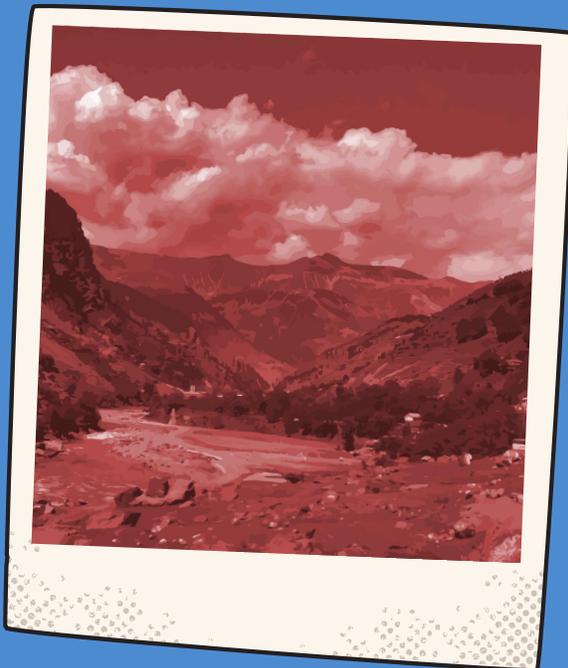
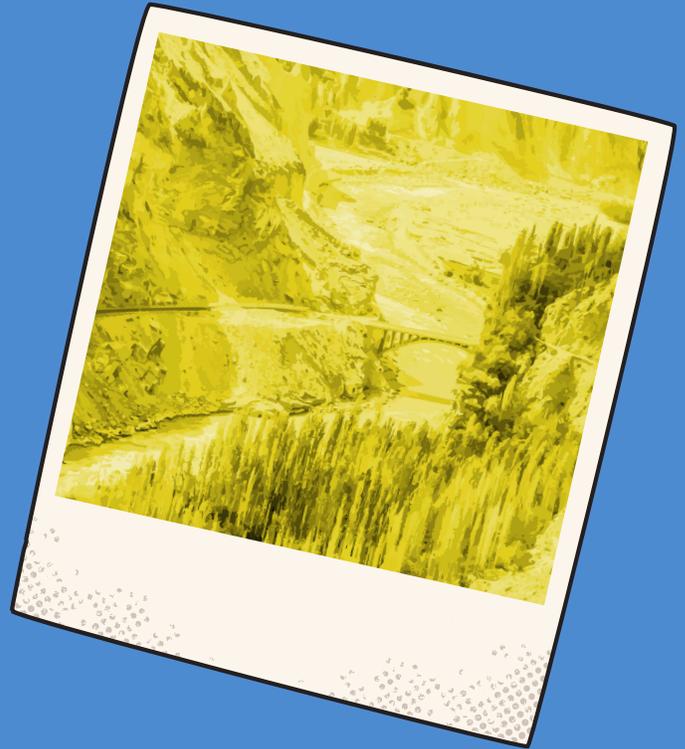


