



MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION

NEWSLETTER

Oct-Dec, 2024



Message of the Honourable Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on 'National Resilience Day'



The 8th of October reminds us of the devastating earthquake of 2005 – a great tragedy that befell upon Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Our heartfelt prayers go to all those who endured loss of lives and properties.

After the devastating 2005 earthquake, the floods of 2022 were a mega disaster surpassing all past records. The people and institutions of Pakistan have always shown immense resolve and demonstrated ability to resurface amidst catastrophes and national crises, induced by climate change and environmental hazards. Pakistan is facing an immense impact of climate change despite not being responsible for it. Frequent recurrence of unpredictable extreme events have given devastating blow to our struggling economy.

I commend the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan for its hard work to have evolved a tested mechanism as a national response towards such natural calamities. Key components of our national response include proactively working at reducing vulnerability to disasters and providing coping mechanisms and framework for effective disaster management. It is quite satisfying that NDMA's National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) has the best capacities in management of national disasters. NEOC is founded on high-end technology inputs to create disasters' early warnings much ahead of time - saving lives and infrastructure.

I urge all stakeholders to seek synergy through greater and refined understanding of each other's strengths and capacity limitations, achieving maximized interoperability amongst local, zonal, national, global, and public and private sectors through a 'whole of society' approach. Efficient and effective coordination, development of contingency plans and risk communication to farthest communities is critical for national resilience.

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'National Resilience Day' is a motivation for us to embrace the best practices and implement policies and strategies aimed at fortifying our nation's resilience. Our policy initiatives should encompass various sectors, including safe development of infrastructure, improved disaster preparedness, poverty alleviation, safer spatial land use planning, adherence to building codes, efficient water resource management, sound agricultural practices, and increased afforestation nationwide, including coastal areas.

On this occasion, I express our gratitude for the valuable help provided by the international community, civil society, and private philanthropy in bolstering our national response efforts during the 2022 floods disaster.

The people of Pakistan have a history of philanthropy and generosity in times of crises and their response during the earthquake of 2005 and floods of 2022 is a vivid example of their benevolence. By the grace of Allah, we have always, and continue to, fought through all such calamities with the help of our brave Pakistani brethren and sisters.

May Allah guide and help us in building a strong and resilient Pakistan.

Rwanda, Pakistan pledge to jointly work against climate

ISLAMABAD, December 26, 2024: In an important step towards fostering collaboration, Rwanda and Pakistan on Thursday pledged to strengthen their cooperation in addressing climate change and environmental conservation.

Rwandan Ambassador Fatou Harerimana at a meeting with Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam

emphasised the potential for bilateral efforts in areas such as water conservation, smart agriculture, and disaster management, said a statement issued by the ministry.



The meeting held at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination underscored the urgency of joint action to tackle the pressing challenges posed by climate change.

Ambassador Harerimana highlighted the longstanding relationship between the two nations, spanning over six decades, and expressed the desire to expand collaboration beyond trade and health to focus on environmental resilience. "Rwanda and Pakistan share many climate-related challenges, including heat waves, droughts, and water scarcity. By pooling our resources and expertise, we can develop innovative solutions that benefit both countries," the ambassador remarked.



Discussions at the meeting centred on knowledge exchange, joint research initiatives, and the implementation of green technologies to promote sustainable development.

The ambassador noted Rwanda’s global recognition for its progressive environmental policies and commitment to renewable energy, reforestation, and conservation.

The Prime Minister’s Coordinator expressed Pakistan’s enthusiasm for learning from Rwanda’s experience in climate adaptation and resilience.

“Pakistan faces significant climate risks, and Rwanda’s success in implementing sustainable practices can offer valuable insights for us,” she said.

The two sides agreed on the need for a formal agreement to outline key areas of cooperation, focusing on achieving shared environmental goals, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement targets.

Aisha Humera, Secretary Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, added that both the countries faced similar environmental threats, reinforcing the need for collaborative efforts.

Prioritising gender-inclusive climate resilience need of the hour: PM’s climate aide

Islamabad, December 23, 2024: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that while Pakistan grapples with the escalating adverse impacts of climate change, from devastating floods and droughts to extreme heat waves, there is a pressing need to prioritise gender-inclusive climate resilience to overcome these climate risks.



“Women, especially in rural and marginalised communities, are among the most vulnerable to climate-related disasters. Yet, they also hold the key to sustainable, community-driven solutions,” She said during her meeting with the two-member delegation , led by Technical Lead for Green Tech Hub at NUST Dr Salman Atif.

The delegation which also comprised a senior official from UN-Women Dr Waqar Ul Shams on Monday called on the PM’s Coordinator for Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam here in the M/o Climate Change & Environmental Coordination in Islamabad.

Various matters related to the future plan of action for Green Tech Hub as a national focal point for research and green technology driven startups from the country and possible search for international partners for enhancing cooperation and collaboration in climate research and startups ecosystem came under discussion between two sides during the meeting.

PM’s climate aide assured the delegation of her all-out support to explore and reach out to available funding avenues and opportunities for strengthening the Green Tech Hub, set at the NUST University in Islamabad in collaboration with the climate change and environmental coordination ministry.

The Green-Tech Hub was launched this year in October as a dedicated platform with an

overarching aim to serve as a dedicated space for students, researchers, and innovators to collaborate on cutting-edge solutions in areas such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste management, climate adaptation technologies, and sustainable agriculture. The initiative is a direct response to the urgent need for innovation in addressing Pakistan's environmental challenges, including energy shortages, water scarcity, pollution, and the growing impacts of climate change.

During the meeting PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted that "By empowering women with the tools, knowledge, and resources to adapt to a changing climate, Pakistan can build stronger, more resilient communities for the future. However, there is urgent need for inclusive, holistic risk management strategies focusing on building climate resilience of the women and children."

She noted with concerned that one of the most critical, yet often overlooked, aspects of climate change adaptation and resilience in Pakistan and in many developing countries is gender inclusivity. Women's experiences and vulnerabilities in the face of climate-related disasters are unique, and addressing these disparities is essential for building sustainable and equitable climate solutions she remarked.

Pakistan committed to achieving SDGs-Romina Khurshid Alam



Islamabad, December 20, 2024: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam emphasised that despite contributing less than one percent in the total global carbon emissions, Pakistan ranks as the 5th most impacted country in the world due to climate change.

Speaking at a national meeting on Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) here on Friday, she informed the participants that the effects of global warming are already visible in Pakistan, citing increasing frequency of droughts, floods, erratic weather patterns, changing agricultural practices, dwindling freshwater supplies, and loss of biodiversity. The recurring adverse impacts of global warming on the country's various socioeconomic sectors, particularly agriculture, energy, water, health and education have already put the country's efforts for achieving sustainable development goals at stake, she added.

She highlighted that SDG-13 (Climate action) underpins and is the cornerstone for achieving our ambitious sustainable development goals and targets, which calls for taking urgent coping actions to combat climate change and its adverse impacts on various socioeconomic sector.

"To achieve the climate action SDG goal, we need to focus on integrating climate change concern into national policies, enhancing education and awareness, and improving institutional capacities for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and strengthening early warnings for effective disaster management," the PM's climate aide suggested.

Ms. Romina warned that the cost of inaction on climate change is staggering.

Referring to the World Bank's Climate and Development Report for Pakistan, she pointed out that the country needs \$348 billion in climate finance from 2023 to 2030 to address its adaptation, mitigation, and resilience needs. However, the available financial resources remain limited, the PM's aide highlighted.

Despite these challenges, Pakistan has made significant strides, using its own limited budgetary and technical resources.

Sharing adaptation and mitigation policy measures of the present government, Romina Khurshid Alam explained, "The Green Pakistan Programme, launched by the climate change and environmental coordination ministry is helping sequester 149 MtCO₂e through reforestation, biodiversity initiatives and the protection of critical areas. Our Electric Vehicle (EV) policy is set to reduce emissions by 23 MtCO₂e by 2030, while our renewable energy policy is expected to save 70 MtCO₂e by the same year.

Ms. Romina also informed the participants that the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) is actively working on Pakistan's biennial transparency report (BTR) and Third National Communication (TNC), fulfilling UNFCCC and Paris Agreement reporting obligations. Efforts on Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3.0 are in progress, aligning Pakistan's climate goals with the Paris Agreement. Additionally, policy guidelines for carbon market trading are nearing completion, and a national climate finance strategy has been developed to enhance resource allocation, she added.

PM's Climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam lauds World Bank for fostering more resilient future for Pakistan

Islamabad: December 17, 2024: The World Bank's Country Director for Pakistan, South Asia Region, Najy Benhassine called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam and discussed various matters of bilateral interest and cooperation for building Pakistan's climate resilience through various measures.



In the high-level meeting between two sides focused on discussing the country's increasing climate vulnerability and the urgent need for enhanced cooperation to address the challenges

posed by climate change.

