

G20 Climate Talks

September 2, 2022

It is **evident** واضح that global conflict is a significant **blocker** رکاوٹ in states working together, but the **G20** climate talks in Bali this week indicate just how difficult finding agreement is in the international community. The fact that the G20 countries failed to even issue a joint **communiqué** اعلامیہ **speaks** **volumes**. Ukraine **featured** حصہ لیا, **prominently** نمایاں طور پر in the discussions alongside **condemnations** مذمت from Russia, but there was an element of **repetitiveness** تکرار to the G20 Joint Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting due to the usual lack of agreement on the terms mentioned in any joint climate communication.

Definitions and terms carry weight when **for instance** مثال کے طور پر the difference lies between carbon neutral and **cutting down** کم کرنے **emissions** اخراج without a specific aim in mind.

Similarly, differences between states **persist** برقرار over important targets, such as the one to limit global average temperature rises to 1.5 degrees. Unsurprisingly, developed countries such as the US, which have historically benefitted from climate degradation, and current benefactors such as India and China, remain the biggest stumbling **blocks** رکاوٹیں to any compromise over climate discussions.

There is also the matter of **inclusivity** شمولیت. As one of the biggest **stakeholders** فریق in the climate crisis, Pakistan, and other affected states deserve a seat at every table where

climate change is being discussed. **Multilateral** کثیرجہتی approaches are no longer enough, this is a crisis that must be dealt with by all. Indonesia, as the current chair of G20, invited **representatives** نمائندے for the African Union on this occasion, but any attempts at inclusivity must be **substantive** حقیقی, relevant, and more than just **eyewash** غیر حقیقی (nonsense).

For us here at home, these discussions taking place in Bali are urgent, yet their **futility** فضولیت and lack of agreement tell us all we need to know about what to expect for multilateral **endeavours** کوششیں in the next few years to come. Try as we might, the global community is not yet ready to make **productive** خیز نتیجہ changes in economic production and environmental protection—at least enough changes to make a difference—it is our responsibility to change this mindset, considering that we have **gotten the shorter straw** in terms of facing the **disastrous** کن تباہ effects of pollution. **Droughts** خشک, floods, **wildfires** آگ جنگل کی and more—how many more disasters will we live through before we decide to seek out a **change in tack?**

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Importing from India

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AMIDST درمیان widespread destruction of vital اہم food crops due to floods, fresh **proposals** تجاویز have been raised to **resume** بحال کرنا trade with our eastern neighbour which, due to its geographical **proximity** قربت and agricultural similarities, can provide the quickest means of **bridging** پورا کرنا a **looming** بڑھتی ہوئی demand-supply shortfall in various kitchen commodities. The question of whether or not this can happen is a **tricky** مشکل one because talk of any ties with India – **be** **they purely economic in nature** خواہ وہ خالصتاً معاشی نوعیت کے ہوں – invites a **knee-jerk reaction** and a **fair bit** کسی حد تک of **politicking** سیاست کرنا from any faction گروہ looking to make some quick **political capital** سیاسی سرمایہ. In purely **logistical** terms, it makes sense for Pakistan to **first tap** استعمال کرنا its neighbours for its immediate needs before turning to global markets. Both the cost of **shipment** کھیپ and the time taken for the goods to reach local markets will be much lower in case **foodstuff** خوردونوش is imported from India rather than anywhere else. Faced with a situation where every penny پائی spent on imports must be spent **conservatively** محتاط انداز میں, our policymakers will find few choices that are more cost-effective in this regard. The **end-consumers** شخص جو ایک خاص **end-consumers** شخص جو ایک خاص, too, will benefit from the lower

cost and quicker availability of items of everyday use. Resuming imports can also provide a **blueprint** خاکہ for the broader **resumption** بحالی of routine **commerce** تجارت between Pakistan and India in the future.

It is necessary, however, that Pakistan's political leadership as well as the state arrive at the same conclusion regarding trade with India. Any decision taken must not fall **victim** شکار to **infighting** لڑائی جھگڑے and **politicking** سیاست at the expense of whoever **formally** طور پر gives the call to proceed. Since most of the political parties are already part of the **coalition** اتحادی government, they may find it easier to arrive at a **consensus** اتفاق رائے on the matter. However, the PTI, too, must see reason and consider the greater national interest during a time of **unprecedented** بے مثال **calamity** غیر معمولی، آفت, instead of seeing this as an opportunity to **settle old scores**. The party had been seriously considering the possibility of trade resumption shortly before its **ouster** معزولی and had even formally announced a **restoration** بحالی of trade ties in April last year before **rolling it back**. Though both the PML-N and PPP had loudly **resisted** مزاحمت کی restoration of trade back then, the PTI would serve the nation well by avoiding **retaliation** انتقام now. If it has reviewed and understood the plus points of trade with India – and its earlier moves suggest that it has – it must not prevent the people from benefiting from it.

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Are Taliban turning against Pakistan?

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The writer is a political analyst.

There is something common between Pakistan and Israel.

Both are surrounded by a number of **hostile** دشمن nations.

There is one **nuance** امتیاز فرق یا امتیاز though, which makes the two quite different. Israel has made enemies due to the

aggressive جارحانه **execution** عمل of its **barbarism** بربریت for which the US acts as a **conduit** گزر، راه، and an **unconditional** غیر

مشروط supporter. Pakistan is making enemies by acting as a conduit to the American barbarism in its own backyard. Pakistan should perhaps write the textbook on how to turn friends into enemies.

