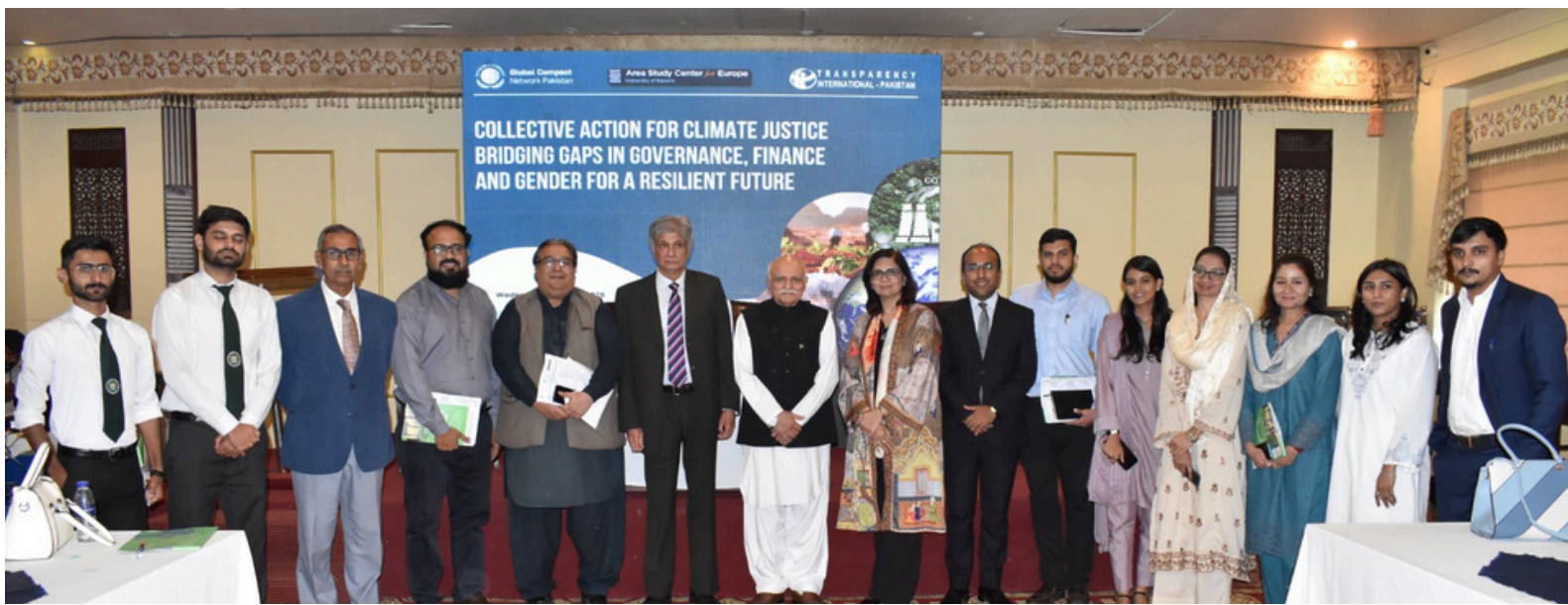


# TRANSPARENCY MATTERS

APRIL - JUNE 2025



## EDITOR'S NOTE

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Governance Diagnostic  
Assessment 2025



Capacity Building of Govt.  
Officers



Fostering Youth Leadership



Capacity Building of Journalists



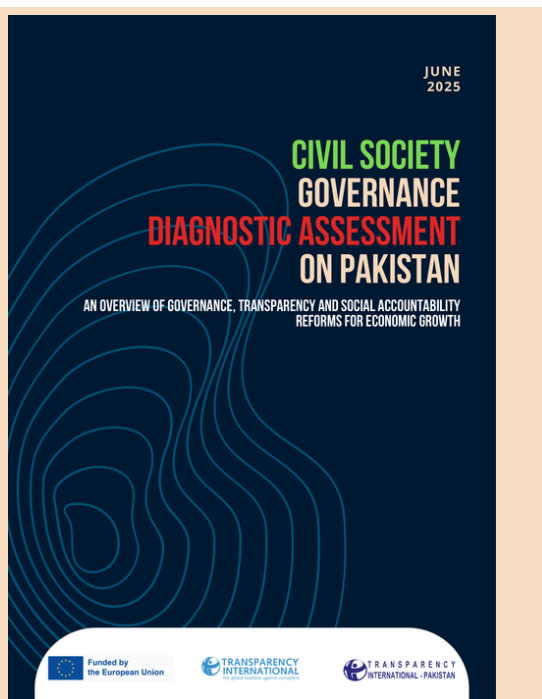
Community Engagement

During the quarter, Transparency International Pakistan (TI Pakistan) continued its efforts to strengthen governance, promote accountability, and empower citizens through strategic initiatives. Key activities included policy advocacy, institutional engagements, and capacity-building programs aimed at fostering transparency across sectors.

