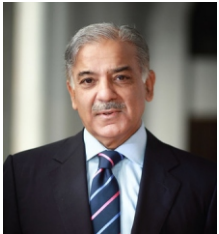




Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam and Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov with participants of Earth Day Event at the Comsats Secretariat, Islamabad - April 29, 2024

Welcome to the Bi-Monthly Newsletter Issue I, Vol I

Message from the Prime Minister of Pakistan



Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

World Earth Day 2024

On this momentous occasion of World Earth Day 2024, as we come together to address one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time—plastic pollution—I am reminded of the profound responsibility we bear to protect our planet and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. In our unwavering commitment to combatting plastic pollution, Pakistan has taken significant strides forward on the transboundary movement of plastic waste and the banning of single-use plastic and polythene bags. We uphold our commitment to promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, fostering innovation, and protecting our environment for future generations. Each and every one of us has a role to play in safeguarding our planet for the prosperity of all. Let us pledge to reduce our use of single-use plastics, embrace recycling and eco-friendly alternatives, and advocate for stronger environmental policies at every level of society. Together, we can create a cleaner, greener Planet for ourselves and future generations.

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Message from the Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination



Romina Khurshid Alam

World Earth Day 2024

On this momentous occasion of World Earth Day 2024, we unite to observe this year's theme, "Planet vs. Plastics.". In our pursuit of a greener and more sustainable future, Pakistan has undertaken bold initiatives to combat plastic pollution. However, our journey toward a plastic-free future requires concerted efforts from all sectors of society. I call upon every citizen, organization, and government entities to join hands in the fight against plastic pollution. By embracing the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle, we can protect our environment and preserve its beauty for future generations. But our work does not end with plastic pollution alone. We must also address broader environmental challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable resource management. This World Earth Day, let us commit ourselves to holistic environmental stewardship, recognizing the interconnectedness of all life on our planet.

Message from the Secretary

Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination



Eazaz A. Dar

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) presents its first-ever Newsletter, showcasing our commitment and endeavors to make a climate resilient and sustainable Pakistan. Despite constraints, our Ministry is uniquely positioned to deliver on climate change agenda, being the lead and the National Designated Authority (NDA), for climate initiatives. With high government priority and due support, robust policy frameworks, and adequate resource allocations, we drive collective climate action and raise climate awareness across all sectors of economy and society.

The myriad challenges caused by the climate change require gigantic efforts and innovative solutions. The team at the Ministry is confident and committed to overcome obstacles such as governance and institutional hinderances, lack of centralized climate data, coordination issues arising from the 18th amendment, accessing climate finance, and addressing capacity issues. These challenges highlight the need for a cohesive, synergistic, well-coordinated, approach to tackling climate issues.

Looking ahead, turning challenges into opportunities, will enhance our climate resilience. By adopting a whole-of-government approach, we've improved coordination mechanisms, and established institutional coordination structures such as various coordination and project steering Committees with due representation from the federal and provincial governments and sectoral experts. Likewise, mainstreaming the climate considerations and operationalizing the Pakistan Climate Change Authority and Fund are few other recent initiatives. Use of technology is yet another recognized way adopted for enhancing operational efficiency and streamlining the processes. Climate diplomacy has assumed paramount importance. All year around, various intergovernmental meetings and negotiations are held at various international platforms, particularly, under UN Conventions and Protocols. MoCC&EC actively participates and through proactive climate diplomacy protects our climate interests and navigates these challenges to advance towards a sustainable future for the country and the planet. Our ambitious climate agenda includes fulfilling the goals envisaged in our flagship programmes and plans such as the Nation Adaptation Plan (NAP), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Upscaling Green Pakistan Programme (UGPP), Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF), Living Indus, and Recharge Pakistan.

We are resolutely committed to taking government's climate agenda forward by way of smart and decisive climate actions for a 'climate resilient Pakistan'.

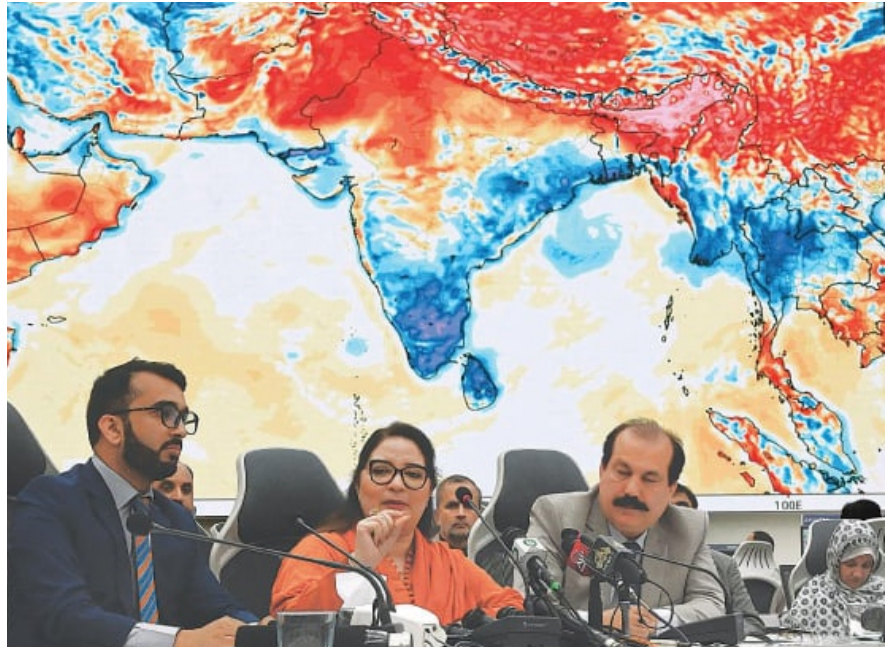
PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam lauds govt authorities for early heatwave warnings, response

ISLAMABAD: May 23, 2024 : As almost 26 districts of the country swelter in the oppressive heat that has gripped the country since May 21, the climate change ministry said the first wave will last until May 30, followed by two more separate heatwaves in June, blaming unsustainable environmental practices and deforestation for the extreme weather conditions.

