

Dec 21, 2023

TL2023/1221/IA

Mir Ali Mardan Domki,
Caretaker Chief Minister,
Government of Balochistan

Subject: Transparency International Pakistan Draft Recommendations for Balochistan Climate Change Policy Aimed at Strengthening Integrity and Inclusiveness in Provincial Climate Governance Framework

Dear Sir,

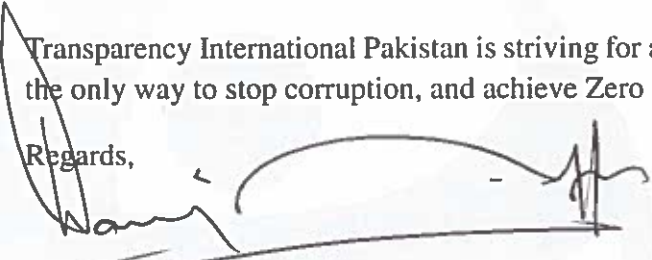
Pakistan lies at the center of climate crisis and is ranked as the 5th most vulnerable country to be impacted by climate change. Transparency International Pakistan is striving to make climate action transparent and inclusive by working in partnership with communities and civil society to ensure participative policy making processes and the highest standards of transparency.

In this regard, TI Pakistan in consultation with Civil Society Organizations has prepared Draft Recommendations for Balochistan Climate Change Policy aimed at strengthening integrity and inclusiveness in the provincial Climate Governance Framework. The recommendations are enclosed for your reference.

Transparency International Pakistan requests the Chief Minister Balochistan to consider the recommendations which are necessary to incorporate community needs and civic voices in the process of climate change policy being development by the government of Balochistan.

Transparency International Pakistan is striving for across the board application of Rule of Law, which is the only way to stop corruption, and achieve Zero tolerance against corruption.

Regards,



Advocate Daniyal Muzaffar
Trustee / Legal Advisor
Transparency International Pakistan

Copies forwarded for the information:

1. Principal Secretary to Caretaker PM, PM House, Islamabad
2. Federal Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Islamabad
3. Federal Secretary, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Islamabad
4. Federal Secretary, Finance and Revenue, Islamabad



5. Chief Secretary, Government of Balochistan, Quetta
6. Provincial Secretary, Ministry for Finance and Revenue, Quetta
7. Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Islamabad
8. Director General, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Quetta
9. Director General, Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, Islamabad
10. Director General, Balochistan Environmental Protection Agency, Quetta
11. Country Head, World Bank Group, Islamabad
12. Country Head, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Islamabad
13. Country Head, UNDP Pakistan, Islamabad
14. Country Head, UNEP, Islamabad
15. Country Head, ADB, Islamabad

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BALOCHISTAN CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AIMED AT STRENGTHENING INTEGRITY AND INCLUSIVENESS IN PROVINCIAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

1. The Government of Balochistan must implement measures in the climate change policy to control soil erosion, which is crucial in arid and semi-arid regions. Support sustainable land management practices to prevent desertification and preserve ecosystems.
2. The provincial policy of climate change being developed must put an emphasize on the citizens, youth and women inclusion into climate planning and decision-making. The useful tool for citizen participation in climate decision making is public consultation while implementing climate related projects. In vulnerable districts, an in-depth assessment should be made through public consultations with a focus on gender inclusion and social accountability before the projects starts.
3. Efforts must be made to include in the Climate Change Policy a mechanism to set-up an online Dashboard on the website of Provincial Climate Change and Environment Department, P&D or Finance department to provide information of all the climate related funding, grants, expenditure aid flows, allocation procurement and distribution process.
4. Finance Unit may be established within the Finance Department or P&D which must ensure transparency in aid flows, allocation procurement and distribution process and must contain all information from relevant line departments working on climate change, including information on climate finances, budget, and expenditures, in an easily accessible format for citizens information.
5. The Policy must emphasize to ensure strict compliance with Balochistan Public Procurement Rules, 2014 in emergency response and climate related projects and emphasize on disclosure of information on the provincial PDMA and EPA's website.
6. The policy should provide a comprehensive District-wise Natural Hazards Vulnerability Assessment which should highlight flood, drought and other major risks. This vulnerability assessment requires a proactive approach to mitigate risks and ensure safety of the citizens. It is recommended that a proper functional natural hazard early warning system be developed and included in Balochistan Climate Change Policy. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working at the grassroots level on climate related issues may be engaged as part of District Hazard Risk Assessment and Warning Systems.
7. Develop and regularly update comprehensive emergency and evacuation preparedness plans at the district levels. These plans should outline response strategies for different types of climate-related disasters to save Human lives and loss of property.
8. For reducing the dependency on fossil fuels for energy needs, the province must set renewable energy targets and greenhouse gas reduction goals, and support and encourage

innovation and research in renewable energy. Favorable regulatory frameworks and incentives for renewable energy projects shall be introduced to promote green energy in the province. Tax exemption can be made for solar, hydro and wind energy projects and usage. Provincial government shall support community-led renewable energy projects, enabling local communities to generate and benefit from clean energy.

9. Introduce and Implement environment friendly regulations in all vulnerable districts such as banning plastic, fines on industries for dumping waste in open fields or in rivers to mitigate the effects of climate change. By tailoring regulations to each district's unique needs and circumstances, this policy approach contributes to broader climate mitigation goals and promotes community engagement.
10. The Government of Balochistan has not enacted Whistleblower Protection Act which protects and defends those who report environmental corruption. The policy must emphasize on establishing Complaint Hotline at Chief Minister Secretariat where complaints can be reported to a toll-free telephone number, web, email and fax or by mail, and handled effectively to enhance the efforts to prevent corruption and to make climate action more effective and transparent.
11. Appoint a Public Information Officer for environment and climate related departments, as per Section 6 of The Balochistan Right to information Act, 2021 to ensure proactive disclosure of all climate related projects information and agreements on the department's websites.
12. The policy shall ensure that the vulnerabilities associated with climate change are considered in infrastructure development. The existing Balochistan Building Control and Town Planning Rules 2021 shall comprise developing climate-resilient infrastructure, particularly in vulnerable areas of the province.
13. The policy must include a mechanism on Prevention of Conflict of Interest to ensure integrity for climate finance and projects.
14. Establish District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) committees to ensure implementation of Policy at grassroot level.
15. A mandatory annual practice must be enforced in the Policy for Social Audit of all the climate related projects. The purpose is to ensure that a regular and systematic assessment of the social, environmental, and ethical aspects of climate-related projects is conducted, promoting transparency, accountability, and adherence to social responsibility standards on an ongoing basis.
16. Ensure environmental impact assessments are conducted independently, include stakeholders' consultations, aid beneficiaries and ensure that their recommendations are dealt with during projects implementation and evaluation.