



Securitization of Climate Change in Pakistan

Kalim Ullah,¹ & Ayesha Imtiaz Abbasi²

Abstract:

In Pakistan, the focus had always remained on traditional means of security. Although Pakistan signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at Rio in 1992 and became a member of the two other multilateral agreements in regard to the climate change which were “Kyoto Protocol” of 1997 under UNFCCC and “Paris Agreement” of 2016 but the issue of climate change did not receive much attention. This paper explores the securitization of climate change in Pakistan by analyzing how climate-related threats have been transformed from a political to security issue. As described in the “Copenhagen Security Framework”, in international relations and international politics, once the matter is securitized, it gets extraordinary attention. The more attention and discussion an issue receives, the highly securitized the issue gets. By uses qualitative method of study, this paper examines key events and policies, including the 2012 and 2021 National Climate Change Policies formed after devastating floods, the role of international agreements and the integration of climate security into “National Security Policy” of Pakistan.

Key words: Pakistan, National Climate Change Policy, Paris Agreement, Kyoto Protocol, climate change, securitization, floods

INTRODUCTION

Securitization begins with an act of speech about an issue posing great threat by a stakeholder of a state, an institution or a political party. The more issues that are discussed the more concerns are raised and finally it shifts from a routine political matter to a security concern, thus enabling and legitimizing extraordinary means to be used in the name of security. Being a security state with aggressive neighbors and non-secured borders from three sides having India, Afghanistan and Iran, Pakistan kept on forming security doctrines with traditional approach of military. Pakistan tried to get aligned with the international regimes and became a part of them by signing treaties and protocols. However, this was more like band-wagoning as the state never felt a real threat from the issue. Although it remained an active member of the international community to combat the issue, it never formulated or securitized the issue instantly. Pakistan in commitment to counter the issue of the climate change, signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at Rio in 1992 and ratified it in 1994 (Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Climate Change and

¹ Assistant Professor, International Relations, National Defence University, Islamabad, Pakistan. Email: kalimullah@ndu.edu.pk

² Holds M.S. degree in Political Science from International Islamic University, Islamabad. Email: ayeshaabbasi42@gmail.com

Environmental Coordination, 2023). It also became a member of the two other multilateral agreements in regard to the climate change. However, Pakistan didn't incorporate any formal national policy till the 2012.

Beside the issue of attention not being paid to the issue of climate change by world leaders globally and the traditional military approach, another important reason for not securitization of the issue and not formulating a national level policy was the issue of resources. Pakistan had meager resources and for the sake of addressing the issue, it required firm resources and technology. Even the states with resources and technology took a lot of time and sustained damages before understanding the real threat of the issue. In case of Pakistan, it contributes very little to the emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHS) but the impacts it bears are more than devastating. The first and the foremost loss it bears is agricultural loss and in return the loss of economy. The highest percentage of the GDP of Pakistan depends on the agriculture sector. So being an agricultural economy, it is the most vulnerable state. The loss of lives, the loss of infrastructure and the loss of healthcare facilities is the other issue of concern.

Climate change was never an issue of national security until the devastating floods of 2010 and 2012. The destruction on massive scales paved a way to formulate policies on this critical issue. However, the practical implementation of policies remained a question mark for already struggling economy of the country. This study focuses on the question: how has the securitization of climate change influenced Pakistan's policy response and its national security framework?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of securitization, as developed by the Copenhagen School, provides a theoretical foundation for understanding how non-traditional threats like climate change are framed as security issues. Barry Buzan, Ole Wæver, and Jaap de Wilde (1998) argue that securitization involves a speech act by which an issue is presented as an existential threat, legitimizing extraordinary measures to address it. This framework has been widely applied to climate change, as seen in the works of Floyd (2010) and Trombetta (2008), who discuss how environmental issues are securitized to mobilize resources and political will.

The securitization of climate change has gained traction globally, particularly in vulnerable regions like South Asia. Detraz and Betsill (2009) highlight how climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities, leading to food insecurity, water scarcity, and displacement. In Pakistan, these impacts are particularly severe due to its reliance on agriculture and its geographic vulnerability to extreme weather events.