Addressing a press conference along with senior officials from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Romina Khurshid Alam, the PM's coordinator on climate change, called upon the federal and provincial government departments to mobilise available resources to protect citizens, particularly children and the elderly, from the sweltering heat.

Citing data from the Pakistan Meteorological Department, Romina Alam noted that temperatures across most regions were currently 5 to 6 degrees Celsius above normal. She revealed that 26 districts in Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan were experiencing severe heatwave conditions, which were expected to persist in three waves throughout the summer.

The first wave, ongoing from May 22-30, would be followed by additional waves in early and late June. As per the state-run APP, she said the second heatwave would be from June 7-8 and the third wave would be during the last week of June.



“The country is facing a severe heatwave, and this is just the beginning,” she stated, adding, “High atmospheric pressure is exacerbating these conditions, adversely affecting the socio-economic activities of our people.”

Joined by NDMA's Member for Disaster Risk Reduction Idrees Mahsud, and technical expert Dr Tayyab, the PM's aide emphasised the importance of comprehensive guidelines and early warnings that had been disseminated to prevent heatwave-related casualties, akin to those during the deadly 2015 heat wave, which had claimed nearly 2,500 lives.

Ms Alam stressed that heat waves were predominantly a human-caused crisis, exacerbated by deforestation and other unsustainable environmental practices. “Global warming is impacting the entire world, and we are seeing its effects in the form of

these frequent and intense heat waves,” she explained. “Public awareness campaigns through various media outlets are ongoing to educate people on the health risks and preventive measures.”

Urging swift measures to prevent heat wave casualties, she urged the public to avoid unnecessary outdoor activities, especially vulnerable groups like children, the elderly, and those with serious health conditions. The NDMA was actively working on early warnings and coordinating with provincial departments to manage natural disasters and calamities.

Melting glaciers and forest fires

Ms Alam warned that the heat wave was accelerating glacier melt and increasing the risk of forest fires. The aide advised the public to exercise caution in national parks and avoid discarding

cigarette butts or other flammable materials. She also recommended leaving vehicle windows slightly open to prevent fires and ensuring that workers have access to water to prevent heat-related emergencies.

Dr Tayyab from the NDMA informed that Pakistan ranked as the fifth most vulnerable country to climate change, with the agency having developed a disaster calendar projecting natural calamities for the next six months. He noted that recent erratic weather patterns had led

to significant rainfall variations, impacting regions, like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Dr Tayyab also highlighted water stress and the risk of drought as major concerns during heat waves, with regions like Tharparkar and Jacobabad already experiencing mild drought conditions.

In response to media queries, Romina Alam confirmed that the PM had established a high-level committee to coordinate efforts across relevant authorities and keep the national forum updated

on climate-related challenges.

NDMA's Mahsud added that the authority was developing a mobile application to provide real-time alerts, advisories, and disaster management plans to the public and media. The NDMA's national coordination cell maintained close contact with provincial disaster management authorities and international agencies, ensuring comprehensive disaster preparedness and response.

PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam visits Iranian Embassy to condole demise of President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi



Islamabad, May 21, 2024: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam visited the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad to convey her profound condolences to the Government and people of Iran on the tragic demise of President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Amir Hossain Abdollahian, and other senior Iranian officials, who died in a helicopter crash on Monday.

While speaking to the Ambassador of Iran, Mr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam, the Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam paid rich tribute to the late Iranian President and recalled his recent remarkable and memorable visit to Pakistan.

During her meeting with the Iran's ambassador to Pakistan, she also remembered the late Irani president's unparalleled and unprecedented role for the betterment of global Muslim community at all levels and deepening of relations between the people of Pakistan and Iran.

The PM's coordinator also fondly recalled her interactions with President Raisi during his recent visit to Pakistan and lauded his pledges for Iran's unflinching support to Pakistan and people of the country at all levels for socio-economic development.

“President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi was unquestionably a great leader, a visionary person and a scholar of great credibility,” said Ms Romina Khurshid Alam.

The PM's Coordinator also signed the condolence book at the Iranian Embassy on this solemn occasion during her visit to the Embassy of Iran in Islamabad.

PM Shahbaz Sharif committed to tackling adverse impacts of glacial melting: PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam

ISLAMABAD, May 15, 2024: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam has said that global warming is adversely affecting glaciers, ecosystems, lives and livelihoods of the people in mountain areas of the country.

However, addressing the challenges of rapidly melting glaciers, loss of ecosystem and protection of lives and livelihoods is not possible without the global community join hands to tackle the drivers of the global warming, particularly containing emissions of heat-trapping gases.

Chairing a meeting with Italian non-governmental organisation EvK2CNR here on Wednesday, the PM's Coordinator observed that soaring temperatures in the mountain regions including Pakistan are accompanied by changes in seasonal weather patterns, the melting of glaciers, the thawing of permafrost, and reductions in the extent and duration of snow cover. As a result, water flows and its availability for industrial, household and agricultural uses has been shrinking and becoming increasingly unreliable, she added.

