience.

Colonel Ahmed Abdullah Al-Abdullah told the PM's coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam that the government of Qatar is aware of Pakistan's climate vulnerability and efforts being taken by the present government to cope with the exacerbating impacts of climate change on the country's various socioeconomic sectors, particularly agriculture, water, energy, food

security, health and education."

He said further that the Qatari government intends to extend and strengthen the cooperation and collaboration in climate-vulnerable socio-economic sectors, which are bearing the brunt of the climate change, specially health,

education, food security, water and energy.

The Qatari delegation head Ahmed Abdullah Al-Abdullah also pledged to provide every possible technical and non-technical support to Pakistan to achieve climate change, environmental conservation, national disaster risk management and flood protection goals.

PM's coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam thanked the Qatar delegation for pledging support for addressing climate change, disaster risks and achieve environmental conservation and protection goals.

Promoting Chess game must for enhancing cognitive skills, critical thinking among youth: PM's aide Romina Khurshid Alam



ISLAMABAD, July 3, 20204: Coordinator to the Prime Minister Romina Khurshid Alam has said that chess is recognised globally for its benefits in enhancing cognitive skills and critical thinking among its players. However, encouraging chess at various levels including at educational levels can significantly help foster interest and participation among people of all ages to promote the game in the country. Addressing as a chief guest at the the Mian Sultan Khan National Chess Championship Pakistan

event, the PM's climate aide said, "Chess is a classic board game that's been around for centuries and is played by millions of people worldwide. It's a game of strategy and tactics where two players, each controlling 16 pieces, compete to capture the opponent's king."The event was organised here on Wednesday by the Headstart School Gulmohar Campus Islamabad to encourage students to develop their cognitive skills and critical thinking.

Romina Khurshid Alam said that this championship, with over 140 participants from across Pakistan, is a vital platform for promoting chess and nurturing young talent.

The Prime Minister's
National Mind Sports
Initiative, the largest of its
kind, reflects our
government's commitment
to fostering intellectual
growth and mental agility,
the PM's coordinator
highlighted.

"Our government has opted WHOLE OF THE GOVERNMENT APPROACH and we are

Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted, "Chess is not only a game of skill and intellect but also a rich cultural phenomenon with a deep history and significant competitive scene. Players of all ages and skill levels enjoy its challenges and the opportunities it provides for creativity and strategic thinking."

"Chess also help players learn and make decisions based on evaluating multiple factors, such as the value of pieces, positional advantages, and potential threats and apply the same strategy to tackle problems in the day-to-day life. This also improves decision-making skills under pressure," the PM's coordinator added.

integrating climate change awareness and sustainability through educational programs, sports, art on side

Ms Khurshid Alam called for need to promote national the chess game by establishing more local chess clubs in the country, where players would meet regularly to play, learn, and compete. These clubs can offer structured tournaments, coaching sessions, and social gatherings centered around chess.

Besides, Introducing chess into school curricula or after-school programs and setting up chess clubs in schools could also help students develop critical thinking, concentration, and social skills while fostering a love for the game, she added.

and policies, planning, and climate finance on the other," said Romina Khurshid Alam.

Earlier, Shedding light on the legacy of Asia's first Chess Grandmaster, PM's coordinator Romina Khurshid said that Mian Sultan Khan was a pioneering figure in chess and represented the subcontinent globally in the early 20th century, inspiring players across Pakistan and Asia.

The Chess Federation of Pakistan's efforts to secure the Grandmaster title for Mian Sultan Khan, up to early 2024, are commendable, she emphasised.

The PM's coordinator urged all stakeholders to extend all-out support to promote chess and other mind sports in Pakistan, enhancing youth development and international representation.

Pakistan making efforts to benefit from UN's carbon trading system – PM's climateaideRominaKhurshid

Islamabad: July 1, 2024: A 3-member delegation of the United Nations
Environment
Programme's Denmark
Mission, led by Senior
Economist called on
Coordinator to Prime
Minister on Climate Change
Romina Khurshid Aalm in
the Ministry of Climate
Change & Environmental
Coordination.