Pakistan's response to climate change has evolved through policies like the National Climate Change Policy (2012, 2021) and the Pakistan Climate Change Act (2017). Khan (2013) and Ebrahim (2015) discuss the challenges of policy implementation, including institutional fragmentation and resource constraints. The integration of climate security into Pakistan's National Security Policy (2021) marks a significant shift, reflecting the Copenhagen School's emphasis on comprehensive security.

Pakistan's participation in international climate agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol, reflects its commitment to global climate action. However, as Ramirez (2022) notes,

Pakistan's minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions contrasts sharply with the disproportionate impacts it faces. The concept of climate justice, as advocated by Pakistan at COP27, underscores the need for developed nations to support vulnerable countries through mechanisms like the Loss and Damage Fund.

Despite the securitization of climate change, Pakistan faces significant challenges in implementing its policies. Kazmi (2024) and Shakeel (2023) highlight issues such as political instability, lack of funding, and inadequate public awareness. These barriers hinder the effective translation of securitization discourse into actionable outcomes.

The economic and social impacts of climate change in Pakistan are profound, with events like the 2010 and 2022 floods causing massive displacement and agricultural losses. Raza (2022) and Haq (2022) emphasize the need for adaptive strategies to address these challenges, particularly in the context of food and water security.

In sum, the securitization of climate change in Pakistan reflects a growing recognition of its existential threats to national security, economic stability, and human well-being. While significant progress has been made in policy formulation and international advocacy, challenges in implementation and resource allocation remain. Future research should focus on bridging the gap between securitization discourse and practical action, ensuring that Pakistan's climate policies are both effective and equitable.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The relation of climate change with security is known to the world due to the Copenhagen School and is understood as a mixture of constructivist and classical political realism in its approach. The term was first coined by Barry Buzan whose approach to security and securitization theory has been deployed for analysis of the topic. The theory was developed by Ole Waver, Barry Buzan and Jaap de Wilde in 1997, which is summed up as the Copenhagen School (CS). Securitization theorists argue that successful securitization of an issue will make it receive more and undivided attention and resources as compared to the non-securitized subjects even if they cause more threat. Suppose people die due to road accidents are hundreds of thousand annually and only a thousand die due to terrorism but the threat attached with terrorism due to security concerns and the discussion of issue by the word leaders makes it a serious one. The idea of Barry Buzan and fellows was so revolutionary that the world started taking it seriously and formed many organizations under UN. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) signed many treaties and protocols too.

In Pakistan the concerns were raised about effects of climate change, but the issue got securitized slowly depending on the losses and threats to human security and billions of dollar loss to economy and infrastructure. The reason behind this gradual acceptance of issue is the traditional approach of military security and realization of lethal effects of non-traditional security threats. The issue is said to be first securitized when the stakeholders of the state formed The National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) in 2012 which later got updated in 2021. Pakistan also adopted a number of other policies and programs to tackle the issue of climate change. As securitization is a speech act by state actors, the formation of official policies is an evidence and depictions of securitization of the issue at the state level. Pakistan's recent "National Security Policy (NSP) followed the essence of

Copenhagen School. By using the Copenhagen School's securitization theory, the paper accesses the extent to which climate change has been securitized and its implications for national security. The analysis highlights the gap between securitization in discourse and practical implementation and proposes recommendations for future climate-security strategies. The Copenhagen School's Securitization Theory serves as the primary lens to analyze how climate change in Pakistan has transitioned from a political to a security concern. This theory emphasizes the role of speech acts, securitizing actors, and the audience in transforming climate change into a national security issues.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research uses qualitative discourse analyses to examine key documents such as Pakistan's National Climate Change Policies (2012-2021), National Security Policy (2021), and international agreements such as Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement. The study also evaluates government speeches, media reports, and public statements to understand how climate change has been securitized.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND PAKISTAN

Some events made Pakistan compelled to securitize the issue of climate change. Given the fact that Pakistan is an agricultural country and is highly affected by the climate change, it must have to protect itself from adverse effects. Also, the recurrences of extreme weather events particularly from 2010 to 2022 displayed by drought and excessive floods in the country have raised the enormity of dealing with the issue on an urgent basis. Throughout this time period, climate change disasters kept on striking Pakistan with unprecedented frequency. Extreme weather change events have been frequent causing more and unprecedented rainfall in the state. The rise of temperature due to climate change and the resultant heat waves, water-stressed conditions and recession of Hindu Kush-Karakorum-Himalayan glaciers threatening water inflow to the Indus River System made many aware of the heinous impacts of climate change and to discuss the counter mechanism.