“Initiatives, which can help slow down global warming, are direly needed to overcome devastating impacts of climate change on glaciers, mountains, ecosystems, water flows, agriculture, public health and education,” Romina Khurshid Alam stressed.

Since the early 1900s, many glaciers around the world have

been rapidly melting. Human activities are at the root of this phenomenon. Specifically, since the industrial revolution, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions have raised temperatures, even higher in the poles, and as a result, glaciers are rapidly melting, calving off into the sea and retreating on land.



She said that adopting sustainable means of production and consumption is key to tackle climate change and its impacts on various socio-economic sectors, particularly water, agriculture, energy, health and education. Romina Khurshid Alam told the meeting that the Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is particularly serious and committed towards building Pakistan's environmental sustainability and climate resilience in all socio-economic sectors and has directed his team to leave no stone unturned to stem environmental degradation and increase the country's endurance against devastating fallouts of climate change.

“I will pro-actively engage at all levels with all stakeholders and organisations, with reliable track-record of working and committed to

help Pakistan achieve environmental sustainability goals and increase its capability to deal with impacts of global warming on the various socio-economic sectors,” the PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam vowed. Meanwhile, the President EvK2CNR, Agostino Da Polenza,

apprised the PM's Coordinator about various initiatives being taken by his organization for socio-economic development, uplift of education, protection of mountain ecosystems and protected or environmentally-sensitive areas in Pakistan's mountain areas including Gilgit-Baltistan, which is home to the picturesque mountain peaks.

He also informed the PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam that his organisation has also conducted various research studies in collaboration with international and Pakistani organisations on impacts of climate crisis on mountains and glaciers and suggested various policy measures to cope with these negative impacts.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the third meeting of Pakistan Climate Change Council



Islamabad, April 26, 2024: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed to constitute a committee for finalizing policy guidelines regarding carbon credits to address the surging issue of climate change.

He was chairing the third meeting of Pakistan Council on Climate Change in Islamabad today. The Prime Minister directed the Ministry of Climate Change to take the provinces and all stakeholders into confidence for this important policy draft and present the draft of policy in the next meeting.

Appreciating the improvement in the measures regarding carbon credits across the country, he underscored the need to expedite these efforts.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan is among the countries which are most vulnerable to the drastic effects of climate change and the 2022 floods bear testimony to it. He said the challenge of climate change is getting grave with every passing day and the federal and provincial governments have to work together to formulate a

policy regarding climate change. The meeting discussed in detail the policy guidelines for trading in carbon credits.

The Chief Ministers of four provinces shared their views and presented suggestions in this regard.



PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid launches efforts to mainstream Climate Change in National Curriculum



ISLAMABAD, Apr 29: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, stated on Monday that the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination is contemplating the inclusion of climate change in the national curriculum, in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC), to instigate climate awareness at the grassroots level.

Khurshid emphasized the necessity for the nation to collectively address climate change, learning from each other's experiences.

Expressing these views at the launching ceremony of Pakistan's Roadmap at Comsats Islamabad on the sidelines of the Earthday 2024 event,

Khurshid underscored Pakistan's commitment to combat plastic pollution by being among the 175 countries that have signed the agreement to eliminate it. She also highlighted Pakistan's status as the first country in South Asia to launch the "National Plastics Action Partnership" program of the World Economic Forum.

Recognizing that climate change transcends national borders and requires apolitical resolution, Khurshid emphasized the need for united societal action to address its adverse impacts. She cautioned against the ineffective use of resources, such as organizing seminars in five-star hotels, stating that real solutions require concerted efforts rather than wasteful spending.

Khurshid reiterated that addressing climate change is a priority for the Prime Minister, who is forming a committee, inclusive of

the provinces of Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, to implement serious interventions.

She highlighted her zero-tolerance stance on single-use plastics and her strict adherence to avoiding drinking water in plastic bottles, stressing the urgent need for action to protect aquatic life from the detrimental effects of plastic pollution.

She underlined the urgency of addressing climate catastrophes, citing floods in Asia and droughts in Africa, stressing the need for immediate action.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan to work together for COP29



Islamabad, April 30, 2024: In a significant development towards global climate action, Pakistan and Azerbaijan have reaffirmed their commitment to collaborate closely for the upcoming UN-led global climate summit COP29.

PM's Coordinator on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam, held a meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov, to discuss preparations for COP29, scheduled to be held in Azerbaijan in November this year.

During the meeting, both sides vowed to maintain close collaboration for pre-COP and post-COP arrangements, alongside a commitment to raise

a unified voice and stance during the global summit. Pakistan offered Azerbaijan all the technical expertise required for COP29, emphasizing their shared goals and future.

Ambassador Farhadov expressed gratitude for Pakistan's offer, stating, "Our goals are the same, so inevitably, our future is the same." He highlighted Azerbaijan's immense value for its ties with Pakistan.

The two sides also reiterated the importance of consistent engagements, people-to-people exchanges for enhancing business and trade, and promoting sustainable development. This collaboration underscores the joint efforts of Pakistan and Azerbaijan towards combating

climate change on the global stage, setting a promising precedent for international cooperation in environmental conservation and sustainable development



PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid welcomes Azerbaijan's Minister Mr. Mukhtar Babayev at COMSATS Secretariat

Islamabad, May 11, 2024: President-designate of COP29, Azerbaijan's Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, visited COMSATS along with Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change & Environmental Protection, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam.