During the meeting Advisor Carbon Credit Markets Urwah Khan at the United Nations Environment Programme briefed the PM's climate advisor Romina Khurshid Alam about carbon market-related initiatives for their potential benefits economic Pakistan can gain by selling its carbon credits from different sectors including cement, oil & gas, textile and other industrial industries.

He also assured the PM's climate aide of his organisation's fullest technical and non-technical support to build up policy infrastructure and its

implementation for creating enabling environment for various potential sectors including cement, waste, textile, oil & gas, telecom and information technology sectors to generate and sell their carbon credits in the international carbon credit markets.

Both sides agreed to work together to enable Pakistan's various industrial sectors to sell their carbon credits in the international carbon trading markets and earn financial benefits.

We are very much aware ofthe huge untapped economic potential the carbon markets offer for Pakistan to generate

carbon credits in the international carbon market and earn economic gains by selling the carbon credits," the PM's climate aide emphasized during the meeting.

Carbon markets are international trading systems in which carbon credits are sold and bought to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing carbon credits from entities that remove or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid underlines urgency of 'collective action' for safeguarding the GB's globally significant natural heritage

Islamabad, June 27, 2024: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has said that Pakistan's northern region is home to unique biodiversity and ecosystems of global repute. But, they are grappled with several significant threats stemming from both natural and human-caused factors.

Addressing as a keynote speaker at a national seminar on the 'Biodiversity Safeguarding Initiative: Global Assessment of the State of Nature and Biodiversity Safeguarding Actions in Northern Pakistan', the PM's climate aide stressed that tackling escalating risks



to the resource-rich biodiversity and ecosystems is need of the hour to protect the biodiversity and resource-rich ecosystems for overall environmental and human sustainability and development.

Spelling out the threats to the sustainability of biodiversity and ecosystems, Romina Khurshid Alam said that continuing loss of habitat and fragmentation, deforestation and land degradation, soil erosion, water and soil pollution and contaminations, illegal wildlife poaching and trade, unsustainable agricultural practices, use of chemical fertilisers in farming, unsustainable production

and consumption patterns and climate change are among the key pressing challenges facing the unparalleled biodiversity in the country's north.

and conserve the biodiversity in the country, particularly in the northern parts for sustainability of the environment, of our own and future generations," PM's coordinator Romina Khurshid told the participants.

She also appreciated the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Pakistan) for organising an important seminar on the Biodiversity Safeguarding Initiative for sharing the project achievements and collectively focuses on the conservation of biodiversity in the country.

"On behalf of Government of Pakistan, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), Government of Italy, Government of Gilgit Baltistan, IUCN Pakistan and local communities for making this possible to achieve important benchmarks in safeguarding the biodiversity of the fragile ecosystems of northern Pakistan through the joint imitative of national importance," the PM's climate aide said during her address. Gilgit-Baltistan is the biodiversity

She emphasised the need for urgency of collective action for safeguarding the region's natural heritage comprising unique biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

rich region of Pakistan, being home to the national animal of Pakistan Markhor. Unique flora and fauna of this region is exceptional with the highly conservation oriented local communities. Community based Trophy hunting programme has become the most interesting and rewarding initiative that has not only increased the population of key Cites species and in-turn elevated the lives of local communities.

"However, I consider this Biodiversity Safeguarding Project a major milestone in establishing collaborative initiatives by key stakeholders in the environmentally-sensitive region of Gilgit-Baltistan," Romina Khurshid said and highlighted that, "Assessment of key wildlife species has been a remarkable advancement with regards to status of biodiversity in the country."

She also highlighted that establishment of biodiversity corridors in the Khunjerab National Park jointly with the local community and GB Forest, Parks and Wildlife department is another unique initiative, which

"Northern Pakistan is blessed with unparalleled biodiversity, but it is under threat. Through collaboration and shared responsibility, we must work together to protect our ecosystem

would significantly help for biodiversity conservation.

The PM's coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam recalled that establishing the corridors has proved a positive step because the Khunjerab National Park has been selected as a candidate for the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, which will help draw global support to protect and conserve the globallyimportant unique biodiversity in the national park.

