

SUMMARY of the article “Climate Adaptation” by Huma Yusuf, published on November 13, 2023

Amid the prevailing turmoil and crises in the world, such as the Israel-Gaza conflict, the importance of addressing climate change should not be overlooked. The upcoming annual UN climate change conference, COP28, should remind us of this urgency. The World Meteorological Society predicts that by 2027, the world will exceed the 1.5 degrees Celsius climate threshold set at the 2015 Paris climate summit. This signifies an alarming rise in global temperatures. The focus has largely been on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, but due to our continued dependence on fossil fuels, there is an increasing emphasis on climate adaptation – the need to adjust our societies, economies, and ecosystems to cope with the consequences of climate change.

According to the UN, developing countries require \$387 billion annually to adapt to climate change, an amount that has increased by \$47 billion from previous estimates. However, current international public finance flows are falling far short, providing only 10 to 18 times less than the required funds. Pakistan is in dire need of \$348 billion by 2030 to enhance climate resilience but has received a mere \$86.2 million in bilateral grants with a focus on climate adaptation since 2016. These financial deficits highlight the insufficient financing for climate adaptation, a concern acknowledged by the president-designate of COP28.

Pakistan recognizes the necessity of prioritizing climate adaptation, particularly after experiencing devastating floods. The country’s climate change ministry published Pakistan’s first-ever National Adaptation Plan (NAP), which aligns with UN best practices. It emphasizes the importance of a climate risk management mindset, technological and behavioral adaptations, economic and societal adjustments, and governance support. The NAP promotes local action, evidence-



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based decision-making, inclusivity, and equity, focusing on marginalized communities, women, and youth. However, the reality of Pakistani society raises concerns about implementing these principles, as inclusion, equity, and community empowerment are often overlooked in other aspects of governance.

Critics have highlighted the shortcomings in adaptation plans at both global and national levels. Many adaptation plans lack specific details on financing mechanisms and implementation. However, they also fail to address the broader disconnect between adaptation planning and societal attitudes. To successfully adapt to a world affected by climate change, meaningful societal changes are essential.

Easy/Short SUMMARY:

Amid global crises and conflicts, the impending climate change challenges should not be forgotten. The world is heading toward breaching the 1.5°C climate threshold, prompting a focus on climate adaptation. Developing countries require significant funds for adaptation, with Pakistan alone needing substantial financial support. Pakistan has issued a National Adaptation Plan (NAP), emphasizing local action, evidence-based decisions, and inclusivity. However, implementing these principles is a challenge, as Pakistani society often disregards inclusion and equity. Critics point out shortcomings in adaptation plans, including vague financing mechanisms and implementation details. A broader concern is the disconnect between adaptation planning and societal attitudes, necessitating meaningful societal changes for successful adaptation.

SOLUTIONS of The Problem:

Raising Awareness and Education

Promote awareness and educate the public on the importance of climate adaptation, social justice, and inclusivity to foster a societal shift in attitudes and behaviors.

Strengthening Local Governance

Empower local governments and communities to play a more active role in



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adaptation planning and implementation, ensuring that adaptation efforts align with local needs.

Empowering Marginalized Communities

Implement programs and policies that specifically target women, youth, and marginalized communities, enabling their participation in climate adaptation processes and addressing their unique vulnerabilities.

Global Solidarity

Advocate for increased international cooperation and financial support for developing countries to bridge the financing gap for climate adaptation.

Holistic Climate Education

Integrate climate adaptation and environmental education into school curricula and educational programs to build a generation with a strong understanding of climate change issues.

IMPORTANT Facts and Figures Given in the article:

- The World Meteorological Society predicts that the world will exceed the 1.5 degrees Celsius climate threshold by 2027.
- The need for climate adaptation financing in developing countries has increased to \$387 billion annually, up by \$47 billion from previous estimates.
- Pakistan requires \$348 billion by 2030 for building climate resilience but has received only \$86.2 million in bilateral grants with a climate adaptation focus since 2016.
- Critics highlight the shortcomings in global adaptation plans, including a lack of financing mechanisms and implementation specifics.
- The disconnect between adaptation planning and broader societal attitudes remains a significant concern, as adaptation success depends on meaningful societal changes.



MCQs from the Article:

- 1. What is the primary focus of COP28, the upcoming UN climate change conference?**
 - A. Mitigation of climate change
 - B. Climate adaptation**
 - C. Carbon emissions reduction
 - D. Fossil fuel transition
- 2. What climate threshold is the world predicted to breach by 2027?**
 - A. 2 degrees Celsius
 - B. 3 degrees Celsius
 - C. 1.5 degrees Celsius**
 - D. 1 degrees Celsius
- 3. By what year is the global average temperature expected to exceed the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit set by the Paris climate summit?**
 - A. 2030
 - B. 2027**
 - C. 2040
 - D. 2023
- 4. What is the estimated annual financial requirement for developing countries to adapt to climate change?**
 - A. \$200 billion
 - B. \$387 billion**
 - C. \$50 billion
 - D. \$100 billion
- 5. When was Pakistan's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) published?**
 - A. 2010
 - B. 2015
 - C. July 2023**



D. 2019

6. **How much did Pakistan receive in bilateral grants focusing on climate adaptation since 2016?**

A. \$100 million

B. \$86.2 million

C. \$50 million

D. \$300 million

7. **What is the major focus of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in Pakistan?**

A. Economic development

B. Adaptation, inclusion, and equity

C. Political reforms

D. Infrastructure projects

VOCABULARY:

1. **Existential** (adjective) (∅∅∅∅∅ ∅∅ ∅∅∅∅): Concerned with existence, especially human existence.
2. **Resilience** (noun) (∅∅∅∅∅∅): The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.
3. **Catastrophes** (noun) (∅∅∅∅∅): A large-scale and sudden disaster or misfortune leading to significant damage.
4. **Fortify** (verb) (∅∅∅∅ ∅∅∅∅): Strengthen (a place) with defensive works so as to protect it against attack.



5. **Concede** (verb) (قبول، اعتراف): Admit or agree that something is true after first denying or resisting it.

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