These phenomena result in the massive floods, reduced agricultural productivity, decrease in forests, high sea surface temperature, increase health risk and climate induced migrations. These disasters cause issues from depletion of resources to the health and living problems. Glacier melt and snow provide the freshwater resources in Pakistan (Saeed, 2024). Decrease in their volume because variation and change in seasonal flow pattern of the Indus River System. Rise in temperature causes high glacial melt which couples with extreme rainfalls cause either floods and droughts or greater stress on water demand due to evapotranspiration. Alone the floods of 2010 were responsible for displacing twenty million people (Raza, 2022). This event was the first one based on its intensity where millions had to leave their homes due to floods caused by the climate change.

Floods, droughts and rise in temperature all cause massive economic, water and food security problems. Not necessarily do always these disasters happen but the altered weather conditions, more rainfall and heat waves all complement each other, which are the effects of climate change. The worst devastation occurred in the agricultural sector which gives a source of earnings to a high percentage of labor and contributes to 21% of GDP and 70% of export earnings. The floods of 2010 resulted in the loss of \$429 billion. They caused the 500,000 tons of wheat washed away. Punjab was the most affected province where one million hectares of crops were being flooded (Ali,

Sarwar, & Sajjad, 2014). The floods of 2022 had a great impact on the agricultural sector. The monsoon crops were the most impacted one. They also resulted into the loss of 45% of entire country's cotton crops, 31% of rice crops and 7% of the sugarcane crops which when combined together caused the aggregate value of loss of \$5 billion (Haq, 2022). The loss of textile was predicted to be an all-time high at \$6.2 billion. The loss of livestock was estimated to be \$0.2 billion.

Securitization of Climate Change in Pakistan

A task force on climate change was formed in 2008 by the then newly elected government of Pakistan. It was the first official step towards securitization of the issue of the climate change. But mainly these were the floods of 2010 and 2011 which compelled the government to respond to the issue of climate change.

National Climate Change Policy

The 2012 was the year when a milestone was achieved, and the first official National Climate Change Policy was formulated (Khan, 2013). The work of the climate change task force along with extensive discussion with federal and provincial ministries, relevant institutions and civil society contributed a lot to the formulation of the policy document. This was the first time when the issue was securitized as the issue was taken up by state actors and government officials, discussions were carried out and a need to form a policy was determined. This was the securitization of climate change in Pakistan on official basis with a written document enacted as a policy document. To ensure the implementation of the policy, a full-fledged National Ministry of Climate Change (Ebrahim, 2015). NCCP addressed all possible potential threats with a proper framework to induce climate change action plans, Programs and projects.

Any matter that gets securitized tends to get strong, disproportionate, and undivided attention as well as resources. Even if other issues are causing more damage, losses, or deaths, they are not likely to catch much attention as securitized issues do. Suppose thousands of people die from road accidents annually but still terrorism, not road accidents, is a top priority of the security. If a subject is successfully securitized, then it is possible to legitimize extraordinary means to solve a perceived problem. This could include declaring a state of emergency or martial law, mobilizing the military, or attacking another country. The floods and their destruction made government officials concerned to respond to the catastrophes caused by the climate change. For this purpose, the government of Pakistan mobilized all the resources. It not only formed NCCP but also formed a separate ministry to deal with such issues. This was aimed to help Pakistan in accessing the threats and disasters, disaster management, introducing the issue in the higher education curriculum, environmental examination and assessment impact, curbing the problems and impacts of deforestation and last but not least raising the stance of Pakistan on international platform due to vulnerability to climate change even when GHG emission is least in Pakistan.