She also highlighted that no doubt community-based ecotourism pilots have paid fruitful dividends and proved as excellent examples towards establishing sustainable tourism in the northern region.

"Given the positive outcomes of the community-based ecotourism, there is serious need for launching similar initiatives needed to be launched in other locations by the local communities in collaboration with the relevant departments like Forest, Parks and Wildlife of the nature-based tourism in fragile ecosystems of the country," she underlined.

Gates Foundation, PM's climate aide vow to jointly work for Pakistan's climate resiliencebuilding

Islamabad, June 25:
Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental
Coordination and Bill &
Melinda Gates Foundation
have agreed to work jointly for building Pakistan's climate resilience.

This agreement was reached during a high-powered Climate Adaptation Roundtable hosted by the Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam for the Foundation's Chairman Bill Gates here in Islamabad, according to a press statement released from the Ministry.

The roundtable was held at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Headquarters and co-hosted by the Chairperson of NDMA, Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik.

The PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam also apprised Bill Gates of the various sectoral impacts of climate change, saying Pakistan's socio-economic development gains at highly exposed to the adverse impacts of climate change.

She also informed him particularly of the floods, heat waves, forest fires and droughts, which have become frequent and intense in terms of their impacts on various socio-



economic sectors, mainly agriculture, water, energy, health and education.

PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid also informed Mr. Gates, "Despite the lowest contribution in climate change causing carbon emissions, Pakistan is facing the worst effects of global warming and making all-out efforts to deal with the impacts so as to protect lives and livelihoods of the country's vulnerable communities."

"Pakistan is also committed to support global climate action at all levels to protect the global community from the deleterious impacts of global warming," she highlighted during her conversation with Mr. Gates.

PM's aide Romina Khushid Alsm also underscored the importance of continued dialogue between Pakistani stakeholders as well as international partners to explore avenues of collaboration and mutual support over the world's most pressing collective challenge, climate change.

She said that both the domestic public and private sector stakeholders were already playing their part in climate mitigation and adaptation, highlighting further the need to develop and deepen linkages between the same and international partners.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation chairman appreciated the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif government's policy measures for building the country's climate resilience and mitigation and adaptation initiatives despite limited financial resources.

Mr. Gates, however, assured the PM's climate aide to engage with the climate change and environmental coordination ministry through his Foundation and extend every possible technical and non-technical support to launch climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives to boost the country's climate resilience in agriculture, water, energy, food, health and education sectors.

Meanwhile, during the roundtable, Mr. Gates held meetings with key private sector innovators in the health, agriculture, technology and climate finance sectors, who highlighted the various efforts of Pakistan's private sector being taken for strengthening Pakistan's capacity to cope with

adverse impacts of climate change.

Private sector representatives and Mr. Gates also explored possibilities of collaboration to overcome the challenges of climate change being faced by Pakistan's various socio-economic sectors, particularly energy, water, food, health and education.

Mr. Gates also talked about key aspects of Pakistan's overarching climate adaptation approaches and the opportunities offered by science-based solutions to problems and challenges

exacerbated by climate change.

During the roundtable, Mr. Gates spoke about the importance of using and applying artificial intelligence (AI) to problems of both scope and scale. He also acknowledged the unfrequented challenges Pakistan faces in dealing with climate risks.

However, he reiterated his strong commitment to supporting climate adaptation efforts in the country.

PM's aide Romina Khurshid lauds Punjab CM for enforcing plastic ban, urges other provincial CMs to follow the suit

Islamabad, June 23, 2024: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that imposing of ban on plastic bags in the Punjab by the Provincial Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was a longawaited move to deal with hazardous effects of plastic on the environment and human health.

The PM's aide said in a press statement that while the Punjab chief minister has enforced a comprehensive ban on manufacturing, distribution and sale and purchase of plastic all over the province in its strict form, we also urge other provincial governments to follow the



suit so as to make Pakistan plastic-free country.

"Achieving plastic-free Pakistan is an extremely challenging goal, but it is possible with coordinated efforts by all provincial governments to completely ban manufacturing, distribution and sale and purchase of plastics in its all forms and manifestations at all levels," Romina Khurshid Alam remarked.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif enforced the province-wide ban on plastics on June 5, a move deliberately coincided with the World Environment Day marked every year globally on the same day.