The Executive Director COMSATS, Amb. Dr. Nafees Zakaria, warmly welcomed the delegation from Azerbaijan. Ms. Amna Batool, Member of the National Assembly was among the distinguished visitors to COMSATS.

Ambassador Zakaria briefed the delegation on COMSATS and its origin. He paid tribute to Pakistan's distinguished Physicist and Nobel Laureate Prof. Abdus Salam, who founded it in 1994. He highlighted the over-arching objective of the 27 member intergovernmental organization, that is bridging knowledge and technology gap between global south and global north. He emphasized the pivotal role of COMSATS' Network of 24 Centres of Excellence in fostering science and technology collaboration among member countries.

In the context of cooperation between COMSATS and Azerbaijan Ambassador Zakaria mentioned about earlier visit of Azerbaijan delegation and subsequent training in AI and Software Quality Assurance.



The Executive Director introduced COMSATS Centre for Climate & Sustainability and offered to provide collaborative support to the COP-29 President-designate in the organizing of the upcoming event hosted by Azerbaijan.

Minister Mukhtar Babayev expressed a strong desire for collaborative efforts within the framework of COP29. He envisaged Azerbaijan serving as a pivotal link in the continuum of decision-making and implementation, linking the outcome of COP28 at the UAE and COP30 to be held in Brazil next year. Mr. Babayev further stressed the imperative for developing countries to harness their collective strength to effectively address global challenges like climate change.

The Coordinator to the Prime Minister, Ms. Romina, appreciated the role being played by COMSATS in the efforts towards Climate Change challenge and effectiveness of the 27 member platform on the whole in the fields Science and technology.

The visit of the Azerbaijani delegation offered a good opportunity for discussions on enhancing cooperation between COMSATS and Azerbaijan in various areas of mutual interest, with a focus on leveraging science, technology, and innovation for sustainable development, in general, and Climate Change, in particular.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan to launch joint climate transparency report – PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam

Launch joint initiatives for enhancing climate action, resilience in Pakistan.

Islamabad: May 11, 2024: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam on Saturday said the Republic of Azerbaijan and Pakistan would work together to boost climate action and launch joint climate change adaptation initiatives for building climate resilience of the lives and livelihoods of the people and vulnerable ecosystems.

They also announced to launch joint climate transparency report at the upcoming 29th Session of global climate summit, also called COP-29, to be held in Baku this year for synergised and concerted response to the global warming challenge.

Addressing a joint presser flanked by Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources Azerbaijan and President-designate COP-29, Mukhtar Babayev here at F-9 Park, the PM's Coordinator said the governments of Pakistan and Azerbaijan had discussed pertinent issues regarding National Adaptation Plan, Green Pakistan Programme, Living Indus Initiative, Loss and Damage Fund mobilization, Climate Finance, G-77 plus China, Global Climate Vulnerability Index which is the priority of Pakistan to raise plight of most climate vulnerable states at the COP-20 forum. Romina Khurshid said the

Azerbaijan Minister called on the President and Prime Minister and extended his state's invitation to attend the COP-29 conference in Baku.

She said both the sides had discussed the contours of bilateral cooperation and engagement for participation at the COP forum and the preparations to be made for a meaningful participation.

She added that the One house, one tree programme (Green Pakistan Programme) has been started in Saudi Arabia, where the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination were serving to assist the Saudi government. She added that the Pakistani delegation would proceed under the leadership of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif at the COP-29 forum. On the

occasion, Mukhtar Babayev said Azerbaijan vision was clear to promoted collective work and activities within the climate agenda, whereas he had planted trees at the F-9 Park alongwith his delegation to renew the pledge for nature conservation. He mentioned that extensive discussions were made with partners in Pakistan on common aspects related to climate change.

He thanked the Pakistani government for giving the opportunity to initiate dialogue on COP-29 forum preparations and deliberations on the climate agenda. **"Our goal is to promote climate action. Pakistan is the best opportunity for us to work together to protect nature, whereas further meetings are underway,"** he added.



Engaging the Youth vital to Championing Climate Awareness – PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam

Islamabad, April 29, 2024: Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam commended civil society's initiative to promote running as a healthy leisure activity while championing climate awareness.

Speaking at Margalla Hills Half Marathon organised at Trail-5 by the pioneer group of running, Islamabad Run With Us, she lauded the spirit of the participants and organisers. She emphasised the significance of such endeavours in raising awareness about climate change and sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The Margalla Hills Half Marathon witnessed over 150 participants, including diplomatic community members and foreigners, covering a distance of 21.1 kilometres along the scenic trail.

Ms Alam emphasised the importance of conservation efforts, refusing single-use plastic bottles as part of her campaign against plastic pollution. She also highlighted the role of the young people in combating plastic pollution and supporting government efforts in this regard.

She said, "Our youth, who are frontline contingent force, can play a pivotal role in ensuring a plastic-free environment by advocating for sustainable policies, developing skills in green industries, starting or joining green businesses and actively participating in the implementation of strategies to combat plastic pollution which is a major source of environmental degradation in our country."

She urged the youth to take the lead and responsibility to overcome plastic pollution in the



country, which has adversely contaminated our soil, water bodies, oceans, natural ecosystems and affected human and wildlife health.

The key challenge is educating and sensitising young people about adverse impacts of plastic pollution not only on our environment but also our lives.

She also called for collective action in preserving the environment, emphasising the role of the media in spreading awareness. She congratulated the winners and participants for their commitment to environmental conservation.

Women hold key to Climate Action

Islamabad, May 8, 2024: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam said that women are the change and will change the future.