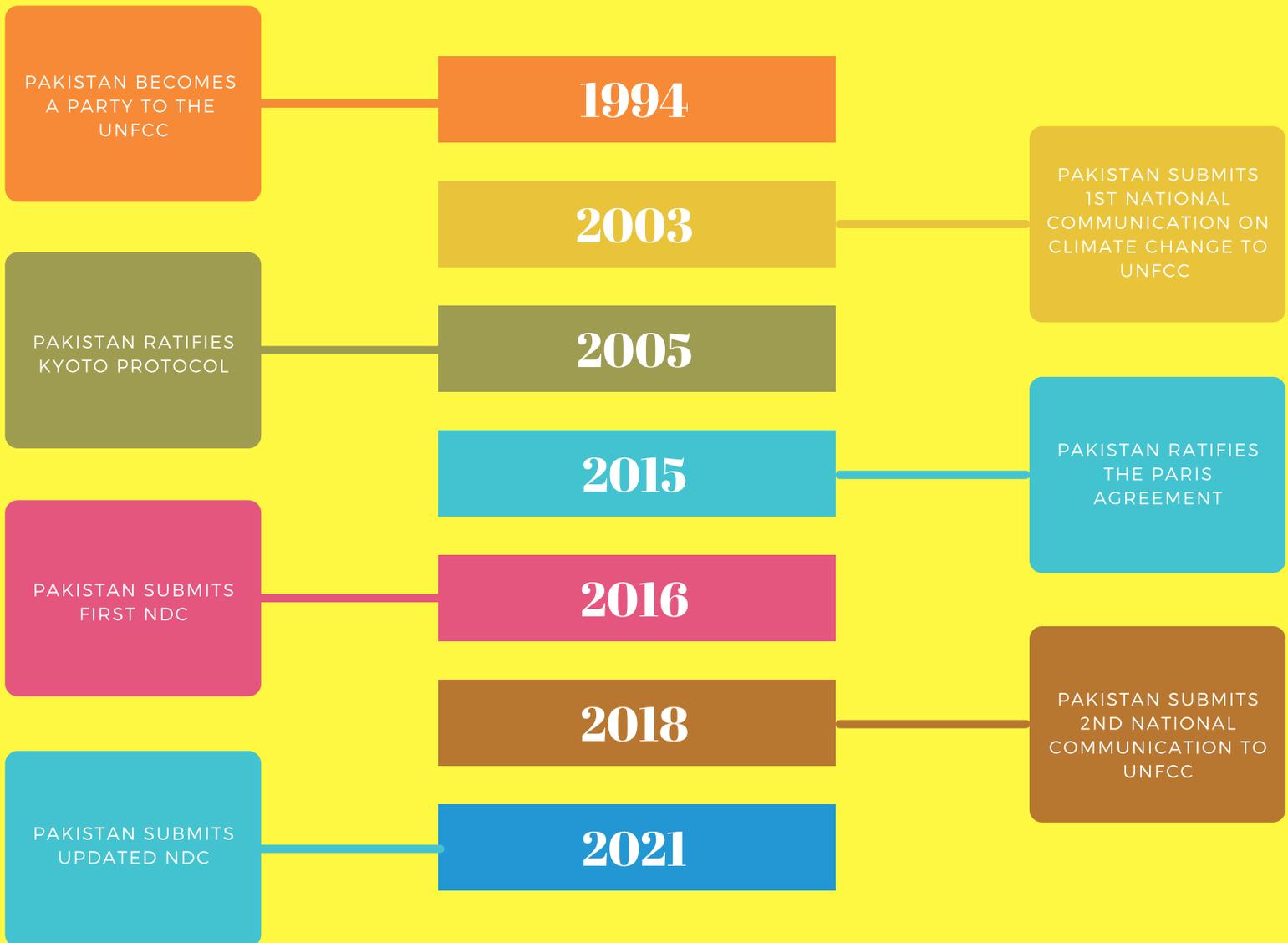
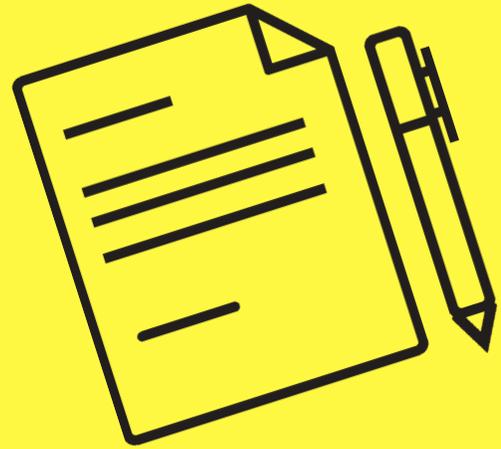
NDC

Monitoring in Pakistan



BY AIZA TARIQ

TIMELINE OF EVENTS





**IF THE WORLD
DOES NOT
CHANGE IN
THE NEXT
10 YEARS,
THEN WE'LL BE
TOO LATE FOR
ANY NET
ZEROS IN
2050, 2060
OR 2070.**

MALIK AMIN ASLAM, CLIMATE
ADVISOR TO PAKISTAN'S PM

WHAT ARE NDCs???



At the foothills of the Margallas, part of the Himalayas, sits Pakistan's capital city of Islamabad. Colloquially dubbed "Shehr-e-Iqtadar" or "the city where things happen", it is the power nucleus of the Islamic Republic. While provincial capitals such as Lahore and Karachi choke under smog and dust, the capital is still a reprieve from poor air quality.

Here, on the sixth floor of the Ministry of Climate Change, public servants are pushing forward with the government's commitments to protecting the environment. This serves as the office of the Global Change Impact Studies Centre, the research arm of the ministry.