Al Qaeda chief Ayman Al Zawahiri was killed in Afghanistan by a US drone strike. The Taliban have **denounced** مذمت کی the attack as a violation of the peace deal that they had signed with the US. The Americans are also rightly claiming that the Taliban have violated the deal by allowing a foreign terrorist to be on their soil, which was the basic **tenet** اصول of the peace

deal. **Regardless** قطع نظر of which side is **rationally** عقلی یا شعوری طور پر and morally right, Pakistan has once again faced the problem it has always faced. It is once again the target of the **accusing finger raised** at its role in allowing violence to continue on the soil of Afghanistan.

Before 9/11, Pakistanis had not known about suicide

terrorism. After 9/11, the US **invaded** حملہ کیا Afghanistan in which the Musharraf **regime** حکومت played the **reluctant partner** گریزاں ساتھی in allowing Pakistan to play the conduit to war. Once the **war on terror** جنگ کے خلاف دہشتگردی was **unleashed** شروع ہوئی on the Afghan soil, Al Qaeda turned against the state of Pakistan. These were the very people who had been working out of Peshawar's University Town area in executing the jihad against the Soviets. But now their target included Pakistan. In simple words, Pakistan's willingness to facilitate American **barbarism** بربریت and **hegemony** تسلط، earned the state of Pakistan a **ferocious** سفاک enemy, which has on its hands the blood of tens of thousands of innocent Pakistanis.

The Taliban had been Pakistan's **allies** اتحادی since 1996. This has never been a secret. Pakistan's top **brass** اعلیٰ قیادت rightly believed that the Americans would not be able to defeat these ferocious Pashtun nationalistic and Islamic fighters and they were also right that once the Americans leave, it would be the Taliban who would run the country. After 9/11 and before the invasion of Afghanistan, Pakistan Army's top brass had rightly warned the Americans against violence in Afghanistan. Well, history can't be edited.

Those Taliban are now showing signs of rethinking their **alliance** اتحاد with the state of Pakistan. Once again, the **alleged** مبینہ and perhaps **fictional** تصوراتی، Pakistani role in facilitating the drone attack that killed Zawahiri has convinced the Taliban to issue a strong **rebuke** سرزنش of Pakistan's role. Taliban Defence Minister Mohammad Yaqoob said, "But according to our information the drones are entering

through Pakistan to Afghanistan, they use Pakistani airspace, we demand Pakistan stop the use of its airspace against us.”

Let that statement **sink in**. Almost the entire world, including the **puppet** کٹھ پتلی regime in charge of Afghanistan, has always accused Pakistan of exactly this. It is Pakistan’s allies now that are saying the same thing.

I spent years reading American mainstream journalism where Pakistan was directly and indirectly pressurised to cut its ties with the Taliban. The bond between the two **manifested** ظاہر کیا its **tangible** ٹھوس reality when even the US sought Pakistan’s help in bringing the Taliban to the **negotiating** مذاکراتی table in order to help end America’s and Afghanistan’s longest wars. What the US could not achieve through decades of financial and **sanctions** پابندیاں threats, pressure campaigns, secret channel threats, and so forth has been achieved with a fine **sleight of hand**.

This is exactly what Imran Khan’s ‘Absolutely Not’ was about. Not allowing Pakistan to become a party to someone else’s **conflict** تنازعہ to avoid any **blowback** کسی عمل کے غیر متوقع منفی . Khan famously reminded the Americans to be a willing facilitator of peace but not conflict. Well, that’s also history now.

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The **G20** or Group of Twenty is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union. It works to address major issues related to the global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development.

Founded: September 26, 1999

Speak volumes

: to provide a lot of information about something : to show something very clearly
The company's decision to ignore the problem speaks volumes about its lack of leadership.

Draw / get the short straw

to be the person in a group who has to do an unpleasant or difficult job
I drew the short straw and had to stay late.

to change tack

If you change tack or try a different tack, you try a different method for dealing with a situation.
In desperation I changed tack.

knee-jerk

: readily predictable
If you call someone's response to a question or situation a knee-jerk reaction, you mean that they react in a very predictable way, without thinking.

idiom (also **settle old scores**) to punish someone for something wrong that they did to you in the past and that you cannot forgive: Police believe the killer was a gang member settling a score with a rival gang. He is using his wealth and power to settle old scores

roll back

reverse the progress or reduce the power or importance of something.

"the governments of the world have used this insecurity to roll back hard-won freedoms

Al-Qaeda lit. 'the Base' or 'the Foundation', alternatively spelled al-Qaida and al-Qa'ida), officially known as Qaedat al-Jihad (lit. 'Base of Jihad'), is a multinational militant Sunni Islamic extremist network composed of Salafist jihadists.[7][8][9] Its members are mostly composed of Arabs, but may also include other peoples. Al-Qaeda has mounted attacks on non-military and military targets in various countries, including the 1998 United States embassy bombings, the September 11 attacks, and the 2002 Bali bombings; it has been designated as a terrorist group by the United Nations Security Council, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union, India, and various other countries.

point the finger at/point an accusing finger at or to point the finger at someone

PHRASE

If you point the finger at someone or point an accusing finger at someone, you blame them or accuse them of doing wrong. He said he wasn't pointing an accusing finger at anyone in the government or the army

sink in

(of words or facts) be fully understood or realized.

"Peter read the letter twice before its meaning sank in

sleight of hand ہاتھ کی صفائی

1a: a cleverly executed trick or deception

b: a conjuring trick requiring manual dexterity

2a: skill and dexterity in conjuring tricks