Addressing the second edition of the Gender Climate Award ceremony as keynote speaker, she said that women are our champions, and "we have faith in their capabilities".

Ms Romina Khurshid Alam lauded the initiative and pledged her support in taking the gender agenda forward to strengthen the gender-climate nexus.

The award ceremony was organized in Islamabad to acknowledge women's commitment, leadership and concrete initiatives in the fight against climate change and its effects in three categories – climate action, green enterprise and young climate journalism.



PM committed to building Country's Climate Resilience: Romina Khurshid



Islamabad, May 15, 2024: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has stressed the need of taking initiatives that can help slow down global warming and overcome devastating impacts of climate change.

Chairing a meeting in Islamabad today, she said global warming is

adversely affecting glaciers, ecosystems, lives and livelihoods of the people in mountain regions around the world.

Romina Khurshid Alam said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is committed towards building

Pakistan's environmental sustainability and climate resilience in all socio-economic sectors.

She said the Prime Minister has directed the relevant authorities to leave no stone unturned to stem environmental degradation and increase the country's

endurance against devastating fall out of climate change.

She said adopting sustainable means of production and consumption is key to tackle climate change and its impacts on various socio-economic sectors, particularly water, agriculture, energy, health and education. On the occasion, President of the Italian NGO, Agostino Da Polenza apprised the Prime Minister's Coordinator about various initiatives being taken by his organization for socio-economic development, uplift of education, protection of mountain ecosystems and protected or environmentally-sensitive areas in Pakistan's mountain areas including Gilgit-Baltistan.

Govt takes steps to Educate Youth on Climate Change

Islamabad, May 13, 2024: In a significant move towards climate education, Romina Khurshid Alam, the PM's coordinator on climate change & environmental coordination, announced that upcoming summer camps will include teachings on climate change for students. This initiative aims to sensitise the youth on this crucial issue.

Khurshid Alam shared this during a meeting with Abdullah A. Fadil, the Unicef country director for Pakistan. She highlighted collaborations with the Secretary Federal Education & Professional Training and Chairman Higher Education Commission to incorporate climate change-related content into the curriculum. Moreover, the Ministry of Climate Change is set to establish a COP cell to expedite climate actions and assess climate risks, which Pakistan will present at the upcoming UNFCCC COP29.

The discussion also revolved around promoting climate tourism, entertainment, sports, and economy. Both sides expressed commitment to these endeavours, with Unicef pledging to strengthen support and collaborate on COP29.



Collaborative efforts of all stakeholders on Climate Change necessary to create National level impact: MNA Romina Khurshid



Islamabad: May 22, 2024 - PM's coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Rumina Khurshid Alam said that the joint collaboration of all the stakeholders from government and non government sides is necessary to create national level impact to deal with the climate crisis.

She was chairing here on Wednesday the first meeting of advisory Committee on climate change which includes the representation from SIFC, ministry of federal education, HEC, COMSATS, PM youth program, IRS, SDPI, planning Commission, ministry of Power (K-electric) NGOs, CSOs, private universities and banking sectors.

It was agreed that the dashboard for data collection would be created by the ministry of climate change and environmental coordination.

PM's Coordinator apprised the committee that she has fully imposed ban on single-use plastic.

PM's Coordinator sought the ideas from committee members to promote climate literacy, climate security and waste management.

Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Chairman said that he had also directed all the vice chancellors of universities to make it mandatory that every student (six million plus) and staff members plant a sapling of their part in university area to contribute to the national cause.

Chairman HEC also remarked that one of the biggest issue of Pakistan is lack of systematic approach in the country.

Ministry of Education representative apprised the coordinator that FDE had banned plastic use in schools besides other activities including kitchen gardening, awareness campaigns, incorporation of climate change in national curriculum through national curriculum council etc.

SIFC also shared their findings in connection with pollution reduction due to bikes, bricks kilns and cutting trees by housing societies. They recommended to introduce electric bikes and revival of cycling culture.

PM's coordinator while expressing her gratitude for all the participants remarked that she was pained when she heard in European countries that Pakistan was graveyard of wastes and she wanted to change this thought and want to make Pakistan one of the best place on planet. All stakeholders assured their full support to PM's coordinator for accomplishment of this national cause.

The committee members highly appreciated the initiative of PM's coordinator to bring all the stakeholders at a single platform to work together to fight against climate change.

Pakistan leads world in community-based conservation of Markhor: MNA Romina Khurshid Alam



Islamabad: May 25, 2024: Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Friday announced that Pakistan was the leading the world in community-based conservation of Markhor and other wild goats and sheep that were thriving in population across the northern region of the country.

Addressing a press conference, flanked by Inspector General of Forest, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Ghulam Qadir Shah on the occasion of International Markhor Day, the PM's Coordinator mentioned that the country along with the rest of the world was celebrating its national animal's day under the ambit of the United Nations to raise awareness on its conservation and significance in the ecology.

Romina Khurshid said the United Nations General Assembly on May 2nd approved the resolution to celebrate global Markhor Day to highlight that it was an important member of the natural ecosystem facing existential threats due to irresponsible attitude and anthropogenic activities of mankind.

The mountainous region of the country particularly Gilgit Baltistan, Chitral, Kohistan, Swat, Dir, and Balochistan were the habitats of more than a dozen of wild goats and sheep including Ibex, Markhor, Urial, Himalayan Goral, Blue Sheep and Marcopolo Sheep, she added.