"An NDC is a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts. Each Party to the Paris Agreement is required to establish an NDC and update it every five years."

Source: United Nations

Due to COVID, I meet Arif Goheer, the Head of Agriculture and Coordination at GCISC, over a Zoom call. These days, Goheer is busy conducting capacity-building workshops with stakeholders in the provinces and academia. He tells me how GCISC served as the secretariat for updating Pakistan's Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs) ahead of COP26 (26th United Nations Climate Change conference) in Glasgow.

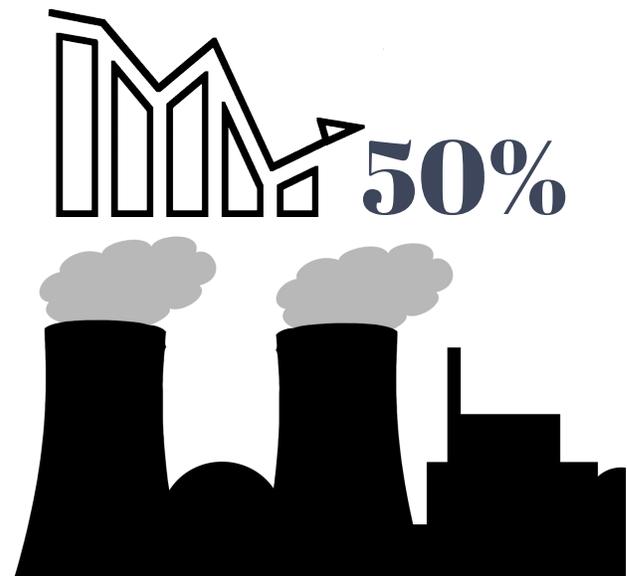




World leaders travelled to the United Kingdom in November to discuss the Paris rulebook, which provides details on how the pact reached in 2015 can be adopted.

It is an international treaty that mandates parties to take action to limit global temperature rise well below 2 Centigrade and preferably around 1.5 Centigrade by the end of the century. Under this pact, countries decide their own commitments depending upon their institutional and financial capacity, contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and vulnerability to climate change.

In its revised NDCs submitted ahead of the COP, Pakistan has committed to a conditional 50 per cent cut in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050, with 15 per cent from the country's own resources and 35 per cent subject to international climate finance. "We showed resolve in Glasgow, now the real work begins," Goheer comments.





EFT

The Paris Agreement introduced an Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) for reporting progress that countries make towards their NDCs. They have to implement methodological tools needed to “account for GHG emissions, track mitigation, and adaptation Policies & Measures (P&M) as well as [financial] support needed and received.”



BTR

From 2024 onwards, signatories have to submit Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) to the UN Secretariat. A national inventory report can be a part of the BTR or sent in separately. The deadlines vary for developed and developing countries but both have to be submitted no later than December 31, 2024.

The information submitted through the BTRs will be collectively analysed at a "global stocktake."

The global stocktake of the Paris Agreement (GST) is a process for taking stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement with the aim to assess the world's collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the agreement and its long-term goals.

Source: UNFCC

Features of the **BTR** will include:



Inventory



Adaptation



Mitigation



**Support
Received**



**Support
Provided**

HOW ARE WE TRACKING PROGRESS?

In order to compile data for these reports, GCISC is working with CITEPA France on a Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) tool. German Agency GIZ is providing financial support under the NDC partnership, an environment-related development fund. Non-profits OIEAU and ACTERRA are also a part of this initiative.

Climate Change Technical Advisor at GIZ, Mehak Masood says having an MRV is the “first piece of the puzzle” towards NDC implementation. “There was the absence of a central data repository in Pakistan. We cannot judge our progress without having this sort of system. With this tool, we are hoping to overcome that gap,” she adds.

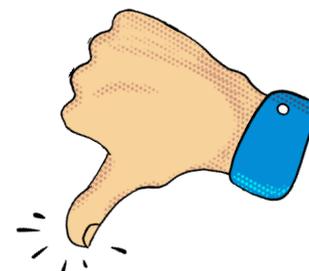


Masood reveals that an MRV to measure mitigation is in place and work is underway to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tool for adaptation tracking. On a pilot basis, it is only for the agriculture sector.



