

## No to camp politics (Pakistan's relations with China)

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Pakistan's balancing act with the US and China is **in the spotlight** زیر بحث. **Analysts** تجزیہ نگار, officials and opinion-makers often **spare a thought** رہنا سوچتے رہنا as to which way Islamabad should be **tilted** جھکانا, and what shall be its **ramifications** اثرات. This debate is part of the **holistic** جامع discussion **wherein** جس میں politics plays a role, especially at a time when Washington is in a war of nerves اعصاب with Beijing. This is why Derek Chollet, a senior **aide** ساتھی to the US Secretary of State, hints at the **plausible** ممکنہ **modalities** طریقے of **realpolitik** as Islamabad **flexes its muscles** in the changing environment, and advises that China may not be a preferable **ally** اتحادی in the long-run.

Derek has unnecessarily felt like commenting, and his **assessment** اندازہ on China's **vibrancy** متحرکیت as a partner is **ill-founded** بے بنیاد. His **submission** دعویٰ that nations entering into deals with China 'don't end up well' is **myopic** پر تنگ نظری (basically). The fact is that China is the economic superpower, and has **upheld** برقرار رکھا peace and **prosperity** خوشحالی as **canons** اصولوں of its **bilateralism** دوطرفہ with member states of the world community. It does not believe in **war-mongering** جنگ کو بھڑکانا, and **annexing** جوڑنا

countries for power **prejudice** تعصب is not its policy. Last but not least, more than 100 countries are beneficiary of its **BRI**, which makes **commerce** تجارت as the pivot محور of interaction.

Pakistan, despite enjoying **cordial** خوشگوار ties with China, is **eager** خواہاں to further its long-term relationship with the US.

Derek must **reflect on** غور کرنا the fact that Pakistan was an **allied-ally** اتحادی of the US, yet it was not treated fairly. The

**mantra** بار بار دہرانا of do-more and the distrust that **prevailed** پھیلا between them are **regrettable** افسوسناک episodes.

Islamabad looks up to Washington as a **valued** قدر قابل partner in defence and strategic understanding **domains** شعبے, and desires peace in the region.

Pakistan's relations with China are **time-tested**. Likewise, Pakistan values the US role in **counter-terrorism** انسداد دہشتگری efforts and wants it to act as a **catalyst** عمل انگیز in **stabilising** وقت کی ضرورت یا تقاضا the region. **The need of the hour** استحقاق is to reset the ties on **stringent** سخت **bilateralism** دو طرفہ, keeping in view national interests, and not to be influenced with **fissures** دراڑیں in the international **arena** میدان.

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Pakistan is among the world's top 10 nations most affected by climate change. **Global warming** is caused by uncontrolled and **unabated** اخراج **greenhouse gases emissions** بلا دوک ٹوک.

Carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions – mostly generated by industrialized nations – are **taking a toll in** poor countries.

Countries that are responsible for greenhouse gases are the least **vulnerable** میں خطرے to climate change. However, those countries which are emitting the least amount of greenhouse gases are the most vulnerable to the **disastrous** تباہ کن effects of climate change. Pakistan is one of them; others include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Haiti, Kenya, Malawi and Niger. The US is responsible for a quarter of all carbon emissions alone while the rest is shared by industrialized nations.

This situation requires an urgent global action based on the concept of climate justice. Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has **eloquently** سے خوش اسلوبی informed the international community about its responsibility for working towards climate justice. Through his interactions with the international and national media, he has successfully **sparked** پیدا کیا a global debate on the issue. Global warming is a global **crisis** بحران, but its effects are **borne** برداشت کرنا by countries which are the least responsible for its causes.

It is hoped that Bilawal's call for climate justice will reach every **nook and corner** کونے کونے of the world. There is no **denying** انکار that now those countries that are being devastated by climate change-driven floods, **unprecedented** غیر معمولی rains, crop and **livestock** مویشی مال losses and extreme weather conditions have finally got a voice, which is being heard by the international community.

According to the **Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons** and Climate Change, at least 85 per cent of the world's population is **impacted** متاثر by climate change, which is affecting poor third-world nations at a **fast pace** تیز رفتاری سے. Pakistan's contribution to global greenhouse emissions is just one per cent.

However, it recently became the worst **victim** شکار of climate change as **evident** واضح from the **ravages** تباہ کاریاں of heavy rains and floods it had not experienced for the last 65 years, when its population was just 45 million. Today it is a nation of 220 million people.

The climate change-driven floods in Pakistan have made one-third of the country disappear under rainwater. One in seven people suffered due to the unprecedented rains within a **span** دورانیہ of two months – July and August. Sindh and Balochistan have witnessed large-scale destruction while parts of southern Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) have also **borne** برداشت کیا the **brunt** نقصان of the recent natural **calamity** آفت of **immense** بے پناہ proportions. Around 33 million people have become homeless and are **compelled** مجبور to spend days under the open skies or in temporary shelters provided by the government and **NGOs**.