“Markhor is an enchanting tough and highly impressive wild Capra that resides in the harsh mountainous terrain and its not only important part of the natural food chain but also a major source of livelihood for the local populace,” she said.

She underlined that the sports hunting meant for conservation through trophy hunting was criticized by the masses but it was a complete conservation programme under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

“Under this programme, only 12 out of 4500 total markhors existing in our mountains are picked who are mainly aged for trophy hunting whereas the massive amount garnered from this activity is mostly spent on the improvement of their breeding spaces and habitats,” Romina Khurshid Alam said.

In her message, on the occasion, to the world, the PM's Coordinator said that the government of Pakistan was proud to reckon that the people of Pakistan, public and private organisations, and professional associated to forests and wildlife specially Markhor were committed to ensure the conservation of the biodiversity and wild species.

Moreover, she said the country was also welcoming the entire world to learn from its experiences in the this regard and would share its knowledge to the countries willing to learn. She prayed to the Almighty for progress and prosperity in the efforts to conserve wildlife and forests and other sectors of the country.

PM's Coordinator Ms Romina Khurshid, Save the Children to jointly work to address Children's Climate Vulnerability



ISLAMABAD, Apr 22: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam in a meeting with the country director of Save the Children agreed to work together to mainstream children's vulnerability to national climate change discourse to invoke climate action for protection of children from adverse fallouts of climate change, particularly floods and, heatwaves.

Both sides, also discussed the participation of affected children in upcoming 29th conference of the parties (COP-29) meeting in Baku, a news release said. Both sides also agreed to jointly promote national climate agenda at all levels with active participation of the children.

“Pakistani affected children who are bearing the brunt of climate crisis, must apprise themselves to global leadership on its impacts on their lives,” Ms Romina Khurshid Alam stressed.

She also stressed upon need for the active role of children at household levels to advocate their elders to shun the use of plastic bags as a part of environmental protection and conservation.

Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, the Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, met with Country Director Muhammad Khuram Gondal to discuss working together to help children cope with climate change. Ms. Romina praised Save the Children International Pakistan for their important work with the government. They agreed to focus on NAP and NDCs that consider children's needs, led by the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination. The meeting was also covered by the national media.



Pakistan, Swiss Agree to Enhance Cooperation for Climate Change Resilience



Islamabad: April 23, 2024: Ambassador Jemal Beker recalled the recent flash flood that brought devastation to Pakistan's shore which, he had personally witnessed during his visit to tent cities in Sindh. "Climate change is an existential threat that will not spare any place or area on this planet earth if we do not come together to combat this challenge which is not a problem for only Pakistan or Ethiopia but the rest of the world," he said.

To this end, he said the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia launched the Green Legacy Initiative to contribute to the efforts of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan towards a greener and cleaner future for the next generations.

The Ambassador said the Embassy along with other stakeholders would do massive plantations throughout the week in other major cities including Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura and others.

"Our efforts in this regard are completely aligned with the vision of Dr Abiy Ahmed who transformed Ethiopia under his Medemer philosophy which strongly advocates for aligning all the resources to provide homegrown solutions to the homegrown problems," the ambassador stressed.

He said the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Dr Abiy Ahmed mobilized the whole nation under the Green Legacy initiative and so far, more than 32.5 billion seedlings planted across the country in the last five years which included saplings of fruits like avocado, papaya, banana, oranges, olives and many others.

Likewise, coffee, animal feed and floral plants were also planted taking us closer to our target of 50 billion seedlings until 2025. In addition to that, more than 150,000 nurseries were set up in the country as well as over a million jobs.

PM's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina vows close collaboration with USAID on climate initiatives

Islamabad, April 17, 2024: PM's coordinator on climate change, Romina Khursheed Alam has said the present government warmly welcomes close collaboration and partnership with United States on climate initiatives aiming at bolstering its nation's climate resilience, mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Addressing the launching ceremony of the USAID's Pakistan climate financing activity, she said while highlighting the disastrous affects of global warming on Pakistan that the country produced less than 1 percent of world's carbon emissions, but it was suffering serious consequences of climate change.



According to Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan was currently the 5th most climate vulnerable country in the world, she added. She noted that in the wake of 2022 floods one third of country was deluged under water with 81 districts of Pakistan declared calamity hit and about 33,000,000 people affected.

All this is a clear indication of our perturbed ecology, she underscored. While emphasizing on the climate resilience, Romina Khursheed Alam stressed upon region wise solutions, focusing on public private partnership by bringing in banks, real estate and industries.

Pakistan, Ethiopia agree to launch Ethiopian Green Legacy Initiative in Pakistan

Islamabad: April 9, 2024: Pakistan and Ethiopia have agreed to launch the Green Legacy Initiative of Ethiopian Prime Minister in the major cities of Pakistan.

This was agreed upon in a meeting between Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam and Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula in Islamabad. Romina Khurshid Alam said that the government of Pakistan is looking forward to working with Ethiopia to deal with climate change.

Speaking on the occasion Ambassador stressed the need for enhanced collaboration between the two countries to address

climate issues through skills, technology, information and knowledge sharing.

He said the government of Ethiopia stands ready to work together with the Pakistani government in addressing climate-

related issues such as floods and food insecurity.

The Envoy said that Ethiopia would extend all-out support to Pakistan on climate mitigation through technological transfer and experience sharing.



Pakistan, Denmark to work jointly for building Pakistan's Climate Resilience: PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid

Islamabad: April 18, 2024:
Coordinator on climate change
Romina Khurshid Alam
emphasized on climate diplomacy
to address the climate challenges
including global warming, melting
of glaciers, urban deforestation,
heat waves, endangered rare
species and carbon credits.