According to documents obtained from GCISC, such an M&E platform will "improve coordination between federal, provincial, and sectoral agencies." It will also help them communicate and monitor the results of efforts being taken for climate adaptation. It is expected that they will then be able to make informed decisions about policies and initiatives that can help people adapt to the impact of global warming on their ecosystems.

But many hurdles remain. Pakistan does not exactly have a stellar track record in submitting communications. After 2003, there was a 15-year lag before Islamabad issued its second National Communication on Climate Change. "Provincial officials are often ignorant of NDCs and tend to be very reluctant to report correct data," Goheer justifies.





CRI 2000-2019 (1999-2018)	Country	CRI score	Fatalities	Fatalities per 100 000 inhabitants	Losses in million US\$ PPP	Losses per unit GDP in %	Number of events (2000-2019)
1 (1)	Puerto Rico	7.17	149.85	4.12	4 149.98	3.66	24
2 (2)	Myanmar	10.00	7 056.45	14.35	1 512.11	0.80	57
3 (3)	Haiti	13.67	274.05	2.78	392.54	2.30	80
4 (4)	Philippines	18.17	859.35	0.93	3 179.12	0.54	317
5 (14)	Mozambique	25.83	125.40	0.52	303.03	1.33	57
6 (20)	The Bahamas	27.67	5.35	1.56	426.88	3.81	13
7 (7)	Bangladesh	28.33	572.50	0.38	1 860.04	0.41	185
8 (5)	Pakistan	29.00	502.45	0.30	3 771.91	0.52	173
9 (8)	Thailand	29.83	137.75	0.21	7 719.15	0.82	146
10 (9)	Nepal	31.33	217.15	0.82	233.06	0.39	191

The 10 countries most affected from 2000 to 2019 (annual averages)

PAKISTAN IS AMONG COUNTRIES MOST VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

SOURCE : CLIMATE RISK INDEX

Pakistan is three years behind on its GHG inventory due to issues with inter-departmental coordination and the absence of qualified researchers and scientists. "Currently, we are making inventories on a per-need basis. But the Paris Agreement stipulates that countries have to report this data on yearly basis. We are working [to make it happen]" Goheer says.

When questioned about this, Irfan Tariq, Director General Environment at the Ministry of Climate Change said: "Data is scattered all over the country. Its generation, measurement, and quality control is a lengthy process. This cannot take place in real-time and delays are eventual. "

Another problem in data gathering is that the provinces are unaware of the parameters required for climate reporting at the UNFCCC. GCISC is signing agreements with provincial and federal agencies to ensure reporting of coherent and quality data. Goheer hopes this will help overcome some of the challenges related to access to data that developing countries tend to face.

In partnership with GIZ and CITEPA, GCISC is also focusing on the capacity-building of government workers and members of academia through workshops.

"But so far, this is only enough to ensure that they are aware of our data needs and can report it accordingly," he adds.



As a developing country that is also among the most vulnerable to global warming, Pakistan's NDCs are contingent on international climate finance. These climate reporting tools will also help guide this funding. Tariq says: "Support from the NDC partnership was for demand reflection so the areas that require urgent financing can be identified. "

THE FUTURE

POLICY RECOMM- ENDATIONS

Unlike developed countries, there are no private sector entities tracking NDC implementation in Pakistan. Hence, there is no independent corroboration of official data. But there are some policy and climate experts keeping an eye on developments.

Maha Kamal, a Public Policy specialist, says the NDC process needs to be more bottom-up with greater involvement from the civil society. "One effective way to do this would be to release a draft NDC to the public months before it becomes a final document. This would involve greater stakeholder representation and improve ownership for the monitoring process once NDC has to be implemented," she suggests.

Kamal considers the lack of digitization and data existing in silos as one of the biggest gaps in the collection process. "A centralized database would be helpful," she adds, "but it is imperative that [the data] is accessible and has metrics that are standardized.

In a brief by the Oxford Policy Management, experts said the central body for implementing climate-related plans in Pakistan, the Ministry of Climate Change, "lacks the authority to ensure that other departments take the necessary action." They suggest "making space for reforms" by gaining traction with the people that have the power to initiate change and also "securing acceptance" with the agencies that are going to have to implement those changes.



Furthermore in Pakistan, change often begins from the sub-national and sectoral levels. More work needs to be done for capacity-building and to engage these segments in climate reporting and adaptation tracking so the country can stay on track towards its goals for 2030.

