

PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad, June 7, 2023: The Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) hosted a stakeholders' consultation aimed at addressing Pakistan's climate-related challenges and finding effective solutions to combat plastic pollution. This event, held in conjunction with World Environment Day, brings together a diverse range of stakeholders, including climate professionals, media representatives, international organizations, civil society members, and government officials. The consultation aims to foster meaningful discussions and collaborative strategies to combat plastic pollution and ensure a sustainable future for Pakistan. Objective of the event is to identify areas within the annual budget where improvements can be made to enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Additionally, the consultation aims to showcase solidarity with global climate leaders on World Environment Day under the theme "Solutions to Plastic Pollution."

Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali, Executive Director of CPDI, emphasized the urgent need for collective action to minimize the consequences of climate change in Pakistan. As a developing nation, Pakistan is experiencing the impact of climate change, and Mr. Ali stressed the importance of proactive measures to address this global challenge. CPDI, with its expertise in advocacy and governance, is dedicated to driving positive change by raising awareness, advocating for policy reforms, and fostering dialogue. Mr. Ali called for collaboration among all sectors of society, highlighting the significance of collective efforts in creating a sustainable and resilient future for Pakistan.

The first panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Waqar ul Shams, Climate Lead, addressed the increased rainfall in May 2023, which was 123% higher compared to previous years. The discussion also focused on Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contributors (NDCs) and the targets that need to be achieved by 2030. Amer Ejaz highlighted the inadequate allocation of the development budget for climate change in Pakistan. He emphasized the financial implications and the need for a truly participatory budgeting system. The allocated resources are insufficient to meet international commitments in addressing climate change.

Ms. Sophia Noreen, Climate Expert, expressed her concerns about the increasing population and stressed the importance of inclusive climate budgeting. She emphasized the need for balanced budget allocation and consumption. Coordinated efforts among relevant stakeholders are essential to effectively address climate change issues.

The second panel discussion, moderated by Ameera Adil, Founder of Clim.8, focused on the challenges of addressing plastic pollution. Farzana Altaf, DG Environment Protection Agency (EPA), highlighted the excessive use of non-degradable plastic, which poses a severe threat to climate pollution and leads to issues such as urban flooding. Lack of coordination among stakeholders in addressing climate change was also identified as a major challenge.

Jameel Asghar, President of SWAP, highlighted that Pakistan produces 134 tons of waste daily, with an average individual using six polythene bags per day. He emphasized the urgent need to halt the production of non-degradable polythene bags in Pakistan and strengthen the capabilities of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to cope these challenges.

Roomi Hayat, Chairperson of PNC-IUCN, called for the enforcement of relevant laws to address the issue and emphasized the need to eliminate one-time plastic use. Pakistan's rank as the 8th country on the climate index for climate change further underscored the urgency.

Dr. Shahida Rehmani, MNA and Parliamentary Secretary for Industries and Production, stressed the need for collective efforts to protect the environment. The event concluded with recommendations from the committee to increase budgetary allocations for environmental protection and achieve international commitments.

[Download CPDI's WED Resolution](#)

About the CPDI

CPDI is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting peace, development, and good governance. With expertise in advocacy and governance, CPDI strives to bring about positive change in Pakistan, including addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

For media inquiries and further information, please contact:

Saima William
Program Lead – Climate Action
0306-4137161