Highlights included the release of a major governance report to suggest structural governance reforms for the IMF and the Government of Pakistan, partnerships with public and private institutions, and specialized training for government officers, journalists and civil society organizations. These efforts underscore TI Pakistan's commitment to systemic reforms and inclusive governance.

# GOVERNANCE DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT

## PAKISTAN'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY AT RISK WITHOUT GOVERNANCE REFORMS: TI PAKISTAN STUDY



Transparency International Pakistan's latest report, 'The Civil Society Governance Diagnostic Assessment for Pakistan' calls for a comprehensive overhaul of governance systems as a prerequisite for sustainable economic growth.

While Pakistan advances a \$7 billion IMF-supported Extended Fund Facility, the report highlights that economic reforms alone are insufficient without addressing governance failures rooted in weak institutions, corruption, and poor policy enforcement.

The report outlines key reforms across fiscal governance, financial regulation, and the rule of law, emphasizing the need to empower Parliament in the budget process to ensure transparency and accountability.

It also identifies major revenue leakages from tax exemptions in agriculture, undervalued real estate, and under-invoiced imports. The report urges the removal of unjustified tax shelters to build a fairer and more efficient taxation system.





# JOURNALIST FELLOWSHIP

## JOURNALISTS EQUIPPED TO STRENGTHEN CLIMATE FINANCE REPORTING

Transparency International Pakistan has launched a six-month Fellowship Program for Journalists on Climate Finance and Transparency. The fellowship brought together 15 journalists from across Sindh to enhance their skills in reporting on climate finance, governance, and policy. The launch featured expert sessions covering Sindh's climate vulnerabilities, social accountability tools such as the Right to Information (RTI), whistleblower protections, and Pakistan's climate finance landscape. Participants engaged in interactive activities on climate terminology, case studies, and data-driven journalism techniques. Keynote speakers emphasized the role of media and civil society in promoting transparency and accountability in climate action. The program aims to address the critical gap in climate reporting by equipping journalists with the knowledge and tools needed to hold stakeholders accountable and inform public debate effectively. By strengthening media capacity, TI Pakistan seeks to promote transparency and foster greater accountability in climate finance and policy implementation across the country.





# CAPACITY BUILDING

## FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS URGED TO COMPLY WITH RIGHT TO INFORMATION LAWS

Transparency International Pakistan, in collaboration with the Pakistan Information Commission, organized a capacity-building workshop in Lahore to train Public Information Officers (PIO) on Section 5 – Proactive Disclosure under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017. Bringing together over 35 PIOs from federal departments, the session aimed to strengthen the role of designated officers in enhancing transparency through proactive publication of public information, including budgets, audit reports, and organizational structures.

The workshop emphasized the importance of moving from reactive compliance to active implementation of RTI laws, urging departments to institutionalize systems that make essential information easily accessible without formal requests. Speakers highlighted the legal, procedural, and operational aspects of proactive disclosure, addressing practical challenges such as data sensitivity, exemptions, and digital readiness. Participants also discussed compliance issues and explored practical solutions. A key focus was on Section 5, which mandates public bodies to disclose 15 categories of information proactively. TI Pakistan presented findings from its 2023 report, revealing that less than 35% of federal public bodies are in compliance.





# CAPACITY BUILDING

## CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE TACKLES CLIMATE FINANCE TRANSPARENCY IN BALOCHISTAN

Transparency International Pakistan organized a one-day capacity-building training in Balochistan focused on climate-sensitive budgeting and transparent climate finance governance. Over 25 key government departments participated, deepening their understanding of climate finance tools, carbon markets, procurement safeguards, and the Right to Information Act. Experts emphasized the urgent need for institutional reforms, interdepartmental coordination, and civil society oversight to implement the Balochistan Climate Change Policy 2024 effectively.