Framework for Implementation of the Climate Change Policy, 2014-2030

Climate Change is not a distant threat for Pakistan considering the impacts it left and is still leaving across the country and the region. The devastating floods in the last two decades are evidence of not alone the phenomenon but also its impacts and devastation with great economic losses. Implementation framework right after policy and its document was result of the speech act and

security concerns about food, water, economy, health and biodiversity. This framework was a step forward towards the securitization of climate change in Pakistan. Mitigation and adaptation were the focus of this document (Framework for Implementation of climate change 2014-2030, 2013). This Framework for Implementation of NCCP will help in developing an effective mechanism to highlight an address climate change concerns and also help in decision making that will create an environment for counter mechanism.

National Food Security Policy (NFSP)

Another step towards securitization was the adaption of Pakistan's first ever National Food Security Policy (NFSP) in the wake of losses of agricultural and arable lands, cash crops and eventually national growth. Pakistan has a population of 37.26 million that is malnourished which is alarming ("As Pakistan's population grows," 2024). The policy was aimed at the initiatives that would ensure the availability, sustainability and accessibility of food to everyone by developing the ways for a more profitable, productive and climate resilient agricultural sector. Although the issue needs implementation gap of the policies that had been made under NFSP, the severity of the issue demands radical implementation of the policies.

Pakistan Climate Change Act (PCCA) 2017

Climate change is a serious threat for Pakistan. But it took longer for the state to understand the intensity of the issue. According to a Gallop survey of 2008 only 34% of the population was aware of the climate change issue and only 24% considered it a threat and the policy makers did not have a different approach (UNICEF, 2023). This was because the policy makers did not take the issue seriously and the matter was not securitized. The formulation of NCCP and implementation framework was a milestone though, but there was need of effective implementation beside legislation that could met the international standards to ensure the mitigation of the issue. In short, there is always a need for mechanism and implementation and good laws with good reasons and good outcome becomes the need of hour. The Paris Agreement has 197 states as parties and each of 197 states has laws to counter the issue of climate change. Pakistan's climate change policy framework lacked the international standards, and for this purpose PCCA was passed in 2017 (Kazmi, 2024). The Act set up three relevant institutions: Pakistan Climate Change Council, Pakistan Climate Change Authority, and Pakistan Climate Change Fund. Pakistan signed Paris agreement in 2016 and it required all the member states to have domestic legislation in accordance with international standards to meet the climate related challenges.

National Climate Change Policy 2021

Another important landmark in the securitization of climate change is the National Climate Change Policy of 2021 which is the updated version of the NCCP 2012 (Shakeel, 2023). However, the main purpose of NCCP 2012 was climate resilient adaptation and development. But later some events and the severity of the issue added new dimension of the policy. Also, the policy was designed to be updated after every five years. In the Paris Climate Accord of 2015, Pakistan accepted to put its efforts in the reduction of GHG emission ("Pakistan ratifies Paris," 2016). The policy of 2021 based on "Adaptation and Mitigation" with more emphasis on nature-based solutions. The updated policy document indicated the top priority programs of the government which included "Ten Billion Tsunami program", "Urban Forest Project", "Clean and Green Movement" and initiation of National

Parks (National Climate Change Policy, 2021). The adaptation and mitigation policy was aimed at the Eco-System Restoration, capacity building measures, disaster management, use of modern technology and technology transfer with the help of the international community and paving a way for a number of institutions to play role in the mitigation of climate change induced disasters.

The policy was also aimed at the integration of climate change policies with other relevant national policies. The securitizations of issue led to the policy and a consensus was developed on mainstreaming of climate change in the economically and socially vulnerable sectors. Since the floods and droughts are causing food, energy, water and economic crises, the focus of the policy was kept developing and implementing remedial plans in order to overcome these problems. For the sake of implementation, two committees “National Climate Change Policy Implementation Committee” and “Provincial Climate Change Policy Implementation Committee” were formed.