Both sides agreed to work jointly to invest in various climate-vulnerable sectors, particularly agriculture, water, energy, floodwater management, disaster risk reduction for making these sectors climate-resilient.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Ms. Aisha Humera Moriani, Additional Secretary-I Mr. Zulfiqar Younus, Additional Secretary-II Mr. Hammad Shamimi Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) Ms. Khalida Bashir, Joint Secretary (Admn) Mr. Muhammad Jameel and Deputy Director Media & Communication Ms. Muhammad Saleem.

During the meeting Secretary Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Aisha Humera Moriani the Ministry's programmes and projects being implemented for addressing the growing climate-related challenges faced by Pakistan, which include extreme weather events such as floods, heatwaves, and droughts. Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, despite contributing a minimal share to global emissions.

she also highlighted during the meeting that Pakistan is among the most vulnerable countries to the exacerbating fallouts of climate change, despite its minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions.

"While the country continue to face extreme weather events such as devastating floods, heatwaves, droughts, desertification, groundwater depletion, crop failures and unpredictable rainfall patterns, which have significant economic, social, and environmental consequences, Pakistan is doing everything possible with its own resources and existing capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change," Romina Khurshid Alam said.

Meanwhile, the World Bank official also emphasised with the PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam the significance of developing and implementing comprehensive climate risk management strategies to be implemented at national, provincial and district levels. This would help the country to better prepare for and effectively respond to natural disasters and mitigate their economic, social, and environmental impacts and protect lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable communities.



The World Bank's country director Najy Benhassine also offered closely work at all levels with the climate change and environmental coordination ministry and provide both technical expertise and financial support to enhance Pakistan's coping capacity to deal with the climate risks. This could involve funding for infrastructure projects, climate-resilient agricultural practices, and disaster preparedness plans, he added.

The Bank's official reiterated its commitment to supporting Pakistan's climate finance needs, which could involve facilitating access to international climate funds to finance projects that build resilience to climate change.

Mountain Day celebrated with call for building climate resilience of lives, livelihoods, ecosystems

Islamabad, December 11, 2024: Speakers at a national awareness-raising and advocacy seminar regarding the International Mountain Day emphasised urgency of halting global warming to stave off the mountain communities, their livelihoods and fragile ecosystems from adverse fallouts of the climate change.



Coordinator to Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing an event on international mountain day in Islamabad on December 11, 2024.

Global warming is accelerating at an unprecedented rate, leaving a profound impact on mountain ecosystems and glaciers worldwide. This phenomenon poses critical threats to our environment, communities, and global sustainability, they said at the event organized here by the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination in collaboration with various development partners.

While highlighting the vital significance of sustainable development and conservation of the Pakistan's majestic mountain ranges and the ecosystem these harbour up in the country's north, Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam said during her keynote address that this year's theme, **"Mountain solutions for a sustainable future – innovation, adaptation and youth"** underscores the unprecedented role of mountains in preserving ecosystems, supporting livelihoods, and mitigating climate change.

"Communities dependent on glacial meltwater for their livelihoods face looming challenges. Reduced water availability impacts agriculture, energy production, and drinking water supplies, potentially leading to economic hardships, displacement, and conflicts over scarce resources," she remarked.

Speaking further at an event, the PM's climate aide highlighted the critical role of mountains in sustaining life and the growing risks posed by climate disruptions.

"Our mountains, crowned with ancient glaciers that house the most vital source of life—water—are now at risk as climate change disrupts their natural course," said Romina Alam.

"The glaciers, which have long been a source of life, are receding at an alarming rate. Currently, over 10,000 glaciers in our mountain ranges have already retreated, with 2023 marking the 36th consecutive year of glacial loss rather than gain," she added.

Alam stressed that this disruption was threatening not only ecosystems but also the communities that depend on these natural resources. The Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, she said, stands in full alignment with this year's theme for International Mountain Day, which focuses on strengthening mountain solutions for a sustainable future through innovation, adaptation, and active engagement of youth.

"Our mountainous regions, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan, have been severely impacted by rising global temperatures," she continued. "Climate-induced disasters, such as torrential rains, floods, and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), have devastated homes, infrastructure, and ecosystems. However, despite these challenges, we remain committed to accelerating climate adaptation strategies in these vulnerable areas."

Romina Alam further highlighted the efforts underway to safeguard these regions, including the installation of advanced early warning systems, support for indigenous practices, and the promotion of ecosystem-based approaches. "Our commitment to protecting these natural treasures and the people who depend on them remains unwavering," she said. "Together, we strive for a sustainable and climate-resilient future for Pakistan's mountains and their guardians."

In her opening remarks, Aisha Humera Moriani, Secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change, underscored the importance of promoting eco-friendly tourism by utilizing local resources and involving local communities. She stressed that mountains are home to many vulnerable plant and animal species, and protecting these ecosystems is crucial for maintaining biodiversity and supporting the livelihoods of local communities.

Additional Secretary-II at the Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Ministry Hammad Shamimi pressed on need for engaging youth in protecting mountains from the impacts of climate change is essential for fostering long-term sustainable action.

While addressing the participants, he said, "Recognizing the critical role of youth in shaping a sustainable future, **[Organization Name]** is proud to announce the launch of **[Initiative Name]**, a groundbreaking program aimed at empowering young people to take action in protecting mountain ecosystems from the devastating impacts of climate change."

The event concluded with a renewed call for collective action to address the growing climate challenges facing Pakistan's mountains and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come and attended by government officials, representatives of various international development organizations including UNDP Pakistan, EVK2cnr (Italy).

Message of the Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination on "National Resilience Day"



Pakistan faces exacerbating risks from natural disasters, many of them caused due to climate change, as demonstrated by the devastating 2005 earthquake, the 2022 floods and 2015 heat wave.

Building resilience is inevitable to ensure that lives and livelihoods of the people, natural ecosystems, critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, schools and hospitals can withstand these calamities, reducing loss of life and minimizing the economic impact, the PM's climate aide emphasized in her statement in the context of the National Resilience Day.

Every year on October 8, Pakistan commemorates National Resilience Day to remember the tragic earthquake that struck in 2005, devastating parts of northern Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. This day serves as a reminder of the over 73,000 lives lost and countless others impacted by the 7.6 magnitude earthquake. It also sheds light

on Pakistan's ongoing efforts to build resilience against natural disasters, which are becoming more frequent and intense.

I wholeheartedly pay tribute to the victims of both the 2005 earthquake, the floods of 2022 and 2015 heat wave, acknowledging the immense challenges posed by climate change.

She highlighted the role of the various federal and provincial government organisations for implementing policies and plans for disaster resilience building of the country, its people and ecosystems.

The 8th October day underscores the unprecedented significance of collaboration between local, provincial and national stakeholders to strengthen disaster response systems and improve infrastructure, poverty alleviation, and environmental management.

All provincial and federal stakeholders should seek, create and enhance synergies among each other for benefiting from each other's strengths, expertise, knowledge and capacities for achieving interoperability amongst local, zonal, national, global, and public and private sectors through a 'whole of society' approach.

There is need to understand for us that without cooperation and coordination among institutions responsible for disaster risk management, development of contingency plans and risk communication strategies and their effective and efficient implementation is not possible, needed for building effective disaster resilience of lives and livelihoods of communities and public infrastructure is if for national resilience.

In fact, 'National Resilience Day' must be marked as inspiration for those responsible for developing and implementing disaster risk management policies and action plans to embrace the best practices and implement policies and strategies aimed at strengthening the nation's resilience.

As one of the most disaster-affected countries in the world, Pakistan's resilience-building efforts are essential for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

While natural disasters have a direct economic impact, particularly in a developing economy like Pakistan's, by investing in disaster resilience, we can reduce the financial strain on government resources and support sustainable and disaster-resilient economic growth by framing and implementing programmes like as climate-smart agriculture and green infrastructure development for achieving goals of disaster-resilience and environmental sustainability.

Use of technology, strengthening early warning systems and building robust infrastructure is also vital for building climate resilience, she stressed.

PM's climate aide and Belarusian Minister meet, agree to work for environmental Sustainability, climate resilience

Islamabad, November 25, 2024: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam and Belarusian Minister for natural resources and environmental protection, Sergey Maslyak have agreed to closely work together to boost cooperation for achieving common environmental sustainability and climate resilience-related goals, with focus on eco-tourism, water conservation, circular economy, green technology transfer, exchange programmes, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.



Both sides met here on Monday and highlighted and discussed the potential for launching joint projects between Pakistan and Belarus to build up climate change adaptation and resilience against the exacerbating impacts of global warming, particularly floods, heatwave, droughts, groundwater depletion and renewable energy.

The PM's climate aide emphasized that collaboration between two countries on biodiversity research and innovative wetland preservation techniques by leveraging Belarus's expertise would prove to be of unprecedented value.

Romina Khurshid Alam also called for joint efforts in policy development to align strategies with international standards, aiming to bolster sustainable climate development in Pakistan.