Technical sessions engaged officials in aligning departmental mandates with climate goals and promoting transparent procurement practices. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Irfan Khan provided a comprehensive overview of the Balochistan Climate Change Policy and its implementation challenges and opportunities. Mr. Azmat Shahi, Climate Financing Expert, conducted two technical sessions on understanding the climate finance landscape in Pakistan and tools for tracking and evaluating climate finance. While Mr. Hamza Rafay Butt, a Climate & Nature Finance Expert, delivered an in-depth presentation on carbon markets, with a focus on their potential relevance to Balochistan. He highlighted that while carbon markets can be a viable tool for climate finance generation, they carry significant governance risks if not designed and managed with integrity. Mr. Butt outlined critical principles such as transparency, equity, and benefit-sharing, stressing the need for robust regulatory frameworks to prevent elite capture, ensure community-level benefits, and uphold environmental integrity.

Mr. Kashif Ali, Executive Director TI Pakistan led a comprehensive session on Climate Finance Procurements: Safeguards for Transparency and Integrity. He emphasized the importance of procurement data for transparency and citizen oversight and presented case scenarios to engage the participants on procurement red flags and how to embed transparency metrics in climate related procurements. While Mr. Abdul Shakoor Khan, Commissioner of the Balochistan Information Commission gave detailed presentation on Balochsitan RTI Act 2021 and its application to climate fiannce.





# BRIDGING GAPS IN CLIMATE GOVERNANCE FINANCE AND GENDER EQUITY



Transparency International Pakistan, in collaboration with the Area Studies Centre for Europe, University of Karachi, and the Global Compact Network Pakistan, organized a conference titled 'Collective Action for Climate Justice: Bridging Gaps in Governance, Finance, and Gender for a Resilient Future'. The event brought together over 120 participants from government, business, civil society, academia, private sector and media to discuss inclusive and transparent climate governance.

Speakers highlighted Pakistan's climate vulnerability, provincial initiatives like electric buses, carbon markets, and Sindh's Climate Change Policy 2022, while calling for public financial reforms to ensure community participation. Water governance was also emphasized, with recommendations to recognize it as a human right and integrate gender considerations. Two plenary sessions covered carbon markets, legal frameworks, financial sector involvement, data transparency, and gender-responsive climate justice. Panelists stressed the disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalized groups, the underreporting of climate finance, and the importance of meaningful inclusion in decision-making.





## PANEL DISCUSSION: BRIDGING THE GAP – STRENGTHENING DISCLOSURE PRACTICES



**Mr. Memosh Khawaja**

Managing Director  
MD ILMNET, Former CEO,  
Pakistan Institute of  
Corporate Governance



**Mr. Majid Naeem Soofi**

Director General  
Central Monitoring Unit,  
Ministry of Finance and  
Revenue, GoP



**Prof. Dr. Fakhara Rizwan**

Company Secretary  
Chief Legal & Corporate  
Affairs Officer  
Pakistan Stock Exchange



**Ms. Khaola Batool**

Deputy Director  
Ministry of Human Rights  
Govt of Pakistan



**Mr. Imran Khan**

Director Technical  
Institute of Chartered  
Accountants Pakistan



**Moderated by**

**Mr. Kashif Ali**  
Executive Director  
TI Pakistan

# TRAC 2024 REPORT HIGHLIGHTS CORPORATE DISCLOSURE GAPS AND GAINS

## ADVANCING BUSINESS INTEGRITY IN PAKISTAN

Transparency International Pakistan held a virtual dissemination event to present the findings of its 2024 'Transparency in Corporate Reporting' (TRAC) report, assessing public disclosure practices of 69 top-listed companies on the Pakistan Stock Exchange. The session engaged stakeholders from regulatory bodies, companies, and business chambers in constructive dialogue.

The report revealed that companies in Pakistan are moderate transparent with an overall transparency score of 72.3%. The report reveals strong financial reporting but significant gaps in procurement and anti-corruption disclosures, gender and non-discrimination and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) disclosure. Speakers and panelists emphasized the need for transitioning from compliance-based approaches to a culture of integrity, highlighting the role of transparency in ethical corporate governance, fostering investor confidence, and fair competition.

