Press Release

KARACHI, April 15: Environmental experts, climate change activists, lawyers, journalists and civil society as well as rights activists, at a consultation on Friday called upon the provincial government to make the Sindh Climate Change Policy people-centric and include an effective implementation mechanism for mitigating the environment challenges people in both rural and urban areas are facing.

The Sindh province contributes to 70% of the total gas production in the country. However, this gas production, coupled with expansion in LNG plants are deepening Sindh's exposure to climate change risks as the natural gas, particularly, LNG is linked with high methane emission potential.

The Knowledge Forum organized the consultation on "Review" of the Sindh Climate Change Policy and Implementation Framework in cooperation with the National Commission for Human Rights at its Karachi Office.

Member of NCHR (from Sindh) Ms. Anis Haroon presided over the meeting, while prominent among the participants were senior trade unions leader Habibuddin Junaidi, Director of Sindh Environmental Protection Agency Waqar Hussain Phulpoto, senior urban planner M. Toheed, Additional Secretary, Energy Department Dr. Abdul Shakoor Abro, Director of Aurat Foundation Mahnaz Rahman, a member of Sindh Human Rights Commission Zulfiqar Shah, Members of Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) Sub-Committees Sarah Zaman and Pushpa Kumari, Zahid Farooq from Urban Resource Centre, senior lawyer Altaf Hussain Khoso, Maaz Tanveer from HANDS, Abdul Raafe from Alternative Law Collectives, Iram Aijaz from Pakistan Red Crescent, environmental activists Yasir Husain, Basil Andrews and others.

The participants pointed out various missing elements in the policy. They particularly emphasised that the policy does not recognise concretisation and carbon emission intensive energy generation such as coal and gas as problem areas. The ongoing expansion of coal power plants in Tharparkar is likely to lead Pakistan into becoming one of the largest air pollutant, mercury and CO2 emissions hotspots in South Asia.

The participants also mentioned that there is no mention of how to mitigate the heatwave impact in the urban areas, climate financing, role of District Disaster Management Authorities etc.

The speakers deplored the recent increase in the taxes on import of solar panels and said that it would discourage the alternative energy source.

They said the impact of climate change are documented to be more severe in Sindh, compared to other parts of the country. The mean daily temperatures in Sindh province are projected to increase by about 5°C during 21st century, while climatic patterns such as increasing incidences of droughts, heatwaves, air pollution due to rapid urbanization and industrialization, and water insecurity are predicted to become more common in coming years.

Explaining the objectives of the meeting, Zeenia Shaukat from The Knowledge Forum said that the Civil society's inputs, particularly from the approach of community protection, and identification of technical gaps hindering the community agenda is crucial to ensuring the policy is representative and responsive to the impact of climate change experienced by common citizens.

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Climate Change

Zulfiqar Shah

Climate Change Policy

Zeenia Shaukat, TKF Director

We have been trying to gather people to get input from and then handover to Sindh government. This policy is available at Sindh Environment and Coastal Development website.

UNICEF has supported.

Mitigation,

National Climate Change of federal government. Create basis.

Capacity increase of the vulnerable groups.

Adaptation. Renewable increase, social protection for capacity increase. Food Security. Documentation and Research. Climate Vulnerability index.

Key concerns

1. infrastructure and energy: Heat impacts. Maintaining status quo.

Sindh has emphasized on coal and gas development. There is no mention in it. Emission.

2. Institutional challenges. Sindh Environmental Protection Council is in the law.

Local government act has no mention of climate change affairs. Sindh Climate Change Agency is to be set up. Our concern is SEPA Council is not mentioned in the policy

Waqar Phulpoto, EPA

Process: National Climate Change policy 2012 and Framework 2013. Every province has to implement in the provinces.

P&E Climate Change section was revamped. Provincial Implementation Committee was set up.

Env. Department, PDMA, Irrigation, Livestock, Agriculture, Industries

IUCN, WWF

The Implementation Committee felt to design our own policy of the province.

Fisheries: Marin and inland fisheries

Lead Pakistan was provided task to design. It was given the target.

Forest, Environment and Wildlife department

August 2016 the department was renamed.