She said this in a meeting with
Danish ambassador to Pakistan
H.E. Jakob Linulf who was called
on her at her office.

The both sides agreed on closer
collaboration, knowledge sharing
and designing of joint activities on
climate change. PM's coordinator
underscored the equitable
distribution of funds to
developing countries for fighting
against the climate crisis.

**"It is now or never to deal with
climate crisis to save our
future generations which
would otherwise suffer heavily
if attention was not paid at this
point of time",** she underlined.

Romina Khurshid Alam stressed
upon regionwise solutions of
climate as few countries have
drought issues while others have
flooding challenges.

The Danish ambassador while
extending his felicitations to PM's
coordinator on assuming
responsibility on such an
important subject applauded the
proactive role and her vision to
address the climate challenges.

PM's coordinator thanked the
Danish ambassador for extending
help to Pakistan during 2022
floods. The both sides reiterated
their resolve to deepen
cooperation on climate change.
Romina Khurshid Alam expressed
her gratitude for visiting and also
extended invitation to her Danish
counter-part to formalize the
cooperation on climate.



MoCC&EC and CDA jointly control raging forest fire in Margallah Hills: Romina Khurshid

Islamabad, May 18, 2024:
Coordinator to the Prime Minister
on Climate Change and
Environmental Coordination
Romina Khurshid Alam said that
around 150 personnel from
Capital Development Authority
(CDA) and the Ministry of Climate
Change teamed up to control the
fire that broke out in the forests of
Margalla hills.

Romina Khurshid, in a news
statement, said efforts continued
late night as the fire spread up to
three kilometres spanning the
areas of Loi Dandi, Ratahoter and
Pir Sohawa at the Margalla hills.
She said heat wave and increased
wind speed contributed to the
intensity of the fire. Swift action
was taken to avoid any casualty
and the trained personnel engaged
in firefighting activity till late night,
Romina Khurshid Alam added.



PM's Coordinator Romina, Ethiopian Ambassador Jemal launch Green Legacy Initiative in Sialkot

ISLAMABAD, Apr 24, 2024: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Wednesday launched the "Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Under Green Legacy" initiative of Ethiopia's Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed at the University of Sialkot.

The event was attended by various dignitaries including government officials, religious leaders, businessmen, academics, students, civil society representatives and members of the media. Special Envoy and Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Jemal Beker Abdula, was also present at the launch.

The initiative was launched as part of a collaboration among the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Ministry of Climate Change and the University of Sialkot, a news release said. More than 200 plants of different indigenous species were planted under the "Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Under Green Legacy" Initiative which was followed by a climate walk participated by a large number of people.

Speaking on the occasion, Romina Khurshid lauded Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula for fostering fraternity between the two nations through the Green Legacy Initiative.

The Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan said she was delighted to make a formal announcement regarding the collaboration between the Embassy of Ethiopia in Islamabad and the Ministry of Climate Change of Pakistan regarding the Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Under Green Legacy Initiative.

She said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had accorded the approval to formalize the collaboration at the bilateral level between the two countries and assured the Government of Pakistan's strong commitment in this regard.

Addressing the launching ceremony, Ambassador Jemal Beker expressed gratitude for the Government of Pakistan for joining hands with the Ethiopian Embassy to foster brotherhood and fraternity between the two big nations.

"Today we gather here not only to save the planet earth but also connect the two big and historic nations the heirs of civilizations and protectors of the rule-based world order while fighting together the global challenges such as terrorism and climate change," the Ambassador remarked.



Romina pledges to set up Wildlife centre of Excellence in Pakistan

Islamabad: April 8, 2024: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khursheed Alam, expressed the intention to establish the first-ever center of excellence for wildlife in the country.

The Centre would be for welfare of wildlife wherein veterinary training, transfer of veterinary technology, awareness for the public would be provided by senior wildlife scientists for betterment of niche, ecology, growth and experimentation of wildlife.

The Coordinator to PM on Climate Change held a meeting with Islamabad Wildlife management Board along with experts from Four Paws on Monday at ministry of climate change, a news release said. Romina Khurshid Alam was apprised on management, preservation of wildlife, issues and challenges about Margalla Hills National Park & Marghazar Zoo. Dr. Frank Goeritz, head of Institute of zoo & wildlife research and Dr. Amir Khalil,



Director reveal & rescue briefed the coordinator to PM on bio rescue & endangered species.

The Coordinator to PM on Climate Change emphasized on setting up a new park dedicated for rare species, endangered species and vulnerable species. For this purpose 28 acre land, under the ministry would be utilized.

While discussing the challenges of natural life of Pakistan,

Coordinator to PM on climate change remarked that she was persuing for the earliest signing of Islamabad Nature & wildlife management act 2023 after which measures for bio rescue and wildlife would be upscaled. Coordinator to PM on climate change expressed her gratitude to the participants of the meeting adding that there is long way to go for welfare of Pakistani wildlife which was neglected for a very long time

Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination —

'working towards Climate resilient Pakistan'

The Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), during the last two months, has been spearheading numerous initiatives towards making Pakistan climate resilient. Things in works viz a viz carrying forward the government's agenda and climate action included the old/ongoing and some new ones, such as review of laws, rules, policies, projects, coordination, technical capacities, mobilizing resources, access to climate finance, operationalizing climate change authority, use of technology in streamlining the operational regime, progress against our international commitments etc.