The discussion stressed institutional capacity building, regulatory enforcement, sector-specific improvements, and the alignment of corporate practices with ESG, human rights, and sustainability standards. The event concluded with a shared commitment to advancing corporate transparency and accountability across Pakistan's business sector.





# STRENGTHENING THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION IN BALOCHISTAN

## TI PAKISTAN AND BALOCHISTAN INFORMATION COMMISSION SIGN MOU TO ADVANCE TRANSPARENCY

Transparency International Pakistan took a significant step to strengthen RTI framework in Balochistan by partnering with the Balochistan Information Commission (BIC). The two organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing institutional capacity, promoting public awareness, and empowering citizens, particularly women and rural communities, to actively exercise their constitutional right to access public information.

Under this partnership, TI Pakistan and BIC will collaborate on training programs, awareness campaigns, and the development of tools to facilitate proactive disclosure by public bodies. The initiative seeks to bridge information gaps, promote inclusive governance, and ensure that RTI laws are effectively implemented across the province.

This collaboration reflects TI Pakistan's broader commitment to advancing transparency, civic participation, and good governance. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by key stakeholders, including Mr. Imran Khan, Secretary Information, Government of Balochistan; Mr. Kashif Ali, Executive Director, TI Pakistan; Mr. Abdul Shakoor Khan, Information Commissioner, BIC; and Mr. Noor Khaitran, Director General, Directorate of Public Relations.







# FOSTERING YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN ADVANCING SDG 16

Transparency International Pakistan, in collaboration with the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (FAST-NUCES), Karachi, organized a Youth Capacity Building Workshop focused on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions). The workshop aimed to enhance youth understanding of good governance, transparency, and civic participation.

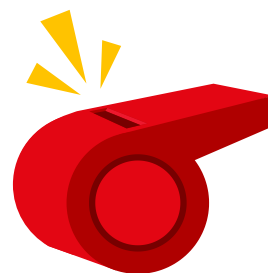
TI Pakistan's team delivered sessions on the importance of SDG 16, the role of youth in promoting social accountability, and the Right to Information as a tool for transparency and public engagement. Speakers stressed that young people are not just future leaders but active changemakers who can hold institutions accountable today. Examples of youth-led advocacy campaigns in Pakistan and abroad were shared to inspire participants. Practical guidance was given on how to use RTI to access public records, monitor local projects, and report irregularities. The sessions also touched on the link between strong institutions and economic stability, highlighting how governance impacts every aspect of development. Students learned about legal frameworks, RTI application process, and the impact of transparent institutions on development.

The event included interactive discussions and a Q&A session addressing challenges in governance and youth inclusion. Participants proposed forming campus-based civic action groups to monitor governance issues, conduct awareness drives, and engage with policymakers. Faculty members noted that empowering students with these tools could foster a culture of accountability on and beyond campus. It concluded with a call for continued collaboration between academia and civil society institutions to empower young citizens in democratic processes.



# ADVOCACY

## WORLD WHISTLEBLOWER DAY 2025 EMPOWERING VOICES IN GOVERNANCE, SOCIETY AND CLIMATE ACTION



To mark World Whistleblowers Day 2025, TI Pakistan hosted a webinar titled 'Empowering Voices in Governance, Society, and Climate Action' to highlight the critical role of whistleblowers in promoting transparency and accountability. Speakers emphasized the need for strong legal protections, public awareness, and a supportive cultural environment to encourage whistleblowing.

The discussion noted that while Pakistan has made some legislative progress, including the recent approval of a federal whistleblower protection bill, significant gaps remain in both law and implementation. Participants stressed that whistleblower protection is essential for exposing corruption and addressing environmental and social injustices. Key challenges include lack of public trust, inadequate institutional safeguards, social stigma, and limited access to reporting mechanisms, especially for women and marginalized groups. The event concluded with a call to improve legal frameworks, ensure enforcement, and promote a culture that values and protects those who speak out against wrongdoing. Whistleblowing was recognized as a cornerstone of ethical governance and democratic accountability.

