

Press Release
All Party Conference on Energy Held in Islamabad



December 02, 2023 – Islamabad: In order to draw attention to the importance of high-level political commitment for urgent, synchronized, and decisive steps towards Just Energy Transition (JET) from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy, Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), organized a first ever all parties' conference in Islamabad on the topic today. All major political party representatives participated in the event, and in total more than hundred participants attended the meeting.

“Pakistan’s dependence on fossil fuels for energy is not only a major cause of our growing import bill and the consequent balance of payment crisis but also of environmental degradation and climate change resulting in higher temperatures, more intense smog in winters and increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters like floods”, said Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali, Executive Director, Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) while inaugurating the all parties conference on energy held today at a local hotel. “This situation calls for top level political commitment for urgent measures to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and substantially increase the share of renewable sources of energy like solar, wind, small hydro in our overall energy generation and consumption.”, he added.

“The political parties must commit to increase the share of green and clean renewable energy in the overall energy generation installed capacity to at least 35% by 2030, devolve the power generation, transmission, and distribution in accordance with articles 157 of the constitution, and 2/3 electricity generation shifted on local energy resources”, he added. Another key objective of this conference is to grant a renewed commitment to the youth, common citizens’ and local businesses for a thriving and stable Pakistan, more employment and affordable and sustainable energy for households and for new industrial and commercial activities, said Mr. Chaudhary.

“CPDI has keenly analyzed the 2018 election manifestos of various political parties to assess their energy related commitments. We noted that most political parties have been putting substantial emphasis on energy sector in the past, but we are of the view that new fresh pledges will further demonstrate the political solidarity with the state and people of Pakistan in view of the recently emerged challenges i.e. climate change, floods, high import bill, new Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), growing cost for consumers, opportunities to reduced cost of energy, improve grid and transmission system, and more efficient battery solutions etc.”, said Mukhtar Ahmad Ali while laying emphasis on the need of political commitments. A documentary

produced by CPDI was played on Delta Blue project conducted in Sindh. The documentary familiarized the participants about the dynamics and implications of climate change and carbon credits.

Senator Musadiq Malik, representing PMLN said that we have 25 karor people who need energy, and we do not have sufficient energy while utilisation of energy is also low. “In order to increase GDP we need energy”, he added. Environment and energy production and utilisation is closely linked. “Due to pollution only the rich can breathe because they can afford machines to clean air for themselves. We need to look at the complexity of the energy problem. Solar, run of the river, and wind hybrid solution can be very helpful”, he added.

Dr. Farid Paracha, representing Jamat-e-Islami, asked the rulers why they have being selling expensive energy to the common Pakistanis. Energy prices have robbed people of their economic wellbeing, and it is a serious problem. “We will not get dictation from the World Bank, IMF and make our own policies in the interest of the people of Pakistan, producing cheaper energy for development”, he concluded. M. Rehan Hashmi, representing MQM Pakistan, emphasised the importance of renewable energy and showed commitment to facilitate investment in cheap, reliable, and renewable energy.

Muzzamil Aslam, representing Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf, suggested five-pronged strategy to rescue the energy sector from the current crisis. It included local resource development, privatisation, and reduction in circular debt. He criticised the previous governments on their failure to keep the energy prices low.

Dr. Khalid Waleed, representing SDPI, talked about energy and economic turmoil. We consume only 88.44 Mtoe which is quite insignificant as compared to India, China, and US. He built case for the right kind of subsidies to encourage renewables and build potential for high quality growth. “There is a need to develop a charter of environment, economy, and energy in political will and political discourse”, he emphasised.

Ms. Shahida Akhtar Ali, Jamiat Ulema Islam Pakistan, argued against the presence of special interests that cause misallocation of resources and do not help the poor to come out of poverty, and rather exploits them. She expressed the need of improving governance and management in the energy sector and formulate pro-poor policies.

Palwasha Khan, representing PPP said that Pakistan Peoples Party has shown commitment to energy renewables in the past, and it will continue its legacy of facilitating pro-people development models in every sector of the economy.

In the end, Mr. Ubaidullah Chaudhary thanked the participants and political parties in showing commitment and solidarity with the cause of sustainable renewable energy.

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