In an initial sectoral briefing to the Prime Minister, the MoCC&EC presented a comprehensive overview of the sector and the ministry's achievements, ongoing projects, and future challenges seeking policy guidance. The Prime Minister established a Committee comprising secretaries and sector experts, and tasked it with reviewing the existing governance and institutional structure for climate change and identifying effective mechanisms to increase access to international climate finance, thereby further strengthening Pakistan's climate resilience and sustainability efforts of the ministry.

After several rounds of in-depth and meaningful deliberations, a set of recommendations, aiming at improved and strengthened coordination mechanism, fostering a cooperative spirit among all stakeholders, and effectively mobilizing means of implementation for climate action in the country, has been submitted to the Prime Minister for approval. The team at the Ministry, keeping in view the government's climate agenda, the committee's recommendations and its SWOT analysis, has prioritized following action plan and continues to work on the same:

1. Whole of government approach: The Ministry has improved and strengthened the coordination and consultation mechanism with a cooperative spirit after due deliberations. Besides Climate Change Council under the Pakistan Climate Change Act 2017, an Implantation Oversight Committee in line with the provisions of the National Climate Change Policy 2021 has been constituted and notified with due representation from provinces and sector experts. A permanent Coordination Committee comprising of relevant Secretaries has also been constituted for regular reviews and consultations. Project Steering Committees have been formed with representatives from the federal and provincial governments, in addition to the GCF & GEF national committees.

2. Mainstreaming/integration of climate considerations: After review and need for updating, amendments in ROB 1973 have been proposed, which will ensure mainstreaming climate considerations in all government endeavors. All federal and provincial entities have also been requested to include green considerations in all public sector interventions with regular reporting.

3. Pakistan Climate Change Authority & Fund: The Pakistan Climate Change Authority, envisaged under Pakistan Climate Change Act 2017, is being operationalized, and a notification has been issued after the Prime Minister's approval and hiring of professionals from the market is underway. The draft Rules for the Fund to be created under the Act *ibid*, have also been sent to the Law and Finance Divisions for vetting and subsequent approval process.

4. Access and leveraging climate finance: Being a developing country, access and leveraging to climate finance, both local and international, is of critical importance to ensure climate resilient Pakistan. A specialized Climate Finance Wing and Unit have been established within the ministry. Centralized climate finance data and green interventions are being mapped, and first ever National Climate Finance Strategy with a digital dashboard for live data and tracking is being developed with the help of development partners.

5. Policy Guidelines for Trading in Carbon Market: The first ever Policy Guidelines for Trading in Carbon Markets have been developed after extensive consultations, and the final consensus building consultative process is underway with the provincial governments. A dedicated Carbon Market Unit is being established. Once approved and notified, the policy guidelines will help spur the market, and will harness investments in climate friendly projects, marketing carbon credits, and country preparations for international carbon border adjustment mechanisms.

6. National Climate Change Policy, NDCs: All the policy documents such as National Climate Change Policy, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) etc., being living documents, need to be revised/updated in line with evolving ground situations and international requirements; review works have been started, and will be ensured that exercise is conducted every 3-5 years.

7. Climate Diplomacy: Climate diplomacy has assumed critical importance, especially for developing countries like ours, who are least contributor to emissions but are one of the most vulnerable. Pakistan is signatory to over twenty five MEAS, conventions/agreements, and needs to comply and report on those regularly. All year around; intergovernmental meetings and negotiations are held at various international platforms, particularly, under UN Conventions and Protocols. MoCC&EC actively participates, and through proactive climate diplomacy protects our climate interests and navigates these challenges to advance towards a sustainable future for the country and the planet. A dedicated COP Cell has been established with a focus on preparing position papers and building regional/international coalitions of like minded/friendly countries for negotiations and collective voice at multilateral for a. Administrative and logistical preparations for next COP are underway, and a successful visit of the COP 29 President-Designate of Azerbaijan in this regard has recently been facilitated and completed.

In addition to above mentioned key initiatives, the Ministry has resolved and undertaken to enhance engagement, coordination, collaboration, and consultations with stakeholders, especially with our development partners to increase access to technical assistance and climate finance. The Ministry has successfully mobilized international climate finance from sources like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). MoCC&EC has recently granted no objection letters to seven and five new projects to tap into GEF and GCF windows.

Outreach to media, being critical, has been intensified for raising awareness and promoting collective action; Coordinator Prime Minister on MoCC&EC has been spearheading the campaign. A ban on single-use plastic bags has led to the confiscation of 33,000 kg of plastic bags, and 72 kg of infectious waste have been incinerated within ICT over the last quarter. The Ministry, after streamlining the functional regime/processes, has through its Biosafety Committee cleared/issued over 100 licenses and NOCs in line with international requirements under various UN Conventions and Protocols. The existing project portfolio of the ministry has also been augmented in terms of number, size and financial pipelines, and work on our flagship programmes/projects such as UGPP, NAP, GLOF, LI and Recharge Pakistan etc, has also been spurred to fast track these and achieve our climate goals incorporated therein.

Use of technology i.e. IT based solutions have been one of the neglected areas, but the current team at MoCC&EC, being cognizant of that is focused on introducing the same for enhancing efficiency and transparency. It is in the process of developing centralized climate finance data base, integration of various climate dashboards such as CCIT and others, and an ePortal for online NOCs, NOLs processes. The MoCC&EC reaffirms its unwavering resolve to spearhead bold and collective climate action, leveraging innovative solutions, robust policies, and collaborative spirit to make climate resilient Pakistan's and contribute meaningfully to the global fight against hazards of climate change.