## WORLD WHISTLEBLOWERS DAY 2025 EMPOWERING VOICES IN GOVERNANCE, SOCIETY AND CLIMATE ACTION



**MR. KASHIF ALI**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
TRANSPARENCY  
INTERNATIONAL PAKISTAN



**MR. BILAL GILANI**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
GALLUP PAKISTAN



**MS. MARVI AWAN**  
CEO WOMEN PROTECTION  
CENTRE, SINDH



**MR. ZUBAIR FAISAL**  
FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR  
IMPACT RESEARCH  
INTERNATIONAL

**Moderated by**

**MS. FARIHA FATIMA**  
PROGRAMME ASSOCIATE  
TI PAKISTAN



**JUNE 27, 2025, FRIDAY**  
**3:00PM - 5:00 PM**







# TRAINING OF CSOS & WBOs

## SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY TOOLS FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

Transparency International Pakistan, in collaboration with Bhattai Social Watch & Advocacy, conducted a capacity-building workshop at Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, to strengthen Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and women-based organizations (WBO) on anti-corruption and social accountability tools, including the Right to Information, and whistleblower protection.

The workshop featured discussions on the Sindh Transparency RTI Act 2016 and social accountability tools. The Vice Chancellor Shah Abdul Latif University, emphasized the role of academic institutions in fostering ethical governance, while the Deputy Commissioner, Khairpur affirmed the district administration's commitment to supporting social accountability.







# MOU WITH UET UNIVERSITY

## TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL PAKISTAN AND UET PARTNER FOR CLIMATE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Transparency International Pakistan, in collaboration with the University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore, has launched the Youth Climate Education and Fellowship Program 2025 to promote youth engagement in addressing environmental and climate challenges. The initiative was officially announced with the signing of a MoU between the two institutions.

The program is designed to educate and empower university students by providing in-depth knowledge on climate change, governance, and social accountability. It aims to build a new generation of youth leaders capable of engaging in climate policy advocacy and promoting sustainable development.





# FROM KASUR TO SUKKUR WOMEN LEARN GOVERNANCE ADVOCACY

TI Pakistan, in collaboration with the Ittehad Foundation, held a one-day capacity building workshop in Kasur to empower women to engage in public decision-making and governance processes. Participants were introduced to social accountability tools, especially the Punjab Right to Information Act 2013, which enables citizens, particularly women, to access public data and demand transparency in government processes. The role of TI Pakistan's Advocacy and Legal Aid Center (ALAC) in providing free legal support was also shared. The session also discussed the gendered impacts of corruption and how women can hold institutions accountable.

Transparency International Pakistan, in partnership with the NARI Foundation, organized a training in Sukkur to equip women with social accountability tools and strengthen their role in governance. The workshop brought together participants from civil society, representatives from the Women Protection Cell, Deputy Commissioner's office, Office of the Ombudsman, along with a female councilor from UC Maki Shah, Sukkur. Participants discussed key laws on domestic violence, workplace harassment, and access to information, as well as the role of support institutions.