All provincial departments nominated their focal persons. Consultation with Stakeholders was initiated.

Specifically with academic institutions in 2018. International organisations also reviewed. UNICEF and World Food Organisation.

Our department would send to Law department for approval. Then it would go to the provincial cabinet.

22March

Energy Department> Abro

Solar is working. Solid Waste Management Department MoU has been signed.

Field formations would be engaged.

Tauheed:

Increasing temperature is not mentioned.

Heatwave in Karachi in 2015. There is no mention in the Policy.

Disaster preparedness risk: Heatwave prone areas in Karachi. Where to focus. Districts and pockets be mentioned.

Climate migration was mentioned. Super floods in 2010 and 2011. When thousands of families migrated to major cities.

Climate financing: Marginalised communities are not identified. Concretized.

Population density is increasing.

Local climate zones: Sindh is divided into 3 zones. We have to narrow down.

Karachi Urban Lab: 2 place: Airport, PAF Masoor weather stations.

No weather stations are identified.

DDMA's role: No staff of DDMA is available anywhere in Karachi.

Solid Waste Management. No landfill site in Karachi is available. It is dumping sites.

Proper mechanism be adopted.

Action Plans: We have Sanitation Policy of Sindh government.

Zahid Farooque: We have sea in the city. Impact of sea is not mentioned in the policy.

Sea View: Three treatment plans are non-functional. They are directly impacting our environment. Site, Mahoodabad and Mauripur Truck Adda.

Sewerage and water Nallahs are mixed up.

S-3 Project of the government needed to carry and treat water. Many lines were changed. It should be found/searched.

Greenery and space. Gutter Baghica garden was a famous picnic point.

18X18 room four families are living.

Transport system: 4 million  bikes. Chingchi rickshaws. KCR

Mahnaz:

Designated areas of burning garbage.

Developed world is working much before the matters, which we have started.

Fossil fuel -  use have to be minimized. It is a fight against use of fossil fuel

Maaz Tanveer: Rural areas issues. Indigenous

Decentralised policy making.

Perceptions. Emission scenario. No mention. Resilient Housing societies.

Pakistan will increase fuel dependency by eight times by 2040.

Solar and hydro.

Solar tax will discourage.

Air pollution – No mention in the policy.

Altaf Khoso, lawyers

Funds do not reach to beneficiaries.

Air pollution is approaching human health. But no one supporting.

Environment courts – directly affected people be categorized.

Community awareness component should be included.

Abdul Rafe:

Generalised policies and guidelines are made.

Practices are not linked. Industrial practices. Cement’s role in mortality rate.

Regulatory framework is missing.

CEPA: EIA provision is there. Strategic EIA is not included. This should be included.

Costing methodology of deaths.

Addressing climate change risks.

Stakeholders are not defined.

When you acquire land, detailed explanation.

Consultative process. Local knowledge is provided space

Community restoration is missing. No mention of resettlement policy of affected people.

Dolat (Youth)

Children issues are missing.

ACE:

Vulnerable groups: Youth and children

Result orient

Urban forest concept is good.

Ocean is missing. Coastal area is mentioned. Coral reef.

Aqdas Fatima: Urban Lab

Climate change is uncertain ,its impact cannot be predicted. Rain fall patterns. How they are changing.

Humidity is not mentioned in the document.

Many vulnerable people are not mentioned. Old age, solar exposed people, No mention.

CSR: of companies. Check of those companies.

Urban forest. Sweet water provision.

Abro: Population and Forest department.

Deforestation is massive in interior Sindh. In 1960s Monsoon seed throwing was done.
Population increase. Cultivated land is being used for construction purpose. Barren land be focused.

Pushpa: Sindh Climate Action Network. I am Vice Chairman.

Biodiversity:

Urea use is increasing. We are using more nitrogen.

Sugarcane factories: land is damaged. This should be included in the plan.

Junaidi:

No public urinal and toilet is available.

This system would not run.

Sara Zaman

Agro economic zones.

Gender: women, girls, minorities. Many departments are disconnected.

Population Welfare Department, Health (resilience building).

Adaptation and resilience.