Collaborative initiatives between two countries for enhancing biodiversity conservation would be of paramount important, aiming at restoring native species in Pakistan, enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem stability.”

She also stressed the importance of preserving natural resources for achieving environmental sustainability goals, suggesting that Belarus's innovative approaches could assist Pakistan in managing its diverse climate actions.

Romina Khurshid said that Pakistan would appreciate collaboration with Belarus on exchange of academia, exchange of technical know-how, knowledge sharing and capacity building to promote green education and awareness in the field of nature and environmental protection and rational use of natural resources for achieving sustainable development goals, particularly related to climate change, water, sanitation, energy, agriculture, gender equality and women empowerment.

Both the countries discussed development and protection of ecological tourism within protected areas like nature reserves, national parks and nature reservations.

Ms. Romina proposed collaboration on mitigation of climate change and adaptation emphasizing the potential for both countries to promote principles of green economy, circular economy and low carbon economy for environmental sustainability, enhancing resource management, and creating economic opportunities.

Romina Khurshid advocated for collaborative policy development with international standards and emphasized the importance of international collaboration in shaping environmental policies highlighting the need for improving regulatory frameworks to strengthen environmental governance, ensuring that both nations can better achieve their sustainability goals.

Sergey Maslyak said Belarus's experience in environmental monitoring can complement Pakistan's efforts to implement eco-friendly policies and practices. Establishing joint ventures in these areas could further strengthen their partnership.

Pakistan home to over 13,032 glaciers, new study reveals

Islamabad, November 7, 2024: A new study has revealed that Pakistan is home to an astonishing 13,000 plus glaciers, underscoring the country's status as a critical reservoir of freshwater in South Asia.

This was stated at a press conference jointly organised by Ministry of Climate Change and Italian research institute, EvK2CNR, celebrating the launch of the "Glaciers and students" project.

The findings not only contribute to Pakistan's climate resilience strategies but also highlight the importance of international cooperation in tackling environmental challenges.

Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, commended the Italian government along with EvK2CNR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for their essential role in supporting Pakistan's climate initiatives, especially in the sensitive Gilgit-Baltistan region. Ms Alam stressed the urgency of addressing climate change impacts, as Pakistan has faced a surge in climate-triggered disasters with mountainous areas like Gilgit-Baltistan being especially vulnerable.

She explained that the recent glacier inventory, an achievement of collaboration between EvK2CNR experts and Pakistani institutions, showed the remarkable scale of Pakistan's glaciers. The project benefited from partnerships with universities in Gilgit-Baltistan and support from Italian institutions.

"The inventory is a milestone in climate research, showcasing the importance of international cooperation to face the climate crisis," she noted.

She expressed gratitude to the Italian government and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation for sustained support that had strengthened Pakistan's climate resilience efforts.



Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Marilina Armellini highlighted the enduring ties between Italy and Pakistan, a relationship that had supported various development projects in Pakistan for almost three decades.

The ambassador reaffirmed Italy's commitment to aiding Pakistan's sustainable development initiatives, particularly those addressing climate-related vulnerabilities.

UNDP Resident Representative Samuel Rizk provided an overview of the "Glaciers and students" project and its role in building Pakistan's climate response capacity. He noted that UNDP's collaboration with Italian and Pakistani partners, including EvK2CNR and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), was aimed at enhancing climate adaptation efforts in vulnerable communities.

EvK2CNR experts Maurizio Gallo and Dr Davide Fugazza said the project's glacier inventory would serve as an invaluable resource for Pakistan's water needs, particularly in drinking and irrigation. The project also installed eight automatic weather stations in Gilgit-Baltistan for environmental monitoring, which would provide critical data for future climate research.

A noteworthy achievement of the project was the active involvement of local institutions, including Karakoram International University, University of Baltistan and the Environment Protection Agency Gilgit-Baltistan.

Italian universities, including the University of Milan and the University of Cagliari, also played key roles. Additionally, the project facilitated the participation of 171 female students from Gilgit-Baltistan, a significant step in promoting gender inclusion in scientific research in the region.

The inventory marked a major step in understanding and managing Pakistan's critical water resources while international partnerships continued to drive Pakistan's response to the escalating challenges of climate change.

Romina Khurshid Alam

Islamabad, November 5, 2024: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that the present government is committed to boost collaboration with various stakeholders involving countries and non-governmental organizations for achieving sustainable development goals.



During her meeting on Tuesday with a high-profile six-member delegation from Yuanhe Holdings and the Green and Low-Carbon Committee of the Sino-International Entrepreneurs Federation (SIEF), she emphasized that engaging with development partners and countries with sound technical know-how, technology, and expertise in implementation of the UN's sustainable development goals is present government's top agenda, aiming to achieve poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, climate resilience, gender empowerment and other socio-economic development related goals.

SIEF delegation was led by its Dr. Ma Chengliang, senior advisor of the Green and Low-carbon Committee met PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam at the climate change and environmental coordination ministry.

Both sides expressed commitment to collaborate for achieving sustainable development in Pakistan through joint working in areas including environment, climate change, disaster risk reduction, poverty reduction and gender development.

SIEF is a global nonprofit, non-partisan organization with headquarters in Beijing and connects top business leaders from China, Europe, Australasia, Arab and Africa from across industries, continents and cultures through meaningful engagements, such as the Sino-European Entrepreneurs Summit, the Sino-Australasian Entrepreneurs Summit, the China-Africa Investment Forum, the Sino-International Entrepreneurs Summit, the China-Arab Entrepreneurs Summit, the Sino-Japan Entrepreneurs Summit, as well as a broad range of ongoing programmes around the world.

PM's climate aide said that the Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif-led government strongly believes in collaboration with various governments, private sector, civil society organisations and academia and development partners through joint multi-stakeholder engagement for achieving common goals of environmental sustainability, climate resilience and socio-economic development.

She remarked, "Collaboration at any level and in any form for sustainable development is essential to address the interconnected challenges facing our world, such as climate change, poverty, inequality, and the depletion of natural resources. It involves working together across sectors, borders, and disciplines to create long-term solutions that are socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable."

“Effective collaboration can significantly help leverage resources, knowledge, and expertise to tackle complex global issues such as climate change, health, and inequality,” she added.

Highlighting the unprecedented significance of inclusive development through collaborations, PM’s climate aide said further that inclusivity is a crucial for achieving sustainable development. However, collaboration must be participatory, ensuring that all voices, especially those of marginalized, resource-poor communities, are heard and considered in decision-making processes.

Romina Khurshid Alam said that for leveraging ethnology and innovation is vital to achieving sustainable development goals. Because, technology and innovation play vital roles in tackling environmental sustainability and climate change challenges.

“From renewable energy technologies to data-driven decision-making tools, innovation can drive efficiency and create new opportunities. Collaboration between the tech sector, research institutions, and governments can accelerate the development and deployment of sustainable technologies,” PM climate aide remarked.

SIEF delegation head Dr. Ma Chengliang lauded the present government’s vision for environmentally-sustainable and climate-resilience Pakistan and the initiatives launched for achieving the vision.

SIEF delegation head Dr. Ma Chengliang lauded the present government’s vision for environmentally-sustainable and climate-resilience Pakistan and the initiatives launched for achieving the vision.

The growing recognition of the business case for sustainability is driving a shift in how companies view their roles in society.

He said, “Integrate sustainability into business operations help increased operational efficiencies, improved brand reputation and enhanced employee engagement. Besides,, sustainability is becoming a key factor in consumer purchasing decisions, with many individuals actively seeking products and services from companies committed to environmental stewardship and social responsibility.”

“We are at a critical juncture,” said Dr. Ma Chengliang, the SIEF’s senior advisor said, “We hope our collaboration with Pakistan and its business community would lead to exploiting available opportunities for joint benefits address various socio-economic and environmental challenges, but also help unlock new business opportunities.

Islamabad, October 30, 2024: Taking serious notice of the rapidly worsening air quality in recent days in the capital city and its surrounding areas, Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has directed the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency to take necessary measures to cope with the issue in coordination with relevant official stakeholders including Islamabad Capital Territory Administration and Capital Development Authority, according to a press statement issued here on Wednesday by the climate change & environmental coordination ministry.



The deteriorating air quality of Islamabad from the onset of mid-October has particularly started worsened further, leaving the city's ambiance murky with increasing pollution, dust and vehicular emissions raising alarm bells for smog risk, the PM's climate aide noted.

The poor air quality in Islamabad, like many urban areas, can be attributed to several factors. The main causes include ehicle emissions, industrial pollution, construction dust, burning of waste and crop residue.

“Addressing these drivers of bad air quality in the city requires stringent enforcement of the relevant environmental regulations and fines. And, adoption of better waste management practices and public awareness campaigns to combat pollution effectively are essential to compliment the air quality improving measures.

Romina Khurshid Alam urged the city dwellers to play their part by avoiding burning of waste and crop residue.

She also urged the city's waste collection authorities to regularly collect the waste from designated points and dispose of it properly on environmentally sustainable and scientific manner to avoid its burning by the people in streets.