The Punjab chief minister had announced weeks before that the provincial plastic ban policy would be strictly enforced, particularly in hotels , resturants and eateries, citing the detrimental effects

of plastics on the environment and public health and stating that "No to Plastic" campaign is core of the anti-plastic policy, which aims at reducing environmental pollution and promoting eco-friendly initiatives.

The PM's aide on climate change Romina Khurshid recalled that when the ban on plastics was being imposed in the Islamabad under a relevant law, all the provincial, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir governments were requested by the federal government to impose plastic bag in their respective provincial and admirative territories as a part of the federal government's 'Plastic-Free Pakistan' campaign.

But, "now it is heartening to note all provincial governments are making efforts to rid the country of environmentally-damaging plastics in support to achieve the goal of Plastics-Free Plastic'," PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid said, rejoicingly.

The PM's aide recalled that in Islamabad implementation ban on single-use plastics and other plastic items faced stiff challenges including resistance from businesses, lack of alternatives, and our lives," Romina Khrushid suggested and added, the present PM Shehbaz Sharif-led government is committed to weeding out plastics from

enforcement issues. But, continuous efforts are needed to ensure compliance and address these challenges.

Romina Khurshid Alam, however, underlined the urgency of banning the production, distribution and use of polythene bags, citing their detrimental environmental impact and contribution to respiratory ailments and other lifethreatening conditions.

PM's aide also urged the provincial governments to promote use of eco-friendly alternatives like cotton bags to replace plastic bags, appealing to the citizens to switch to cloth and paper bags as alternatives to plastic.

She also highlighted the unprecedented importance of the public engagement through awareness campaigns to reduce the environmental impact of plastic waste and promote the use of more sustainable alternatives.

"Without engaging public through sensitization and awareness about adverse impacts of plastics on environment and public health, the country cannot get rid of the plastic pollution," Romina Khurshid cautioned.

our environment and making efforts to adopted the afore-mentioned solutions. She emphasized that plastic waste has become a major source of various kinds of pollutants, contaminating land, water bodies and oceans and it takes hundreds to thousands of years to decompose, leading to long-term pollution.

Highlighting adverse impacts of plastics on the marine life, she PM's aide Romina Khurshid said that plastics in the ocean harms marine animals through ingestion and entanglement. Microplastics, tiny plastic particles, are ingested by marine organisms, entering the food chain and affecting biodiversity, she added.

She said further that the production and disposal of plastics contribute to climate changing greenhouse gas emissions. Because, plastic production relies heavily on fossil fuels and incineration of plastic waste releases carbon dioxide and other harmful gases.

"Developing and promoting/adopting the use biodegradable plastics, adopting recycling technologies and alternative materials would significantly mitigate the negative impacts of traditional plastics in

The government was already incentivizing the production and use of biodegradable and ecofriendly alternatives to plastic. Manufacturers and retailers are encouraged to transition to sustainable materials, with tax benefits and subsidies provided to support this shift, she highlighted.

She said further that for enhanced, improved waste management systems in the country, investments were also being made to improve the country's waste management infrastructure by encouraging establishment of more recycling facilities, better waste segregation practices, and increased capacity for plastic waste processing.

Meanwhile, PM's aide Romina Khurshid Alam urged businesses and industries to adopt sustainable practices and reduce plastic usage in their operations as a part of the corporate social responsibility and to support the government's efforts to make the country plastics free.

"Reducing plastic use, improving waste management, and transitioning to sustainable alternatives are essential steps to mitigate the harmful impacts of plastics on the environment, human health, and the economy," she stressed.

PM's aide, UNDP representative discuss climate mitigation strategies

ISLAMABAD, June 20, 2024: Van Nguyen, who is deputy resident representative for the United Nations Development Programme in Pakistan, met Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam to discuss key climate risk mitigation strategies.

The meeting took place at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination. The discussion focused on several critical areas, including climate risk mitigation, climate finance for adaptation and mitigation measures, agricultural insurance, and urban flood resilience.