UN Climate Ambition Summit 2020

The UN Climate Ambition Summit was another platform that securitized the climate change not alone in Pakistan but globally. The Summit of December 2020 paved the way for a lot of countries who openly discussed the challenges, repercussions and way forwards to mitigate the effects of climate change (“Prime Minister Imran Khan,” 2020). Pakistan in the Summit determined firmly to switch to renewable resources and decarbonizing the economy of the country. The policy also highlights the Prime Minister’s recently launched first-ever “Green Bond” by WAPDA and Nature Bond for financing environmentally friendly projects (Salik, 2021).

Pakistan Climate Conference (PCC) 2022

This conference was organized in March 2022 by “Overseas Investor Chamber of Commerce and Industry” (OICCI) which is the leading body of international investors in Pakistan. This also led to the securitization of the climate change where not only the issue was discussed by investors, policy makers, global climate experts and government officials but also remedies were discussed to cure this lethal phenomenon of climate change. The conference remained successful by adopting an action plan to help Pakistan meet its nationally determined contributions while ensuring economic sustainability (“Pakistan Climate Conference,” 2023). The conference ended on adapting plan to encourage the use of renewable energy resources which can help in the GHG emission reduction, the problems with policies Pakistan currently is facing, reduction of waste through circular economy, curbing the use of plastic bags and the use of recyclable bags and use of scientific methods to take environment friendly actions.

National Adaption Plan

The Climate Change Council first met in 2020 and adopted a National Adaption Plan. It was aimed at countering the disasters and taking policy action which were needed on a priority basis by creating comprehensive, medium and long-term plans. During these meetings the agendas for the COP27 were also prepared and discussed (“MoCC prepares country’s first,” 2022).

Role of International Platforms in Securitization

The Conference of Parties 27th annual meeting was held in in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. Pakistan was first time chair of the bloc of negotiators of China+G77. This conference was held in the aftermath of the 2022 floods and their horrific devastation (Sarfaraz, 2022). These floods were the most crucial

events that securitized the climate change because after that Pakistan's officials, policymakers and experts all started talking about the effects of climate change. Half of the country was under water with million displaced and billions loss to economy. Pakistan best utilized this platform and urged the international community to take solid actions in tackling the issue of climate justice. A climate justice campaign was also started. Pakistan and many states like Pakistan even with least global net emission is suffering the consequences (Ramirez, 2022). The sufferings of Pakistan were heard by the whole world with the acknowledgement of the fact that it is time to help the state that is suffering due to emission of others. A "loss and damage" fund was also formed to provide the affected and under developing states with help for rebuilding and reconstruction.

Role of International Platforms in Securitization

Pakistan has ratified all of the key international climate change treaties with the purpose of coping the issue in order to fulfill the aim of preserving the environment. In addition to the 1992 UNFCCC and the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Pakistan also ratified Kyoto Protocol of 1997 to the UNFCCC in 2005, the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015. Also after devastating floods in the recent years and securitization of issue, Pakistan has been actively participating in "Conference of Parties" (COP) meeting annually. 26th Session of Conference of Parties (COP-26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held from 31-12 November 2021, in Glasgow, UK where the delegation sent by Pakistan expressed its concerns over climate change and also explained the route Pakistan's government was taking to deal with this issue. In this conference, Pakistan determined to shift its projects to clean energy, production of electrical vehicles, and adaptation of nature friendly solutions and to switch coal based projects into hydropower projects (UN Climate Change, 2021). In this conference, Pakistan became the center of attention and got praised by the majority of the countries due to its effective policies towards the climate crisis.

Conference of Parties (COP 27) was held from 6-18 November in Sharam-Al-Shaikh, Egypt. It was the first time Pakistan chaired the group of 77 with China. Pakistan used this position in a very effective manner to present and to get their agenda approved. As per reports, Pakistan got most affected due to Climate change and highly affected by climate disasters such as floods, heat waves etc. But the shocking fact is that Pakistan produces less than 1% of the global carbon emissions. So, it is injustice with Pakistan as well as all developing nations which are facing the punishment of the crime they have not done. In order to overcome this issue, Pakistan started Climate Justice Campaign where states like Pakistan with less emission and great impact by the challenges caused by the climate change demanded International Community to compensate them. Being a developing nation Pakistan does not have resources to cope with these climate changes and to prevent climate disasters. This point was raised by Pakistan's foreign minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the COP27 summit in November 2022. In this summit, Pakistan launched its Climate Justice Campaign by demanding a fund for the damages caused by climate change in developing nations (The Express Tribune, 2022).