Pak-EPA officials said that efforts are being taken to tackle the growing air pollution in the capital city for protection of public health from its hazardous impacts.

In a press statement, they said that air quality monitoring is being conducted on regular basis through mobile station and low cost qir quality monitoring sensors across the city.

The data collection through the Pak-EPA's air quality monitoring network focuses on key pollutants and environmental factors impacting public health, including Particulate Matter (PM2.5 and PM10), Carbon dioxide (CO2), temperature, and relative humidity.

Findings obtained by AQI data showed that PM_{2.5} levels ranged between 55.25- 66.5 µg/m³, while PM₁₀ ranged from 58-74.1 µg/m³. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels in the air were recorded between 528.25- 577.5 ppm whereas the temperatures ranged from 27.25-30.5 °C, and relative humidity was between 36.5- 40.83%.

“Calculated AQI values indicated that PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ levels were in the Moderate range, primarily affecting sensitive individuals, such as the elderly and those with respiratory conditions,” senior Pak-EPA official say.

The findings underscore the urgency of addressing Islamabad’s air pollution to safeguard public health, particularly given the harmful PM_{2.5} levels, according to the Pak-EPA official.

The Pak-EPA official also said that the city’s environmental watchdog’s Environmental Monitoring Team (EMT) has conducted on October 28 a monitoring exercise with focus on on vehicular emissions from heavy transport vehicles at the Mandi Morr entry point, Sector I-11, Islamabad.

This monitoring was carried out in collaboration with the Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) to address the smog issue so as to enhance the capital’s air quality. During such exercise, the team also assessed the smoke emitted by diesel-fueled heavy vehicles, using the Ringlemann scale for evaluation and measured noise emissions with a dedicated noise meter, the official added.

The Pak-EPA official said further that during the checking of the polluting vehicles, 36 vehicles out of 50 were fined for surpassing the permissible limits set by NEQS as a part of Pak-EPA's broader strategy to combat smog issue, ensure cleaner air and promote public health through targeted pollution control measures.

The capital’s environmental watchdog said that the Capital Development Authority (CDA) is currently implementing in several major construction projects including the widening of Park Road, the construction of 10th Avenue and preliminary work on the widening of I.J.P Road. Additionally, new flyovers are being constructed simultaneously.

These construction activities are contributing to traffic congestion, which in turn lead to increased vehicular emissions, noise pollution and dust emissions, ultimately deteriorating the air quality in Islamabad. But, the relevant authorities have been requested to take all-out measures to mitigate air and noise pollutions for improving air quality and protecting public health, the Pak-EPA official emphasized.

Meanwhile, the PM’s coordinator on climate change Romina Khurshid Alam urged all the relevant government departments to collaborate with the Pak-EPA to strengthen regulatory measures to enforce stricter emissions standards, promoting cleaner transportation options, and implementing public awareness programmes on pollution’s hazardous health impacts.

Pakistan to push for more climate finance inflows at COP29 UN climate talks – PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid

ISLAMABAD, October 28, 2024P: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said Pakistan along with other vulnerable countries would strongly push rich polluting countries to honour their climate finance to help developing nations cope with exacerbating climate impacts and transition to low-carbon future through adaptation and mitigation strategies.



“We are hammering out strong country position to pursue during the upcoming two-week long UN-led global climate talks (COP29), which would focus on several key issues, reflecting our priorities and challenges related to climate change, namely climate finance, adaptation and resilience, loss and damage and mitigation efforts,” She said while delivering a keynote address at the day-long event ‘Pre-COP29 dialogue: Road from Dubai to Baku’.

During the two-week long global climate talks, beginning from November 11, Pakistan would also reiterate the critical need for substantial financial assistance flows from developed countries to support its climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

She said that Pakistan has been vocal about the need for mechanisms to address loss and damage caused by climate change, particularly for countries that are disproportionately affected despite contributing minimally to global emissions. Therefore, the country’s delegation at the COP29, however, would also call for the fulfillment of prior commitments to ensure vulnerable nations can effectively address climate.

“I must highlight here that Pakistan always advocates for a clear and actionable framework from the rich countries, responsible for global warming, to address loss and damage resulting from unfolding climate crisis in the resource-poor countries like ours that have disproportionately borne the brunt of climate impacts despite minuscule share in overall global carbon emissions,” Romina Khurshid Alam said.

She also emphasized that being a responsible country, Pakistan also stands ready to collaborate with global partners to forge actionable solutions that address the climate crisis facing the global community, public infrastructure and economies.

“We must realize that ‘only together’ we can build a sustainable and resilient future for all through joint enhanced climate action,” Ms Alam stressed.

The PM's climate aide said that climate action at any level should align with sustainable development and low-carbon goals and achieving this role of the rich countries with finances, technology and technical know-how is of unprecedented importance.

Addressing the event, Secretary climate change & environmental coordination ministry Aisha Humera Moriani said the country, like several other vulnerable nations, is bearing the brunt of the unfolding catastrophe. In 2022, Pakistan was hit by a super flood which affected 33 million people, she recalled.

“As Pakistan navigates the complexities of climate finance change, carbon markets and resilience building as a part of efforts to tackle adverse impacts of climate, it is clear that no meaningful progress can be made without strong collaboration with civil society,” the federal secretary Ms Moriani told the participants.

She said that the climate change and environmental coordination ministry secretary said that as a highly climate vulnerable country that needs around US\$ 350 billion till 2030 for a comprehensive response to the climate crisis, Pakistan wants to see a New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance agreed at upcoming COP29 global climate talks.

Earlier in her welcome, remarks, Ayesha Khan, chief executive of the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC), said that it is matter of a serious concern that rich nations have failed to meet their climate finance pledges for the climate vulnerable countries. This has only exacerbated the vulnerability of the poor countries, most of them in Asian countries, to the adverse impacts of climate change.

“The cost of inaction is getting higher with every fraction of increase in the temperature and with every day of delay in realizing our policy objectives,” she remarked.

PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam proposes regional Climate Action Data Bank for evidence-based climate response

Islamabad, October 27, 2024: Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to boost regional collaboration among the Vulnerable Twenty (V20) Group, representing 70 countries from the most climate-vulnerable regions and pledged her all-out support to set up V20 Climate Action Data Bank she proposed during a recent high-level meeting with representatives of the V20 member countries.

“Establishing the proposed data bank would be indeed a groundbreaking initiative to consolidate data on climate risks, economic losses and financial resilience-building needs of the V20 group member countries,” the PM’s climate aide said in a press statement issued here on Sunday.

She offered her country’s willingness to play lead role in mobilising V20 group member countries to set up the crucial data bank.

Romina Khurshid Alam said further that this centralised platform would in fact aim to empower V20 nations to effectively cope with adverse fallouts of climate change by providing the critical evidence-based information needed for informed decision-making and resource mobilization from available climate regional and international funding channels for the result-oriented climate actions through adaptation and mitigation efforts.

The Vulnerable Twenty (V20) Group is a coalition of finance ministers from countries highly susceptible to climate change impacts. Established in October 2015 in Lima, Peru, the V20 aims to promote greater investment in climate resilience and low-emission development.

As of October 2024, the V20 comprises 70 member countries from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific, collectively representing over 1.7 billion people and account for just 5% share in the total heat-trapping global carbon emissions.

The PM’s climate aide said that today the V20 countries, comprising more than 1.7 billion people, are disproportionately affected by climate change. Many of these nations grapple with rising sea levels, extreme weather events and rapid environmental degradation that threaten their economies, essential infrastructures, populations and livelihoods.

Given the V20 country’s heightened climate vulnerability, the new data bank is inevitable to enhance access to reliable data to strengthen climate resilience strategies and leverage international funding,” she underlined.

"Indeed, the proposed V20 Data Bank would be a major step forward in our collective efforts to safeguard our vulnerable communities, economies and critical infrastructure from the devastating



impacts of climate change," the PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam emphasised "By centralizing data and making it widely accessible for decision makers, policymakers and planners, we can ensure that every dollar is well spent and every action is informed by the best available evidence."

She said further that while climate finance needs to flow faster and with precision, this crucial data bank would be also helpful to eliminate barriers and expedite funding flows from various regional and international funding channels such as Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, and Loss and Damage Fund to where it's needed most.

Highlighting the importance of the data bank of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan Philippines , the PM's climate aide remarked that the proposed V20 data bank would also be instrumental to enhance regional cooperation by facilitating the sharing of critical climate-related data and resources aimed at improving understanding of vulnerabilities and risks, enabling countries to develop sectoral and country-needs-tailored strategies for climate resilience through mitigation and adaptation efforts.

She also highlighted that by pooling data, V20 member countries can engage in joint risk analysis, promote innovative financial mechanisms and coordinate responses to climate challenges more effectively.