Ms Nguyen briefed Romina Alam on the Global Shield against Climate Risks initiative, highlighting its aim to address protection gaps in climate-vulnerable countries like Pakistan through pre-arranged finance. "The Global Shield against Climate Risks is designed to provide immediate financial resources in response to disasters, ensuring quick

and effective support for the economy, businesses, and communities in the most climate-vulnerable countries," explained Van Nguyen.A statement issued by the ministry said that the initiative, launched by the Vulnerable Twenty Group (V20) in collaboration with the Group of Seven (G7) and other supporting countries, sought to enhance pre-arranged protection against climate and disasterrelated risks for vulnerable populations

Ms Nguyen emphasised the initiative's role in offering comprehensive support to understand climate risks and impacts, and in developing innovative solutions to address losses and damages caused by climate change.

A key objective of the Global Shield initiative was to provide grant-based financial and technical assistance to climate-vulnerable countries like Pakistan, enabling them to develop and implement solutions for the financial protection of vulnerable communities and to bolster climate adaptation efforts.

Van Nguyen assured Romina Alam of UNDP-Pakistan's full support in accessing the financial and technical resources offered by the initiative to enhance Pakistan's climate resilience. At this, Ms Alam expressed gratitude to the UNDP for its commitment to supporting Pakistan's efforts to build resilience in climate-vulnerable sectors, such as agriculture and urban flood management.

Romina Alam emphasised protecting lives and livelihoods, especially in sectors, like agriculture, water, energy, health, and education through climate adaptation and mitigation measures.

Romina Alam noted that increased financial protection and improved disaster preparedness and response under the initiative could significantly contribute to addressing climate change-related vulnerabilities and losses in Pakistan. She highlighted the growing intensity and frequency of storms, droughts, and floods, which pose severe risks to human

survival and ecosystem sustainability.

Despite ongoing climate action and adaptation investments, residual risks from climate change continue to result in significant losses and damages, Ms Alam pointed out. She emphasised the need for better systems to provide immediate and efficient financial support in the wake of climate-related disasters.

The statement said that collaboration between UNDP and Pakistan underscored a joint commitment to addressing climate change challenges and enhancing resilience for the most vulnerable communities.

PM Shehbaz Sharif committed to protect Pakistan from desertification risk, climate aide Romina Khurshid

Islamabad, June 16, 2024:
Coordinator to the Prime
Minister on Climate
Change, Romina Khurshid
Alam has said that as the
global community marks
the World Desertification
Day on June 17th, Pakistan
- which is facing expanding
desertification and recurring
but intense droughts stands at a critical juncture
in its fight against
desertification and land
degradation.

In her press statement, the PM's aide said that the

theme for this year's World Desertification Day 2024, "Restoration. Land. Climate.", resonates deeply with the present government's commitment and on-ground efforts to fight desertification by restoring degraded lands and ecosystems, enhancing climate-resilience and achieving sustainable development goals.

"Through targeted policies, investments in research and technology and fostering international cooperation,



Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to combating desertification and achieving land degradation neutrality," Romina Khurshid said. She highlighted that
Pakistan is a signatory to
the United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification (UNCCD)
and is closely working with
international partners to
address desertification.
Various projects and
initiatives are supported by
international organizations
to enhance Pakistan's
capacity to combat this
issue.

Spelling out factors behind the issues of expanding desertification and land degradation, the PM's aide said that warming temperatures, shifting or declining rainfall patterns, recurring droughts, loss of vegetation and tree covers, unsustainable agricultural, irrigation practices, overgrazing, urbanisation, ranching, mining and clearing of land and heattrapping carbon emissions from industrial, transport and fossil fuel-run energy sectors and deforestation are major causes.

Over 68% of Pakistan's land area is classified as arid or semi-arid, making it vulnerable to desertification, she underlined and added that soaring desertification levels in recent years have resulted in loss of fertile topsoil, soil erosion, water scarcity, lower agricultural, loss of agriculture-based livelihoods, increase in rural poverty, hunger and

malnutrition, rural-to-urban migration, habitat loss, degradation of natural ecosystems.