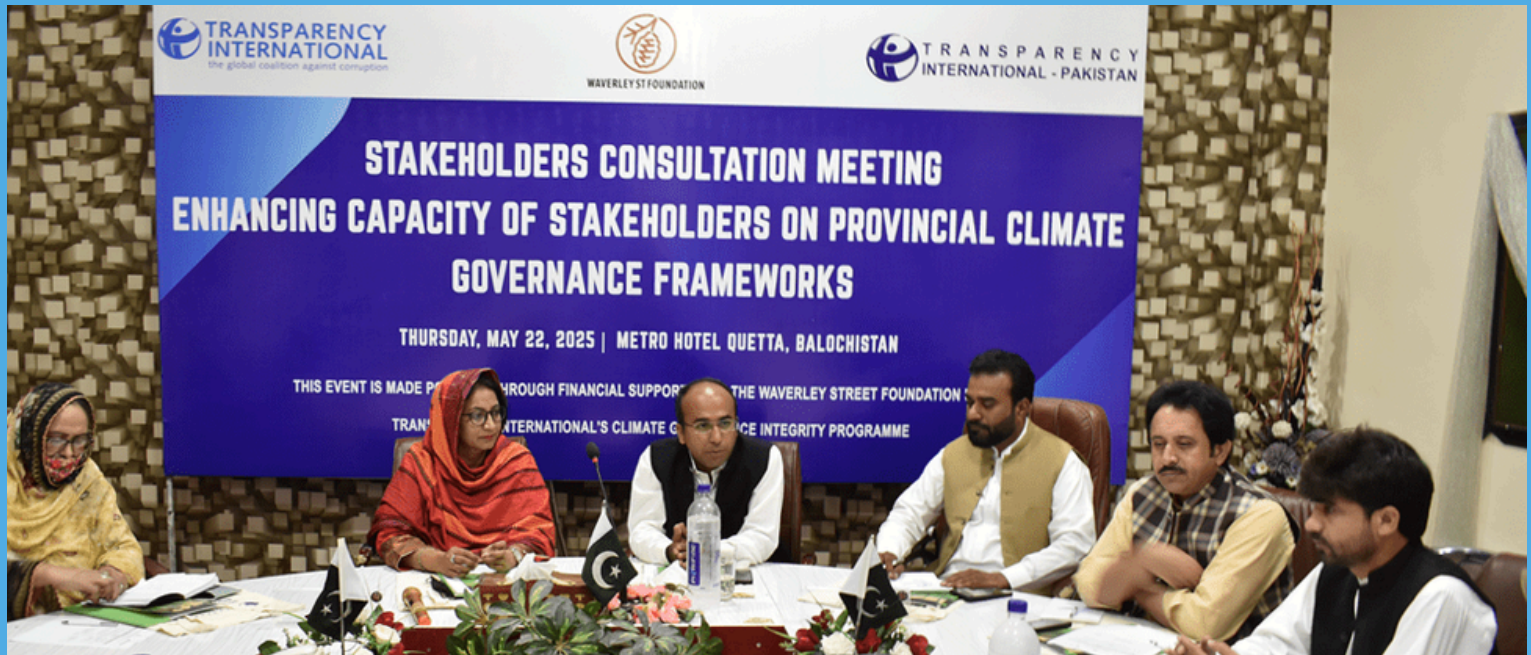
## STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S VOICES THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC DECISION MAKING

Transparency International Pakistan in partnership with the women-led Initiative for Peace and Development Project (IPDP), organized a Free Legal Advice Camp in Rahim Yar Khan, Punjab. Held under TI Pakistan's ALAC, the camp provided free legal guidance to 39 community members, including 21 women, on issues such as land disputes, domestic violence, inheritance, and local government services. Separate lawyers assisted male and female participants.



# STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL PAKISTAN ENGAGES CIVIL SOCIETY ON CLIMATE GOVERNANCE IN PROVINCES



Transparency International Pakistan organized a Civil Society Stakeholder Consultation in Quetta under its Balochistan CSO Network for Transparent and Inclusive Climate Governance. The session gathered 26 civil society representatives from climate-vulnerable districts to discuss strengthening accountability, the carbon market policy landscape, and draft whistleblower protection law.

Key speakers from TI Pakistan and the Ministry of Climate Change highlighted the critical role of CSOs in climate governance, carbon markets, transparency, and policy implementation. Discussions also explored ways to improve community access to climate finance and ensure equitable distribution of resources. Participants worked on drafting of whistleblower protection law for Balochistan and proposed context specific recommendations for effective implementation of Balochistan Climate Change Policy 2024. TI Pakistan committed to advancing these suggestions through policy advocacy and continued CSO engagement.





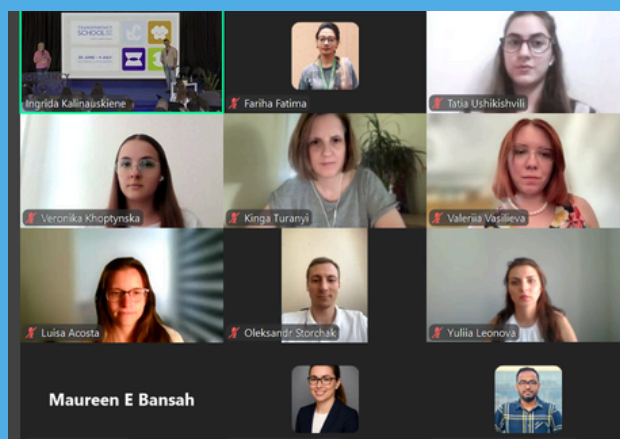
# PRE-BUDGET ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR GREEN FISCAL POLICIES

Transparency International Pakistan's Executive Director, Mr. Kashif Ali, participated in the 'Pre-Budget Roundtable Dialogue: Reviewing Fiscal Incentives for Climate Action and Renewable Energy in Budget 2025–26', organized by the Civil Society Support Program. The dialogue focused on assessing federal and provincial budget allocations through the lens of renewable energy and a just energy transition. It also fostered a multistakeholder discussion on aligning national priorities with green budgeting and sustainable climate action.