"With this this new and crucial collaborative approach, the V20 countries can also strengthens collective resilience efforts, ensuring that countries can better prepare for and respond to climate impacts, ultimately fostering sustainable development across the region," PM's climate aide said.

"By enhancing risk management, timely informed decision-making and strengthening regional cooperation can also help attract investment and yield economic benefits", she highlighted and said.

Romina Khurshid Alam said that access to comprehensive climate data could also effectively assist in negotiating better on terms with international financing institutions such as Asian Development Bank, World Bank and International Monetary Fund for debt-for-nature swap, debt relief or restructuring to alleviate fiscal pressures and enabling governments to allocate resources toward development and resilience initiatives rather than debt servicing.

GreenTech Hub launched to transform country's energy sector, achieve sustainability

Islamabad, October 25, 2024: A World-class Green-Tech Hub (G-TH) has been launched on Friday as an state-of-the-art facility by the climate change and environmental coordination ministry in collaboration with national and global energy sector stakeholders including universities to transform Pakistan's energy landscape and reduce energy sector's carbon footprints by tapping into green technologies, fostering renewable energy solutions and eco-friendly innovations in the country.



Addressing a launching ceremony as a chief guest here, the PM's climate aide said that the Green-Tech Hub, an initiative would be instrumental to position the country as a regional leader in promotion and adoption of sustainable innovative solutions for transforming the country's energy sector.

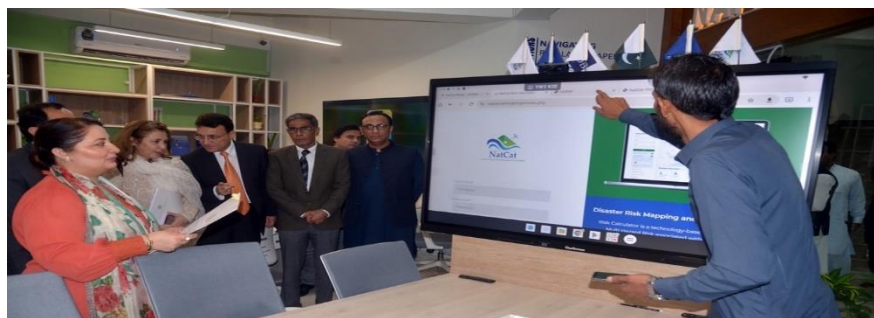
“Today marks a game-changing moment for Pakistan as we launch the Green-Tech Hub. This isn't just a project—it's a movement towards securing a sustainable future for our country and our people. Through innovation, we aim to solve the most pressing climate challenges and build a greener, more resilient economy,” Romina Khurshid Alam said.

She emphasized that G-TH is more than an incubator—it's a symbol of hope and progress, where ideas will grow into solutions that power Pakistan's transition to clean energy and environmental sustainability.

The PM's climate aide said further that the initiative directly supports Pakistan's national commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement, positioning the country as a leader in the global green economy and aligns with the national vision for a just transition—one that ensures economic growth while protecting our environment and leaving no one behind.

She said that the role of stakeholders such as universities, researchers, energy scientists is laudable in coining the idea of setting up a platform that promotes innovation research and development in the energy sector to achieve Pakistan's low-carbon energy goals.

“With NUST hosting the Green-Tech Hub, we are combining the best of academic research and entrepreneurial spirit. Together with universities like COMSATS, we will push the boundaries of what green technology can achieve,” Romina Khurshid Alam remarked.



“Let me highlight that with the launch of G-TH, we are not just reacting to climate change; we are building the future proactively—through technology, entrepreneurship, and sustainable innovation,” Romina Khurshid remarked.

Explaining the overarching role of the Green-Tech Hub, she said that it would serve as a one-stop platform for entrepreneurs, researchers, and policymakers, creating an environment where innovative ideas can thrive and grow.”

“We are here to build something bigger than technology. It’s about driving real change—solutions that tackle carbon emissions, boost renewable energy, and attract climate finance, all while creating jobs and lifting communities.”

Highlighting the present government’s role in promoting innovation, research and development in the country’s energy development and transition to clean energy, Romina Khurshid Alam said that the present government is making all-out efforts to pave the way for innovation—integrating green solutions into national policies, opening doors for investors, and ensuring that new technologies become part of Pakistan’s sustainable development journey.

Talking about the role of G-TH in tapping into global investment streams for transforming the country’s energy transformation, Romina Khurshid Alam said that the hub would take center stage at the upcoming two-week long UN-led global climate summit to be held in Baku from November 11 this year.

“We will position Pakistan through G-TH platform as a global destination for green investments as this hub has been created for the central goal of to invite the world to invest in Pakistan’s environmental sustainability future—where sustainable solutions drive economic growth and prosperity for us all,” the PM’s climate aide told the participants of the G-TH launching ceremony.

She called upon all stakeholders—businesses, policymakers, development partners—to join the government’s initiative in building an enabling environment, where sustainable technologies can thrive.

“The G-TH belongs to all of us, and together, we can make Pakistan a leader in green innovation,” she remarked, and said, “This is not just an opportunity for growth—it’s an obligation. We have a responsibility to the next generation to build a future where innovation and sustainability go hand in hand.”

PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam highlights visual arts' role in wildlife protection

Islamabad, October 25, 2024: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Friday said that while the climate change impacts grow more frequent and intense, innovative approaches such as painting and visual arts can play a vital role to sensitise policymakers and public about various threats being faced by the wildlife species and their habitats and invoke response.



“In the face of escalating threats to wildlife and their habitats, the role of painting and visual art has never been seen more crucial as in today’s times of global warming. Artists can effectively use their talents to illuminate the pressing issues surrounding wildlife vulnerability, inspiring action and fostering a deeper connection between communities and the natural world,” the PM’s climate aide remarked during her keynote address at an inaugural ceremony of the Wildlife Art Exhibition here at the Pakistan National Council of Arts.

Through compelling imagery, artists’ role is of unprecedented importance to highlight the beauty and fragility of endangered species and threatened ecosystems for public awareness. Because, paintings and visual have always served as powerful visual narratives that hold power to effectively engage the public, prompting conversations about the urgent need for conservation.

Romina Khurshid Alam observed that the art possesses the unique ability to evoke emotions and cultivate empathy. Therefore, by exhibiting wildlife in their natural habitats, artists can play their effective role to encourage viewers to reflect on the struggles faced by these creatures and the environmental challenges threatening their existence.

Art can also help people reflect cultural values and perspectives on nature. By amplifying local voices and traditional ecological knowledge, artists contribute to a richer understanding of conservation and the diverse ways communities engage with wildlife, she added.

“Artists are natural storytellers, using their work to convey the interconnectedness of species and ecosystems. Through their paintings, they educate audiences about the impacts of habitat loss, climate change, and pollution, creating a sense of urgency and responsibility,” she emphasised.

Highlighting the important role of visual and painting arts in raising call for action, the arts through their painting and visual artwork not only can enhance awareness



but also serve as a call to action. By showcasing the vulnerability of wildlife, artists motivate individuals and communities to participate in conservation efforts and advocacy initiatives, turning concern into meaningful change.

She said that art exhibitions by showcasing the artwork on endangered wildlife and their threatened habitats can also create opportunities for education and advocacy.

“As we confront the urgent challenges facing wildlife and their habitats, the role of painting and visual art remains crucial in raising awareness and inspiring action,” she stressed.

She said further that painting and visual art have emerged as powerful tools in this effort, engaging audiences, fostering dialogue, and inspiring climate action.”

However, the PM’s climate aide highlighted, in storytelling through visuals, artists are effectively able to play a vital role in storytelling, using their work to illustrate the effects of climate change on landscapes, wildlife and human lives. These visual narratives not only highlight the challenges we face but also showcase potential solutions, empowering communities to envision a more sustainable future.

Romina Khurshid Alam remarked, “In a world increasingly split by language and culture, visual arts transcends barriers and communicates complex ideas in an accessible manner, ensuring that diverse audiences can understand and engage with climate issues. This inclusivity is crucial for fostering a global movement toward sustainability.”

The PM’s climate aide said further that attending today’s paintings of threatened wildlife species, their habitats and the climate change-caused risks they face, we can confidentially say that today’s artists have become environmentally sensitive and feel the responsibility to communicate for increased need for public response to the environment and adopt lifestyle that does not harm environment and aggravate climate impacts.

“It’s really heartening to observe that today’s painting and visual artists effectively envision a sustainable future through their work, offering hope and innovative solutions. By presenting optimistic perspectives, painting inspires individuals and communities to take meaningful steps toward environmental stewardship,” she emphasized.

While addressing the media in her concluding remarks, PM’s climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam stressed that while the global community confronts the challenges posed by climate change, the role of painting and visual art in communication and advocacy cannot be overstated.

She pledged to play her part with relevant stakeholders including climate artists, activists, advocates, communicators and media to jointly harness the transformative power of art to inspire action, foster understanding and create a sustainable future for all.