Official sources say that Sindh and Balochistan have received at least five times more rainfall than their average during past monsoon seasons. More than 1,500 lives have been lost. The total loss to infrastructure and the economy is yet to be calculated as some parts of the country are still expected to witness rains. Several cities and towns in the **hinterland** دور , زیر آب آگئے **inundated** افتادہ پسماندہ مقام , and standing crops at two million hectares worth billions of rupees have been **washed away** گئی بہہ . More than one million **herds** ریوڑ of cattle have died. The **tale** داستان , کہانی of devastation is unending. The impact of the current disaster has overshadowed the destruction caused by the 2010 super floods in Pakistan.

For an economy that had been dragged into **fragility** نذاکت , کمزوری by a four-year misrule of unguided political missiles, nature's current **blitzkrieg** یلغار, تیز حملہ has emerged as a severe **blow** دھچکا . It seems that a crisis of **colossal** بہت بڑا, بھاری magnitude has **unfolded** آیا سامنے for the Pakistani people. Rescue and relief activities are top **priority** ترجیح for both the government and all those who care for humanity. Food, medicines and shelters are required urgently. Every person who has seen the **gory** دلخراش scenes of devastation seems **moved** متزلزل . A nation-wide campaign is **unfurling** پھیلنا to help flood victims.

It has been observed that developed nations put aside their political differences when faced with a crisis of this magnitude. But, in our part of the world, some leaders are spending millions of rupees on public gatherings. They don't

seem to care that one-third of the country has disappeared under rainwater and that millions of Pakistanis have lost their belongings and life savings.

Bilawal along with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres collected a huge sum of Rs131 billion in just one hour during the UN's **Flash Appeal** for the **affectees** متاثرین of the Pakistan floods. These international donations have started to **pour in** جاری ہونا; the foreign minister has also visited several districts and villages to **assess** جائزہ لینا the losses. By doing so, he has emerged as an inspiring leader that Pakistan needs to survive and swim through the oceans of crises.

Bilawal is leading the nation in its worst period of natural calamity. In international media too, the only visible personality presenting the true picture of the devastation in Pakistan is Bilawal. The young leader is using leading new **outlets** ابلاغ to launch global awareness for climate justice. It is important to keep repeating that Pakistan is responsible for only one per cent of greenhouse gases emissions, but it is among the top ten countries currently suffering from climate change.

He is informing the world that rich countries should act for climate justice. The way he is building a case for climate justice will certainly encourage the international community to share its responsibility. Industrialized nations have to play their role in **rehabilitation** بحالی of the affected people and rebuilding of the infrastructure lost due to climate change-driven natural **calamities** آفات. They should make **sincere** مخلصانہ efforts to minimize their greenhouse gas emissions. This planet cannot bear such large-scale crises anymore.

The writer is a PPP MPA in the Sindh Assembly.

### in the spotlight

(of a person) receiving a lot of public attention: The senator has been in the spotlight recently since the revelation of his tax frauds

### realpolitik

noun

a system of politics or principles based on practical rather than moral or ideological considerations

### to flex the muscles

phrase. If a group, organization, or country flexes its muscles, it does something to impress or frighten people, in order to show them that it has power and is considering using it. The Fair Trade Commission has of late been flexing its muscles, cracking down on cases of corruption

The Belt and Road Initiative (**BRI**, or B&R), formerly known as One Belt One Road or OBOR for short, is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 to invest in nearly 150 countries and international organizations. It is considered a centerpiece of the Chinese paramount leader Xi Jinping's foreign policy. The BRI forms a central component of Xi's "Major Country Diplomacy, strategy, which calls for China to assume a greater leadership role for global affairs in accordance with its rising

power and status. As of August 2022, 149 countries were listed as having signed up to the BRI.

### Time-tested

Something, for example a method, that is time-tested has been used for a long period and has been proved to work well:  
The school uses old, time-tested techniques for teaching children to read.

### global warming

a gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere generally attributed to the greenhouse effect caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide, CFCs, and other pollutants

Global warming occurs when carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other air pollutants collect in the atmosphere and absorb sunlight and solar radiation that have bounced off the earth's surface. Normally this radiation would escape into space, but these pollutants, which can last for years to centuries in the atmosphere, trap the heat and cause the planet to get hotter.

A **greenhouse gas** is a gas that absorbs and emits radiant energy within the thermal infrared range, causing the greenhouse effect. The primary greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.

### take a / it's toll

to have a serious, bad effect on someone or something : to



cause harm or damage If you keep working so hard, the stress will eventually take its toll. –often + on Too much sunlight can take a (heavy) toll on your skin.

The **Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons** and Climate Change (MCC) conducts research and fosters dialogue about how the global commons, such as the atmosphere and the oceans, might be used and shared by many yet nevertheless be protected. A main theme is the compatibility of economic growth with sustainable development and climate protection.

### **NGOs**

A non-governmental organization is an organization that generally is formed independent from government. They are typically nonprofit entities, and many of them are active in humanitarianism or the social sciences; they can also include clubs and associations that provide services to their members and others.

What is a **Flash Appeal**? The flash appeal is a tool for structuring a coordinated humanitarian response for the first three to six months of an emergency