Sharing a global picture of the desertification challenge, the PM's coordinator said that like elsewhere in Africa, Europe and Asia, desertification has emerged as a serious environmental issue in Pakistan, adversely impacting large areas of the country and posing a serious threat to agriculture, water resources and livelihoods.

Of all global regions, Africa and Asia are the worst-hit regions, bearing the brunts of desertification.

According to an estimate, a little less than 2 billion people in Asia live in conditions or areas characterised as desertification or drought-hit parts and the number of the people affected by desertification or drought will soar to 2.5 billion by 2050, she explained.

The PM's aide emphasized that the global observance of the world desertification day on June 17 this year, however must serve as a stark reminder of the growing environmental challenges faced by not only the global regions but also Pakistan, underscoring the urgent need for concerted global efforts to combat desertification.

In light of the challenges of desertification and land degradation, the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has already taken proactive coping measures to address desertification in collaboration with various stakeholders including civil society organizations, academia, and international partners, the PM's aide empahsised.

"Various initiatives including Green Pakistan Programme, climate-smart agriculture, National Adaptation Initiative, Living Indus, climateresilient urban planning and management, Recharge Pakistan are already being implemented to fight desertification by promoting sustainable land management practices, increasing tree cover for restoring degraded land and conserving natural resources as well as increasing groundwater level," she elaborated.

Romina Khurshid Alam said further that under these government-led desertification-control initiatives, we are taking all-out measures to engage local communities, development partners, civil society organisations for their role in deal with the threat of desertification.

Efforts are also being taken to raising awareness about the impacts of desertification for combating desertification in the country. Their participation and commitment are crucial in implementing sustainable solutions and adapting to the changing climate patterns, she added.

"I believe that addressing desertification in Pakistan requires a holistic approach, integrating environmental, economic and social strategies and engaging local communities and all relevant stakeholders to achieve sustainable land use and protect the livelihoods of those affected," she remarked, adding, "As the country observes World Desertification Day, let us reaffirm our collective responsibility to preserve our natural heritage, protect our land resources, and secure a sustainable future for generations to come."

PM's aide Romina Khurshid urges collective action for climate-resilient Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: June 13. 2024: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, MNA Romina Khurshid Alam, on Thursday said that while Pakistan is struggling to cope with exacerbating impacts of climate change particularly heatwaves and floods, the present government is taking all-out policy measures to overcome the impacts, which have already caused irrecoverable economic losses worth billions of rupees.

While addressing a national seminar 'Disaster-Resilient Pakistan held here at the National University of Technology and organised by the National Disaster Management Authority, PM's aide noted that frequent disruptions in normal weather patterns overall last one decade has severely impacted the country's agricultural productivity, posing risk to national food water, energy securities, livelihoods of millions, deepening hunger and malnutrition woes.

The country's geographical location, coupled with its



heightened socio-economic vulnerabilities, intensifies the risks posed by the climate crisis, she highlighted.

Evidence from the various reports international financial institutions including World Bank and Asian Development Bank suggest the country would continue to experience more adverse effects of climate change in future, including more erratic weather patterns, heightened glacial melting, paced sea-level rise and unleashing of more intense weather events such as floods and droughts. These impacts not only threaten human lives and infrastructure but also exacerbate existing socioeconomic disparities, the reports highlight.

Quoting from a World Bank study 'Pakistan: Country Climate and Development Report', the PPPM's aide Romina Khurshid said that between 1992 and 2021climate- and weather-related disasters in Pakistan causes economic losses to the tune of US \$29.3 billion from damage to property, crops, and livestock, equivalent to 11.1% of the 2020 GDP.

The devastating riverine floods in 2022 alone resulted in more than \$30 billion in economic losses and damages, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive action, she added.

Apprising the event participants of the the

present PM Shehbaz Sharifled government's climate risk mitigation measures, is taking all-out policy initiatives and implementing various adaptations and mitigation coping measures to address the country's worsening climate-vulnerability."

The PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid noted that as a part of climate change adaptation and mitigation policy measures, enhanced investments in resilient infrastructure, sustainable agriculture practices, efficient water management and renewable energy are imperative to build resilience against climate change-induced risks and protect the country's vulnerable socio-economic sectors and lives and livelihoods of the climatesusceptible communities, particularly in coastal and mountain areas.