Pakistan raised the point that developing nations are the least carbon emitters, but they are the highest affected countries in the world. Developed nations such as the US and China being the major carbon emitters should pay climate reparations to disaster-stricken developing nations. They put the demand of "Fund for Loss and Damage" on their agenda. The developing nations were

encouraged by Pakistan on the subject of climate justice. The Pakistani leaders emphasized the need for swift action on climate-related issues in order to prevent further hardship from the effects of climate change. It is admirable that Pakistan has taken strong climate change action in its foreign policy. Pakistan also needs a comprehensive strategy that considers climate change from all perspectives, from micro to macro. As anything is considered a security issue when it is securitized, it should also attempt to address a positive component of climate security. Policymakers will be able to assess Pakistan's environmental concerns through a three-level framework—local, global, and structural. Pakistan's foreign policy has been praised for its success in creating the Fund for Loss and Damage by COP27. The losses and harm brought on by climate change in developing nations will be covered by this fund. Pakistan on its optimism that the implementation of the fund would result in less inequalities in the climate finance system. Pakistan promises to make a positive contribution to international climate change debates and policy initiatives.

National Security Policy and Climate Change

The success of securitization can be determined by the discussion and enactment of climate change security threats and remedies in Pakistan' first ever National Security Policy (NSP) (Haque, 2022). The impacts of climate change are multispectral and they affect humans' lives infrastructure, water and agriculture but also put a burden on the state resources and security threats. The enemies and security threats do not lie alone on borders, but non-traditional security threats have become more critical. National security must now be viewed through comprehensive security and climate security frameworks to understand the intensity of the threat. There is a missing domain of climate security in the state's national security architecture.

Pakistan introduce its first National Security policy which was based on Copenhagen schools' Comprehensive Security Framework by Barry Buzan, Jaap de Wilde and Ole Waever (Buzan, Waver, & Wilde, 1998). This first ever NSP broadened the definition of security by adding all the possible dimensions including political, societal. Economic and environmental. It also focused on the integration of Climate Security with Pakistan's National Security because the climate induced events like droughts and floods can cause more harm to the state security. These factors altogether threaten the comprehensive national security of the state. National security in the present era cannot be solely understood by just debating economic security versus traditional security or other comparisons but as a whole because a states' national power is determined by all elements be them resources, manpower, economic capabilities, and geography that help a state to pursue its interests. So, in order to address challenges in different a comprehensive national security is needed to engage all sectors. But climate change should be more prioritized and fully securitized considering the impacts it is leaving on the state and its resources. Although the NSP began this conversation officially, the focus was not put on the environmental sector as adequately as the seriousness of its threat to national security it is.

Policy Implementation Problems

Pakistan successfully formed the policies to tackle the issue of climate change but the implementation of these policies significantly remained a question and a factor in exacerbating the intensity of the issue. The first and the foremost reason is discontinuation of policies due to changes in governments and political leaderships which halts the effective implementation. This further

leads to ineffective institutional framework and poor execution of the policies formed. The second and important factor to curb the issue is the lack of investment and financial constraints. Pakistan with poor economy and other budget preferences like defense, infrastructure and provincial management always put financing on climate related issues as secondary. Pakistan looks forward to the developing countries for assistance but the size of assistance is not half of what it actually requires. The initiative like “Loss & Damage Funds” brought hope but still economic constraints remained a problem. Further dependence on fossil fuels, relying on old agricultural methods, ineffective disaster management mechanism and lack of public awareness are impediments in the effective policy implementation. The National Climate Change Policy itself is vague in many regards. With a myriads of objectives and proposed actions, it doesn’t describe the priority based actions, mechanism for inter-ministerial coordination and coordination among different sectors ranging from forest, agriculture and water sectors. A climate resilient Pakistan requires to address not only above mentioned problems but to adapt a comprehensive approach.