## TI PAKISTAN PARTICIPATES IN TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ON INTEGRITY 2025

Ms. Fariha Fatima, Program Associate, Transparency International Pakistan, virtually participated in 'Transparency International School on Integrity 2025', held in Lithuania. The intensive program brought together global participants and renowned experts for dynamic sessions on participatory budgeting, business ethics, and political integrity. Attendees gained practical tools to design effective advocacy campaigns and advance accountable, transparent governance within their communities.

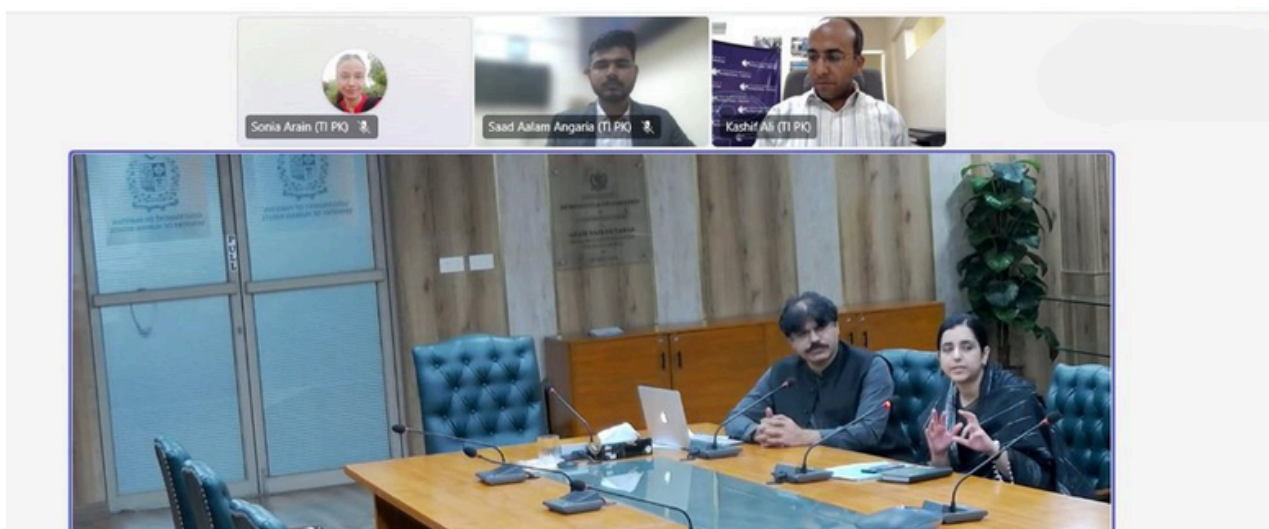
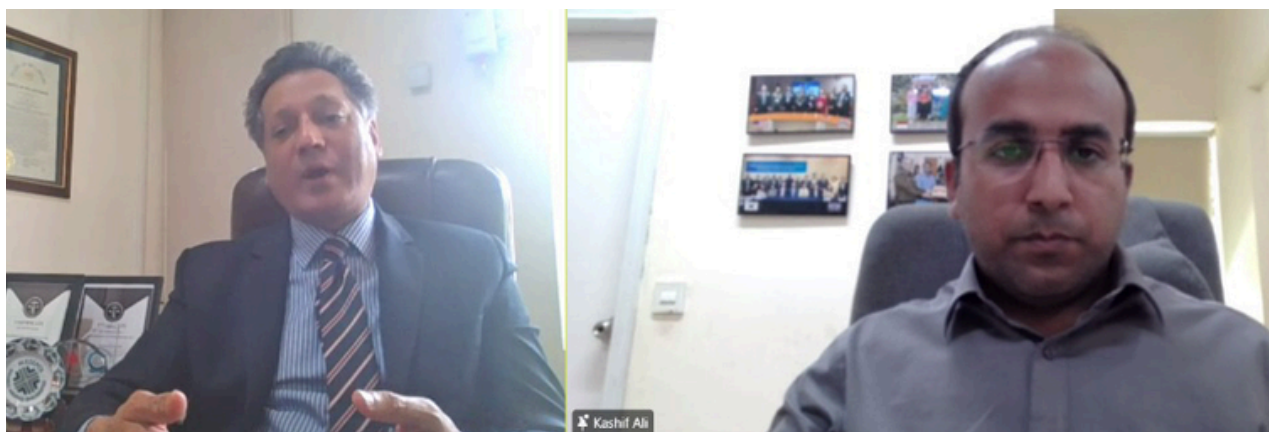