Climate Change ministry signs nitric acid mitigation fact to boost climate action

Islamabad, October 24, 2024: Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination signed the crucial Nitric Acid Climate Action Group (NACAG) Statement of Undertaking (SoU), committing to reduce nitrous oxide emissions in the country's nitric acid industry.

During the signing ceremony in Islamabad, attended by Ms. Janine Rohwer, First Secretary at the German Embassy, and Mr. Wolfgang Hesse,

Coordinator for Energy, Climate Change and Just Transition at GIZ Pakistan, the Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam confirmed present government's intention to implement policies to cut nitrous oxide emissions from nitric acid production in the long-term.



Following this decision by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Fatima Fertilizers Multan Plant has become eligible for financial support from the NACAG Secretariat to install catalysts for mitigating nitrous oxide emissions and measuring technology in its production facilities.

Addressing the SoU signing ceremony, PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam said that with the SoU signing with private sector, Pakistan has become the 11th country to formally sign the understanding of collaboration, alongside Argentina, Colombia, Georgia, Jordan, Mexico, Peru, Thailand, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe to reduce over four million tons of CO₂ equivalent emissions annually in the country's nitric acid sector.

"Today marks a significant step forward in Pakistan's efforts to combat climate change and advance sustainable development. The NACAG initiative plays a vital role in our climate action strategy, and we are grateful for the support from the German government and GIZ," Romina Khurshid Alam remarked.

The nitrous oxide emission reduction potential in the fertilizer sector in Pakistan has been estimated at around 1.86 million tons of Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂eq) per year.

Nitrous oxide is an odorless, colorless, non-flammable gas. Its global warming potential is nearly 300 times that of carbon dioxide over a 100-year time scale.

The coordinator to Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions by aligning national actions with international agreements like the Paris Agreement.

In April 2020, Pakistan declared its commitment to helping ensure abatement of N₂O from nitric acid production by signing the N₂O Mitigation Declaration, she recalled, adding that nitric acid producers in Pakistan became eligible for over 7 million euros grant for advanced abatement technology and monitoring equipment.

Ms. Aisha Moriani, Secretary at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination highlighted the importance of the nitrous oxide emissions initiative, saying the NACAG initiative

would be crucial in helping Pakistan meet its carbon mitigation targets by reducing nitrous oxide emissions from the nitric acid sector.

She said further that besides reducing nitrous oxide emissions, the initiative would bring other environmental and economic benefits ranging from cleaner air and better public health to the promotion of green technologies and the creation of jobs in the green sector.

Parliamentary Secretary at climate change & environmental coordination ministry, Ahmed Atteeq Anwar said that signing of the SoU with the private sector for tackling global warming causing GHG emissions demonstrates the intention of the government to support the private companies to contribute their part to achieving national environmental sustainability and climate resilience goals of the country.

“We are particularly encouraged by the active participation of the private sector in our climate mitigation efforts as the present government strongly recognises that real progress in the fight against climate change depends on the involvement of businesses and industries,” he remarked.

“The signing of this commitment highlights the power of international cooperation in tackling greenhouse gas emissions and building a greener, more sustainable future” said Ms. Janine Rohwer, highlighting that the German Development Corporation is providing over 7 million euros in grant financing through the NACAG initiative.

Mr. Wolfgang Hesse, Coordinator for Energy, Climate Change and Just Transition at GIZ, which is the global implementing agency for NACAG, reiterated their committed to providing the necessary technical expertise and capacity-building support for NACAG’s success. He also highlighted how this project will be able to achieve over 200% of Pakistan’s N₂O emission reduction target set in the NDC.

Nitric acid is a crucial material for the production of nitrogen fertilizer and thus a very important component for food security. Especially in the context of Pakistan, the NACAG initiative shows how to leverage potentials at the interface between climate change and food security. This initiative will also bringf other environmental and economic benefits, from cleaner air and better public health to the promotion of green technologies and the creation of jobs in the green sector.

The Ministry of Climate Change commended Fatima Fertilizer as a leader in their commitment to climate action. Mr. Inamullah Naveed Khan, Director Operations added that Fatima Fertilizer (Multan Plant) was the first industrial unit to install the Clean Development Mechanism in 2007 and subsequently at their Sadiqabad Plant in 2011. Fatima Fertilizer is maintaining and operating these N₂O abatement unit through its own resources. N₂O is a greenhouse gas which is 265 times more harmful to the climate than CO₂ gas. Fatima Fertilizer is committed to continue its efforts for the N₂O emissions reduction through NACAG and directly contribute to the country’s objectives under the Paris Agreement.

Empowering women through skill development critical for enhancing climate resilience, says PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam

Islamabad, October 22, 2024: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change has said that in any society where sustainable development is paramount, the pivotal role of rural women in agriculture and community development cannot be overlooked. Rural women are not only the backbone of agricultural production but also vital contributors to economic growth, food security, and social cohesion.



Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing as chief guest at the 17th Annual Rural Women Leadership Training Conference at Lok Virsa in Islamabad on October 22, 2024.

Addressing as chief guest at the 17th Annual Rural Women Leadership Training Conference on Tuesday at the Lok Virsa open-air auditorium organized by civil society organisations in Islamabad Accounting for a significant portion of the agricultural workforce in the country, rural women provide a major labour force for key agricultural activities including planting, harvesting and managing livestock, ensuring that families and communities have access to adequate food and health.

“Their traditional knowledge and innovative practices enhance productivity and contribute to sustainable farming methods. By empowering women with resources, training, and access to markets, we can increase agricultural output and improve food security for millions”, the PM’s coordinator remarked.

She said further that beyond farming, rural women are crucial for economic diversification. Many engage in small-scale enterprises, from food processing to handicrafts, creating jobs and boosting local economies. Their entrepreneurial spirit can drive innovation and resilience in rural areas, laying the groundwork for sustainable economic growth.

Rural women are now seen more at the forefront of community development activities. Because, they take on leadership roles in local organizations, advocate for their rights, and mobilize resources for various initiatives. Their involvement fosters social cohesion and empowers communities to address challenges collaboratively, the PM’s coordinator highlighted.

Highlighting women’s immense role in climate resilience building and environmental sustainability in the country, Romina Khurshid Alam said as stewards of the land, rural women are crucial for promoting environmental sustainability and boosting as well as sustaining climate resilience activities in different socio-economic areas, particularly agriculture, water management and low-carbon energy development.

The PM’s climate aide also highlighted that various study findings on women’s role in sustainable community and rural development and natural resource management in Asia-Pacific region have concluded that their practices often reflect a deep understanding of local ecosystems, contributing to biodiversity conservation and climate resilience.

“Supporting their community and rural development and natural resource management efforts, however, can further lead to more sustainable agricultural practices, sustainable water management and rural poverty alleviation at all level that benefit both people and the planet together,” the PM’s climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam suggested.

Calling for action for women empowerment goals, she said, “As we strive for a more equitable and environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient future for us and our next generations, it is imperative to recognize and support the invaluable contributions of rural women.

“To achieve the women-empowerment goals, framing and implementing policies and action plans that promote gender equality, enhance access to resources, and provide educational opportunities are inevitable for unlocking the potential of rural women,” she remarked.

Romina Khurshid also urged stakeholders, policymakers and communities to recognize rural women as key socio-economic stakeholders and key catalysts for development and enhance investment in the empowerment of the rural women.

She emphasised that empowering women is a critical strategy for enhancing climate resilience, particularly in vulnerable communities. Women often bear the brunt of climate impacts, yet they also possess valuable knowledge and skills that can contribute to effective climate action.

"By doing so, we can foster inclusive development that uplifts families, strengthens communities, and ensures a sustainable future for generations to come", the PM's climate aide stressed.

Senator Samina Zehri joins hands with PM's aide Romina Khurshid to promote climate Justice agenda

Islamabad, October 20, 2024: Chairperson of Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri and Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam have reached a consensus to advocate for the integration of human rights into climate change policies in Pakistan, according to a press statement issued here on Sunday.



During a bilateral meeting with PM's aide Ms Romina Khurshid here on Sunday, both sides also agreed to jointly work to roll out a viable action-plan to ensure that climate actions not only address environmental issues but also uphold and protect the rights of vulnerable communities affected by climate change in the country, especially in the highly climate vulnerable Balochistan province.

“Integrating human rights into climate change policy is essential to ensure that actions to tackle climate risks do not exacerbate existing inequalities or infringe upon basic human rights,” Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri highlighted during the meeting with the PM’s climate aide.

She said that climate change also ‘significantly undermines’ fundamental human rights, including the right to life, health, food, and water," reflecting an increasing awareness of these pressing issues.

The Senator Ms. Zehri remarked, “I personally believe as various studies show that managing human rights into climate risk management action plans and discourse is crucial for creating and promoting a more just and equitable approach to tackle the climate crisis, particularly for resource-poor and marginalized communities in the vulnerable areas in Balochistan.”

She pointed out that being a large and arid region in southwestern part of the country, the Balochistan province is extremely vulnerable to climate change due to a combination of its geographic features, socio-economic challenges and existing environmental stresses.