CONCLUSION

Securitization is better understood by conceptualizing the elements it contains. It aims at studying the basic concepts in terms of securitizing Actor (who securitizes the issue), on what issue (threat that has been perceived like climate change in this study), for whom (the ones who are being affected) and also the conditions and result of an issue. So, in short securitization involves four components: a securitizing actor/agent, an existing threat that has been identified as potentially harmful, and a referent object: an object that needs to be protected and an audience which is the target of the securitization act. In case of Pakistan, the definition and phenomenon of securitization fits in because all four elements are present. The securitizing actor is the governments since the first Climate Change Task Force was initiated in 2008 by then the PPP government and then different policies kept on surfacing with the passage of time considering the severity of the issue. The second element is the “issue” that needs to be securitized and, in this case, it is climate change. Even a state like Pakistan deeply obsessed with military security had to discuss it through speech acts, discussion and policies because the loss faced by Pakistan be that economic, human or other was higher than any other phenomenon. The third element is the “targeted population” or for whom the issue has been securitized. In case of Pakistan, this is the general population that disproportionately got effected by the climate change. And last element is the “outcome & results” and in case of Pakistan the outcome is the initiation of two official climate change policies of 2012 and 2021, different policies on water and food security, collaboration with international actors and formation of funds like “loss & damage” funds. In conclusion, the issue has successfully been securitized in Pakistan due to the above-mentioned problems, risks and steps and policies.

References:

- Ali, A., Sarwar, N., & Sajjad, M. W. (2014). Perspectives on the 2010 floods in Pakistan. *Strategic Studies*, 34(2), 136-70.
- As Pakistan’s population grows, so does malnutrition. (2024, Jul. 11). *Pakistan Today*.
- Buzan, B., Waver, O., & Wilde, J. D. (1998). *Security: A new framework for analysis*. Lynne Rienner.
- Detraz, N., & Betsill, M. M. (2009). Climate change and environmental security: For whom the discourse shifts. *International Studies Perspectives*, 10(3), 303-20.

- Ebrahim, T. T. (2015, Feb. 06). Pakistan's new climate change ministry merely cosmetic. *Dawn*.
- Floyd, R. (2010). *Security and the environment: Securitisation theory and US environmental security policy*. Cambridge University Press.
- Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Climate Change. (2013). *Framework for implementation of climate change 2014-2030*. Author.
- Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Climate Change. (2021). *National Climate Change Policy*. Author.
- Haq, S. (2022, Oct. 27). \$12b flood losses in agriculture sector: report. *The Express Tribune*.
- Haque, I. U. (2022, Jan. 15). National Security Policy of Pakistan 2022-2026 - An appraisal. *The Express Tribune*.
- Kazmi, H. I. (2024, Jun. 30). Pakistan climate change act — challenges. *The Express Tribune*.
- Khan, R. S. (2013, Feb. 26). National climate change policy to rescue? *Dawn*.
- Pakistan Climate Conference 2023 to take place on Nov 1. (2023, Oct. 27). *The Express Tribune*.
- Pakistan ratifies Paris climate change accord at UN ceremony. (2016, Nov. 11). *Dawn*.
- Ramirez, R. (2022, Aug. 31). Pakistan emits less than 1% of the world's planet-warming gases. It's now drowning. *CNN*.
- Raza, M. (2022, Aug. 31). Pakistan's history of disasters and the lessons we fail to learn. *Dawn*.
- Saeed, A. (2024, Jun. 01). Unusually high temperature in Pakistan lead to rapid melting of glaciers, threaten lives. *Arab News*.
- Salik, M. A. (2021). *Indus Bond: Pakistan's First Green Eurobond* (Issue Brief). Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.
- Sarfraz, H. (2022, Dec. 11). COP 27: Climate justice landmark or empty promises? *The Times Magazine*.
- Shakeel, A. (2023, Dec. 22). A closer look: Pakistan's climate strategy beyond conference. *Dawn*.
- Trombetta, M. J. (2008). Environmental security and climate change: Analysing the discourse. *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, 21(4), 585-602.
- UNICEF. (2023). Only half of young people able to identify correct definition of climate change – UNICEF, Gallup. *Unicef*.

Date of Publication	October 10, 2024
---------------------	------------------