# TI PAKISTAN PROMOTES CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY THROUGH STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Transparency International Pakistan recently held a series of meetings with key public sector institutions to strengthen transparency, accountability, and good governance in Pakistan.

In its engagement with the Ministry of Human Rights, discussions centered on the implementation of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, with a particular focus on financial transparency, human rights due diligence, and gender non-discrimination in the private sector reporting. The dialogue drew on findings from TI Pakistan's latest report 'Transparency in Corporate Reporting', which highlights the need for improved disclosure practices. Both sides agreed to collaborate on sensitizing companies to adopt responsible business conduct and to push for regulatory reforms mandating greater transparency in annual reporting.

In a separate meeting with the Federal Tax Ombudsman, TI Pakistan explored joint initiatives to promote integrity in tax administration, strengthen good governance, and enhance mechanisms for the timely redressal of citizens' complaints.





## STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE IN PAKISTAN A LANDMARK VICTORY FOR GLACIER PROTECTION

Pakistan possesses one of the largest concentrations of glaciers outside the polar regions, with over 7,000 glaciers spanning its mountainous northern areas. These glaciers are a critical component of the country's water security, feeding the Indus River system that sustains agriculture, livelihoods, and urban water supply across Pakistan. The province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) is home to approximately 3,050 glaciers, particularly in districts such as Dir, Chitral, Swat, Kaghan, and Naran.

The glaciers play a vital role in maintaining local ecosystems and regulating regional climate patterns. However, they also face mounting threats from climate change, rising global temperatures, and illegal commercial extraction of glacial ice, which exacerbates glacier melt and contributes to Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), biodiversity loss, and freshwater depletion.

In July 2024, Transparency International Pakistan's Legal Advice Center took up a complaint with the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, highlighting alarming reports of illegal glacier cutting and transportation of glacial ice for commercial sale. TI Pakistan highlighted that illegal activities were in contravention to The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Climate Change Policy 2022, and The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act, 2014.

The complaint underscored the ecological and hydrological importance of the glaciers, the absence of legal framework around the protection of glaciers, one that ensures strict enforcement of glaciers protection and penalties for violators, as well as the urgency of legal and administrative action. TI Pakistan recommended the need to adopt international best practices such as Tajikistan's 2024 Glacier Protection Law.

The issue gained further momentum after a public interest litigation (PIL) was filed in the Peshawar High Court (PHC), demanding legislative and administrative action to ban illegal glacial cutting and ensure the long-term preservation of glaciers. This marked a significant development in environmental advocacy, demonstrating the power of civic action in shaping judicial and policy responses.

On May 6, 2025, PHC took a critical step in protecting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's glaciers by issuing an interim order banning all forms of commercial exploitation and extraction of glacial ice in the province. This decision followed growing concerns about the environmental damage caused by the illegal harvesting of glacial ice, particularly in northern KP's glacier-rich areas like Dir, Chitral, and Swat. The Court recognized the glaciers' essential role in regulating the region's water resources, biodiversity, and climate stability, and warned of the broader risks posed by their destruction, including accelerated climate change and global warming.

A contempt petition was filed by Advocate Tariq Afghan, which alleged that the ban had been violated in Dir Upper, where illegal glacier exploitation activities were reportedly continuing. In response, the PHC bench on 2 May 2025, reinforced its earlier order with a stern warning that violators would face legal consequences under Section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code. The move has emphasized commitment to enforcing environmental protection laws and ensuring the preservation of the province's glaciers. This ruling is the direct result of sustained advocacy, civic engagement, citizen oversight. It showcases how institutional mechanisms and citizen voices can converge to defend the environment.



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