The region's vulnerability is aggravated more due to its dependence on agriculture, water scarcity, limited and shabby infrastructure, making it highly sensitive to adverse climate risks, particularly devastating hill torrents, flash floods, cyclones, sea-level rise, heatwaves, declining rainfalls and droughts, the Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri added.

She called for strategies that prioritise equity and justice in confronting this critical challenge of climate change for both mitigating adverse fallouts of climate change and promoting a fairer society with access to equitable access to resources required for climate resilience building.

Senator Zehri urged for well-coordinated and cooperated national efforts that uphold and protect these rights, noting that human activities not only contribute to climate change but also threaten basic human rights. Marginalized groups such as women, children, and economically disadvantaged communities, are particularly vulnerable, often lacking the means to adapt to climate impacts and facing greater obstacles in accessing their rights, she added.

Zehri remarked that "climate justice" highlights how those least responsible for climate change frequently endure its most severe consequences. She called for fair distribution of resources and support for at-risk communities to address these inequities.

Meanwhile, PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam remarked that ongoing climate crisis continues to affect a wide range of human rights, including the right to life, health, food, safe water and sanitation, shelter and a healthy environment.

"Integrating human rights into national climate change policies by recognising climate change as a human rights issue will be a first key step towards ensuring advocating for the policies take into account the social and economic impacts on individuals and communities, particularly those who are most vulnerable parts of the country particularly in Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan," she highlighted.

The PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam assured the Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri of her all-out support to achieve goal of climate justice by ensuring that human rights-based climate policy and action plans are framed in consultation with vulnerable communities and implemented at grassroots levels for attainment of the people's human rights to healthy life and environment, particularly during diester times. Senator Samina Zehri, PM's aide Romina Khurshid agree to promote climate justice agenda

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Pakistan Climate Change Authority asked to coordinate with stakeholders for unified Climate action

Islamabad, October 18, 2024: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has urged the Pakistan Climate Change Authority (PCCA) to play its role to ratchet up collaboration and cooperation among various federal and provincial governmental organisations for achieving climate resilience, environmental sustainability and low-carbon development goals.

Presiding over the 2nd meeting of PCCA held here, the PM's climate aide said, "Driving the Pakistan's long-term sustainability and climate resilience actions is inevitable for ensuring that the country is better prepared to cope with the present and the future exacerbating impacts of climate change in various socio-economic sectors, particularly agriculture, water and energy."



Romina Khurshid Alam said further that the Authority, which has been established at the federal level, has been entrusted with an crucial responsibility of achieving the climate resilience, environmental sustainability and low-carbon development goals by spearheading the country's response to the growing threats of climate change, coordinating efforts across sectors and implementing policies that promote climate resilience through various evidence-based policy measures.

She noted that lack of collaboration and cooperation among federal and provincial government organisations for implementing long-term and short-term national climate change policy measures for coping with the adverse fallouts of climate change has only increased the climate vulnerability of not only various socio-economic sectors but also infrastructure, lives and livelihoods of the people.

However, she called upon the PCCA to strengthen its role and pace up efforts to bring together all federal and provincial organisations and national and international non-governmental organisations together through enhanced collaboration and cooperation for implementation of the national climate change policy for protecting the country and its people from aggravating climate risks, particularly floods, heatwaves, sea-level rise, shifting rainfall patterns and paced glacial melting.

The PM's climate aide also urged the authority to develop national programmes for climate adaptation for reducing the impacts of floods, droughts, and rising temperatures and mitigation programmes for cutting down greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable practices and renewable energy projects and actionable low-carbon development plans.

Romina Khurshid Alam also put emphasis on unprecedented significance of raising public awareness about the effects of climate change and engaging communities in climate action.

"Raising public awareness about impacts of the climate change and possible adaptation and mitigation measures vital for equipping them with the skills and knowledge to combat climate challenges. And, role of media, educational institutions is key to enhanced the public awareness," Romina remarked.

During her welcome remarks, Aisha Humera Chaudhry, Secretary Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, stressed upon need for the unified approach at the national level to tackle climate challenges.

She said that recent devastating floods, heatwaves glacial melting due to rising temperatures in Pakistan's north indicate that the country is grappling with increasingly adverse socio-economic consequences of climate change, positioning it among the most vulnerable countries globally.

“With a rising frequency of extreme weather events, particularly devastating floods, extended droughts, paced glacial melt, and rising temperatures, Pakistan's socio-economic stability and environmental sustainability are under mounting threat,” the climate change and environmental coordination ministry's secretary highlighted.

The Global Climate Risk Index consistently ranks Pakistan among the top ten most affected countries by climate-related disasters. This urgent situation requires a coordinated, robust response at both the national and international levels.

As an agrarian economy, the country's farming sector is highly sensitive to rapidly changing weather patterns. Unpredictable changes in rainfall patterns and the increasing intensity of droughts and floods are devouring crop yields, threatening the livelihoods of millions of farmers and exacerbating food insecurity and rural poverty in the country.

Earlier, the PCCA members engaged in stock-taking of the status of the implementation of the national climate change policy measures and reviewed the progress of the policy mitigation and adaptation actions.

They also deliberated upon possible measures to boost coordination and cooperation across various federal and provincial government organisations, institutions and sectors, ensuring a unified approach to tackling climate challenges being faced by the country.

The meeting participants also agreed upon the need to pace up coordination and cooperation for enhanced implementation of the national climate change policy and aligning other climate change adaptation and mitigation measures proposed in policies, plans, and strategies of other federal and provincial government organisations for unified coping response to growing climate change impacts.

Meanwhile, the PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam assured her all-out support to PCCA for a unified and effective coping response to climate risks, achieving climate resilience and environmental sustainability goals.

Climate - resilient farming critical for global food security: Romina Khurshid Alam

Islamabad, October 16, 2024: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam emphasized the necessity of sustainable agricultural practices to combat climate change, which is vital for global food security and the well-being of populations.

In her World Food Day message, PM's aide highlighted that climate change adversely affects food security and sustainable agriculture through interconnected mechanisms. Increased temperatures, altered rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events jeopardize agricultural productivity, leading to higher food prices and increased vulnerability for low-income communities. Projections indicate that millions more could face hunger by 2050 due to these impacts.



Emphasizing the critical need for climate-resilient farming, she highlighted that Pakistan, being one of the most climate-vulnerable countries, faces severe impacts from extreme weather events like floods and heatwaves, which threaten agricultural productivity and food security.

Khurshid Alam noted that rising agricultural demands intensify competition for resources, necessitating a transformation in farming practices to support a growing population while addressing climate challenges.

She advocated for adaptation strategies, such as crop rotation and drought-resistant varieties, which enhance resilience against climate variability and contribute to carbon sequestration and stressed the importance of community engagement, asserting that empowering local communities through education on sustainable practices strengthens local food systems and reduces dependence on external markets.

Ms Alam also pointed out that climate change affects nutritional quality and food availability, particularly in vulnerable regions, exacerbating malnutrition and poverty levels and stressed urgent action to create sustainable food systems that can withstand climate impacts while ensuring nutritional adequacy for all populations.

"The effects of climate change disproportionately impact marginalized groups, including women and low-income farmers," she stated, emphasizing the need to address these disparities for improved food security and community resilience.

She concluded that diverse cropping systems can enhance ecological performance, soil health, and biodiversity, ultimately playing a critical role in achieving food security amidst climate change challenges.

Women's empowerment, access to sanitation, hygiene facilities interlinked: Romina Khurshid Alam

Islamabad, October 10, 2024: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that women's socio-economic empowerment and tackling hygiene issues are closely interconnected. Because, improving access to hygiene and sanitation facilities directly impacts women's health, dignity and access to equal economic opportunities for them.

Addressing a high-level hygiene kits distribution event under the 'She Power' initiative, the PM's climate aide Ms Alam said that access to adequate and safe [menstrual] hygiene and sanitation facilities for girls and women has remained mostly a neglected area in the country, especially in rural and low-resource settings of Balochistan province.

"By addressing hygiene challenges in ways that directly improve women's access to education, work, and leadership opportunities, we not only promote women's empowerment but also foster healthier, more equitable communities," she stressed.

The 'She Power' initiative was recently launched in different far-flung parts of Balochistan including recently in Quetta by non-governmental organization Asian Synergies in support with the climate change and environmental coordination ministry and the Chinese government. It aims to improve health and quality of the life of the province's young women with a focus on health, hygiene, and education. It reflects the ongoing collaboration between Pakistan and China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, aiming to improve socio-economic conditions in the region.

Rumina Khurshid Alam said that given successful outcome of the initiative in shape of enhanced awareness of good hygiene practices, particularly managing their mensural hygiene safely, all efforts would be made to coordinate with other provincial governments to implement the 'She Power' initiative in girls' schools.