The present government has already prioritised climate action to protect the lives and livelihoods of the people and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come, she added.

Spelling out various policy initiatives, the PM's aide said further that as a part of climate action, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental

Romina Khurshid Alam said, "The present PM

Coordination was already implementing a robust policies and implementation frameworks to cope with climate and environmental challenges including the National Environment Policy, National Climate Change Policy, National Forest Policy, the Pakistan Climate Change Act (2017), Green Building Codes.

Moreover, the various projects have also been implemented under these policies and implementation frameworks such as the Scaling up of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Risk Reduction project, the Living Indus Initiative, Recharge Pakistan and the Green Pakistan Programme, under which 2.1 billion tree saplings have already been planted across the country, Romina Khurshid added.

She also told the seminar participants that National Adaptation Plan of Pakistan, rolled out by the ministry in consultation with relevant provincial, national and international stakeholders, is being implemented to enhance resilience, address vulnerabilities, and mobilise climate finance, manage disaster risks by investing in early warning systems, strengthening climate

Shehbaz Sharif-led government

governance and enhancing preparedness for effective response.

Arranging adequate funding for implementation of the various policies and implementation frameworks for coping with climate change impacts on socioeconomic sectors is a major challenge, the PM's aide highlighted and urged the private sector to come forward to support and fund government's climate resilience building initiatives.

"Efforts are being made to engage private sector by approaching financial institutions including banking, industrial sector and corporate sectors to invest in climate-resilient development programmes and projects of the government under publicprivate partnerships, and help strengthen the government's climate action for making Pakistan climate-resilient," Romina Khurshid Apprised the participants.

While highlighting the unprecedented significance of the public-private partnership for climate-resilience Pakistan' She As Pakistan moves on to deal with intensifying impacts of

PM's aide Romina Khurshid Alam calls for global action to fight ocean pollution

ISLAMABAD, Jun 08, 2024: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, MNA Romina Khurshid Alam said that as the world celebrates World Ocean Day, the present government has firmly reaffirmed its commitment to the global efforts for preserving and protecting marine ecosystems in the country and anywhere in the world

In a press statement, MNA Romina Khurshid Alam said that this year's theme, "Catalyzing Action for Our Ocean & Climate," very much resonates deeply with Pakistan's coastal communities, whose lives and livelihoods are intricately connected with the health and sustainability of the oceans.

She said that as a coastal nation, Pakistan is committed to playing its part in advancing marine conservation efforts.

"As a nation with a rich maritime heritage, we recognise the vital role that oceans play in supporting life on Earth, regulating our climate, and providing resources that sustain livelihoods," Romina Khurshid Alam said. The initiatives of Mangroves restoration in Pakistan has resulted in 300% increase of mangroves since 1992, which drew global



appreciation for the government's conservation efforts, the PM's coordinator highlighted.

Through initiatives such as marine protected areas, community-based conservation projects such as national mangroves restoration initiative, and public awareness campaigns, the present government was striving to safeguard our oceans and promote their sustainable use, she highlighted.

She also said that the present government was very much aware of the national and global environmental and climate change-related challenges facing the oceans and efforts are being made to address marine pollution, promote sustainable fisheries management, and conserve marine biodiversity.

Pakistan is blessed with a resource-rich coastline of about 1,046 kilometers along the Arabia sea, which harbours a diverse array of marine life and ecosystems. From the bustling ports of Karachi to the tranquil shores of Gwadar, Pakistan's coastal areas are not only vital hubs of economic activity but also rich reservoirs of unique biodiversity of global repute.

The PM's coordinator said that pollution, overfishing, climate change, and habitat destruction threaten the delicate balance of marine ecosystems worldwide, jeopardising the well-being of millions of people who depend on the oceans for their sustenance and livelihoods.

"Oceans globally are facing grave challenges, including pollution, overfishing, habitat destruction and the impacts of climate change. Besides, growing amount of plastic waste dumping in oceans is a major environmental threat to oceans' sustainability," Romina Khurshid Alam said.