The initiative was launched last month in Balochistan's remote district of Gwadar, Lasbella and Quetta city with distribution of over 20,000 hygiene kits among schoolgirls of government schools.

The kits contain essential hygiene products including sanitary pads, soap, hand sanitizers, educational materials on hygiene practices, aimed at promoting better health practices among young girls in the province.

Th PM's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid hoped that the landmark initiative would help reduce school dropout ratio among schoolgirls, enhance their school performance and their overall health by ensuring that they can manage their menstrual health with dignity.

She also highlighted that local health workers and community leaders had been also engaged in promoting this initiative, ensuring that the messages resonate within cultural contexts. This grassroots approach will hopefully help overcome barriers related to stigma and misinformation surrounding menstrual health.

Addressing the participants of the event, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, Samina Mumtaz Zehri termed the initiative a game changer step as it promotes open discussions amongst school girls in Balochistan about their menstruation and hygiene.

The initiative has helped reduce stigma associated with menstrual health. This cultural shift will encourage girls to feel more comfortable attending school during their menstrual cycles, she added.

Ms. Zehri highlighted that lack of access to sanitary products, clean water, handwashing stations and safe spaces to manage hygiene and sanitation needs has always led to social stigma, health complications, often keeps women out of school and the workforce.

Ms Zehri said, "Women, mainly in rural settings, of the Balochistan province, often bear the burden of fetching water and their inadequate access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation facilities only aggravate the risk of illness, which affects not just their health but also their ability to work and participate fully in life."

"Educating girls and women about the importance of hygiene and sanitation can lead to enhanced adoption of safe hygiene and sanitation practices among them and their family members, which can also help reduce the social stigma," she suggested.

Ms Zehri said creating a supportive environment that promotes health awareness and access to essential hygiene products is of paramount significance to achieve the women's empowerment and their participation in the country's development.

Chief executive of Asian Synergy, Neelam Hamid informed the participants that the 'She Power' initiative has been launched with overarching goal of transforming socio-economic lives of the girls and women and improve their health through enhanced and sustained access to reliable hygiene and sanitation facilities.

"We have launched this initiative with kind support of the Chinese government to enhance women's empowerment and meeting their hygiene needs, starting with teacher-led training on personal care and cleanliness and then students, especially in areas deprived of basic facilities," she remarked.

She said further that the initiative also seeks to advance the use of essential hygiene products and promote a culture of health awareness through education and advocacy about importance safe sanitation and hygiene on girls' and women's health.

PM's aide highlights climate action, youth's role in shaping eco-friendly cities

Islamabad, **October 7, 2024:** Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted the critical role of youth in shaping environmentally sustainable cities, addressing rapid urbanization and climate change challenges.

"Cities must integrate climate adaptation strategies into urban planning to mitigate extreme weather risks," Alam emphasized addressing an event on World Habitat Day held at NUST. "By leveraging youth energy, creativity, and viewpoints, cities can strive for sustainable, equitable development and resilient smart cities," she added.



The Global World Habitat Day was marked on Monday under the theme “Engaging youth to create a better urban future focusing on engaging youth in shaping sustainable cities and communities.

Alam noted that cities account for 70% of global carbon emissions, with transport, buildings, energy, and waste management being major contributors. She stressed the need for innovative technologies, recycling, green materials, and climate-resilient architecture.

"The building sector alone accounts for 39% of global carbon emissions. A fundamental transformation is necessary for eco-responsible development," Alam added.

Romina Khurshid stressed on the need to overcome difficulties in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly concerning poverty, inequality, and the imminent dangers posed by climate change.

The Prime Minister's aide noted that cities must integrate climate adaptation strategies into urban planning to mitigate risks associated with extreme weather events.

She noted that by leveraging the energy, creativity, and viewpoints of young people, cities can strive for environmentally sustainable and equitable development, fostering resilient smart cities that aim for a future free from pollution and carbon emissions.

Romina Alam emphasized innovative technologies, the use of green materials, and construction techniques adapted to local conditions are some of the paths to be explored in the quest for more climate resilient and environmentally sustainable architecture.

Citing research, she said that by 2050, two-thirds of our global population will live in urban areas. Nearly 90% of the growth in urban population will occur in Asia and Africa.

Ms Alam said the observance of the day focuses on how we can engage the new generation in climate resilient planning their urban present and future through participatory processes and local leadership opportunities.

She explained the world is rapidly urbanizing, and many urban residents these days are young people, especially in some countries in Africa and Asia. Currently, youth in the global South make up 70 per cent or more of cities.

However, she said these issues pose significant obstacles to the equitable growth and resilience of urban areas worldwide. Mobilizing support from all segments of society is crucial, with a particular emphasis on engaging the youth to develop inclusive and green cities.

By harnessing the energy, creativity, and perspectives of youth, cities can work towards more environmentally sustainable, equitable development, and resilient smart cities ensuring a pollution and carbon emissions free future, The Coordinator concluded.

Climate authority meeting reviews measures for boosting climate resilience

Islamabad, October 6, 2024: The National Climate Change Authority convened a meeting to assess the implementation of measures under the National Climate Change Policy aimed at enhancing resilience across key sectors such as energy, water, agriculture and public infrastructure.

The review was part of the ongoing efforts to address growing threats posed by climate change, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination's spokesperson Mohammad Saleem Shaikh said in a statement.

The meeting focused on fostering collaboration between federal and provincial entities to combat climate-related challenges, including floods, heatwaves, glacial lake outburst floods, erratic rainfall patterns, fluctuating river flows and groundwater depletion.

The participants discussed both ongoing and future projects, with the goal of aligning national efforts with international climate commitments, including obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam emphasised the government's dedication to enhancing Pakistan's resilience in the face of climate change.

"Recognising the country's vulnerability to extreme weather events, floods, droughts and glacial melt, the government is committed to safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of the population using all available resources," she said.

Earlier in the meeting, the ministry's secretary, Aisha Humera Moriani, underscored Pakistan's position as one of the countries most affected by climate change, despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions.

She stressed that the government was actively responding to these risks in line with national policies, international obligations and regional initiatives aimed at building climate resilience, especially in the most vulnerable and impoverished regions.

The meeting, attended by key officials from the National Climate Change Authority and provincial authorities, also discussed strategies for the country's transition towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient future.

A roadmap for prioritising climate action was agreed upon, emphasizing coordinated efforts between provinces and relevant stakeholders to accelerate resilience-building efforts across the nation.

Making cities environmental - sustainable vital for achieving green economy goals, Romina Khurshid Alam

Islamabad: October 3, 2024: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that climate change-caused extreme weather events, particularly heat waves and urban flooding incidents are posing grave risk to the lives and livelihoods of the people and public infrastructure.

However, building climate-resilience of the cities against adverse impacts of climate change is crucial for making the urban environmentally-sustainable and resilient- livable places, Ms Alam highlighted.



During a meeting with a delegation led by Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, she outlined several initiatives aimed at transforming the capital into a model of environmental sustainability.

Presiding over the meeting, the PM's climate aide stressed promoting concepts and implementing policies for climate-resilient urbanisation not only can help us address immediate environmental and climate change-related challenges but also promote long-term sustainability, equity, and quality of life in urban areas.

She said further that making cities climate-resilient is not possible without involving a multifaceted approach that includes planning, infrastructure development, community engagement and relevant policy implementation.

The PM's climate aide highlighted that the country's several cities are facing significant climate risks, including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar. With increasing temperatures, erratic rainfall, and rising sea levels, the need for climate adaptation strategies has never been more urgent.

“The climate change and environmental ministry is taking all-out measures and implementing policies and frameworks to create sustainable urban environments for making cities environmentally-sustainable and climate-resilient so that they can withstand the impacts of climate change while improving the quality of life for residents,” Romina Khurshid Alam told the meeting participants.

During the meeting, Ms Alam emphasized that Islamabad will enhance its green cover and flowering plants, positioning itself as a benchmark for other cities to emulate in achieving sustainability goals.

She also highlighted the importance of addressing climate-related health issues, advocating for the relocation of paper mulberry trees to mitigate pollen allergies affecting residents.

Romina Khurshid suggested that revamping parks across Islamabad to enhance the city's green spaces and improve recreational areas for residents. It should be aligned with broader environmental goals, including increased tree planting and promoting biodiversity within urban settings.

The CDA chairman briefed Khurshid Alam on various projects focused on urban planning, renewable energy, environmental health, transport, zero waste, and water management, all aimed at developing Islamabad as a smart city.

Notably, the meeting concluded with an agreement for the Climate Ministry and CDA to collaborate on afforestation projects covering 700 acres near Baharakahu. Additionally, the CDA is developing an extensive bicycle route network to promote sustainable commuting options throughout the city, the chairman informed the meeting.

During her concluding remarks, Romina Khurshid Alam said that while the urban areas contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions as compared to rural areas, developing climate-resilient cities is inevitable for national, regional and global sustainability efforts and reducing overall climate impacts on the people and infrastructure.