Highlighting further the plight of rapidly pollution oceans around the world, mainly because of untamed dumping of plastic waste, Romina Khurshid Alam said that around 9.5 million tons of plastic waste is dumped into oceans worldwide, which poses risk to the fish and other oceanic biodiversity.

She, however, underlined the urgent need for collective action by all government and nongovernmental stakeholders and communities to address the myriad challenges facing the country's oceans.

"We urge all nations to strengthen cooperation, implement effective policies, and adopt sustainable practices to ensure the health and resilience of marine ecosystems for present and future generations," she said.

Romina Khurshid also reaffirmed her government's commitment to the the global efforts for preservation and sustainable use of our oceans.





PHOTO

GALLERY



Islamabad, 5 June 2024. PM's Coordinator on Climate change & Environmental coordination Romina Khurshid Alam being presented memento by ambassador & Executive Director COMSATS Nafees Zakariya in recognition of her actions taken to protect the environment on World Environment Day.



PM'S coordinator on climate change & environmental coordination Romina Khurshid Alam interacting with Chairman NDMA lieutenant general Inam Haider Malik on World environment day.



PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam addresses a ceremony organized by COMSATS, Ministry of climate change, MoFA, ECO, SF and FACE, on World



MR. JUSTICE QAZI FAEZ ISA, THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF PAKISTAN / CHAIRMAN LAW AND JUSTICE COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN ADDRESSING THE PARTICIPANTS OF "NAVIGATING CLIMATE GOVERNANCE: EXECUTIVE ACTION AND JUDICIAL OVERSIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE", AT SUPPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN, ISLAMABAD ON JUNE 8, 2024.



PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam chairs fir



PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam appoints former Senator Jamal Khan Leghari as Ambassador on Pakistan's Wild Life in recognition of his services, in Islamabad on June 10, 2024.





PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam addressing seminar on Disaster Resilient Pakistan organized by NDMA, at NUTECH in Islamabad on June 13,2024.



Islamabad , 13 June 2024: NDMA held a Seminar on 'Disaster Resilient Pakistan' at NUTECH, Islamabad. Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change Ms Romina Khursheed attended the opening session.



PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam chairing second meeting of Task Force on Global warming & Heat Wave in Islamabad on June 14,2024.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the leadership and administrative staff of National Emergencies Operation Center in Islamabad on June 20, 2024.





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A 3-member delegation of the United Nations Environment Programme's Denmark Mission, led by Senior Economist Xianli Zhu, called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Aalm in the M/o Climate Change & Environmental Coordination on July 1, 2024.



Coordinator to PM on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam inspecting a piece of art at Pakistan Arts Council in Islamabad on July 3, 2024.



A high-level three-member technical delegation of Qatar, led by Colonel Ahmed Abdullah Al-Abdullah calling on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam at the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination on July 4, 2024.



Coordinator to PM on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam inaugurating art exhibition at Pakistan Arts Council in Islamabad on July 3, 2024.









Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam chairing a meeting with members of Global Shield against Climate Risks, an international funding and technical capacity building organisation in Islamabad on July 26, 2024.



Coordinator to PM on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam chairing Second Review Meeting of PM's Committee to establish mountaineering school in Gilgit-Baltistan held here in the Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Ministry



Coordinator to PM on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam gives away a certificate of recognition to a wildlife official in recognition of wildlife protection at the Pakistan Wildlife Protection Award ceremony 2024 at Pakistan National Council of Arts in Islamabad on July 31, 2024.



Coordinator to PM on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam looks at photo of snow leopard during visit to a photo gallery on the sidelines of the Pakistan Wildlife Protection Award ceremony 2024 at Pakistan National Council of Arts in Islamabad on July 31, 2024.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chairman Gates Foundation, Mr. Bill Gates in an interactive session in NEOC. Islamabad on 24 June 2024.



Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing as a chief guest at a high-level roundtable discussion on plastic waste management in Pakistan at a local hotel in Islamabad on July 22, 2024.



Globally acclaimed Pakistani mountaineer Naila Kiyani calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on 20th July 2024.







