

The Right to a Healthy Environment in Pakistan: Legal Recognition, Enforcement Challenges, and the Way Forward

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Abstract

With the right to a healthy environment increasingly recognized as a fundamental human right, people have the right to clean air, water, and a healthy environment. In Pakistan, environmental degradation, pollution, and climate change pose severe threats to this right, despite the existence of environmental laws and judicial interventions. It has a legal framework to environmental protection, and these are named as Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA) 1997, National Climate Change Policy 2012, and Pakistan Climate Change Act 2017. Despite this, however, weak enforcement mechanisms, lack of institutional capacity, political interference and the absence of public awareness have prevented effective implementation. Judicial activism, through landmark cases such as Shehla Zia v. Wapda, Lahore High court smog Case. This has been crucial in considering environmental protection in the right to life Article 9, 9A and Article 14. Despite all these judicial engagements Pakistan still has a long way to go before facing real enforcement challenges, namely weak regulatory oversight, industrial noncompliance and inconsistent policy implementation. In order to address these issues, a comprehensive legal and policy reform and explicit constitutional recognition of the right to a healthy environment, strengthening of environmental institutions, establishment of specialized environmental courts, and public participation are necessary. Furthermore, government's sustainable development policies, green energy initiatives as well as international cooperation can assist Pakistan in dealing with environmental degradation and the negative impact of climate change. The aim of this article is to prove that Pakistan has to balance between economic development and environmental sustainability in its future. A cleaner, healthier and a more sustainable future can be realized by adopting stronger legal protections, strengthening the governance structure, and promoting civic engagement in Pakistan. The protection of environmental rights needs to exit out of judicial reliance and enforce the environmental rights by comprehensive institutional and legislative action at the industrial and national level to ensure environmental protection for the two or more generations present today and in future.

Keywords

Climate change, Environmental Law, PEPA, National Climate change Policy, Article 9A

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1. Introduction

Raising to a fundamental human right is the right to a healthy environment, which is directly connected to the well-being of humankind, quality of life, and sustainable development. Clean air, safe drinking water, as well as a clean ecosystem are so important for supporting the health of all citizens but also for a country's economic and social stability. Fundamental human rights such as the right to life, good health and dignity are closely linked with this right and environmental governance in general is an important aspect in the world. (knox and pejan, 2018)

Several of these legal instruments identify that right to a healthy environment and reinforce it internationally. One of the first global declarations affirming the need for environmental protection as a human right, putting the declaration out was the Stockholm Declaration (1972). Today, the United Nations Human Rights Council (2021) has formally recognized clean, healthy and sustainable environment access as a universal human right.



In addition, treaties such as Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and Paris Agreement on Climate Change enforce the state's role in protecting this right. (Kastlunger, J. (2024))

In the case of Pakistan, the issue of the right to a healthy environment has become urgent owing to the fact of the country's plight in terms of environmental degradation, rising polluting levels, and the country's vulnerability to climate change. According to Climate Change Status Report 2019, Pakistan is one of the top ten countries highly vulnerable to climate change due to extreme weather events including floods, drought, heatwaves, and melting glaciers. Urban areas like Lahore, Karachi or Islamabad are usually exposed to hazardous levels of air pollution, as well as environmental problems by conditions including the industrial waste, deforestation and lack of proper water management. These issues are harmful to public health crises, biodiversity loss as well as economic instability, but disproportionately impacting marginalized communities. (Hussain et al, 2020)

Yet, Pakistan has no explicit constitutional provision before 26th amendment for right to healthy environment. Nevertheless, fundamental rights, according to judicial interpretation, have been widened with the aid of Article 9 (Right to Life), Article 9A (Right to Healthy Environment) and Article 14 (Dignity of Man and Privacy of Home) to include environmental rights. Besides, there are regulatory framework for environmental protection through laws like Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA) 1997 and the Pakistan Climate Change Act 2017. (Amjad et al. 2022)

Despite that, governance failures, weak institutional capacity, industrial noncompliance and lack of public awareness have led to weak enforcement of environmental laws in Pakistan. Limited funding, political influence and poor monitoring mechanisms make it difficult for regulatory bodies such as the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak EPA) and provincial EPAs. Additionally, while judicial activism has been instrumental in writing environmental jurisprudence, implementation gaps, poor implementation, inconsistent policy execution, and absence of policy push are notable. (Haider et al, 2024)

In this article, substantial issues related to the legal recognition of the right to a healthy environment, and how to deal with challenges of enforcement are critically examined for Pakistan, and measures to strengthen environmental governance were proposed. It posits that although there have been significant legal strides, one needs a workable legislative and institutional policy that will ensure the proper protection of the environment and sustainable development.

2. Legal Recognition of the Right to a Healthy Environment in Pakistan

2.1. Constitutional Provisions and Legal Framework

Global growth in the recognition of the right to a healthy environment as a fundamental human right had occurred though Pakistan's Constitution did not expressly offer this right as a standalone fundamental right. And now coming after so many years in 26th amendment they recognized healthy environment as a fundamental right in Article 9A. But prior to this amendment, the superior judiciary has also interpreted the constitutional provisions so as to include environmental rights and this shows that clean and healthy environment is an unavoidable condition in ensuring human dignity and life. (Rajper et al, 2024)

a) Constitutional Provisions

Three key constitutional provisions have been **judicially interpreted** to provide a legal foundation for environmental rights:

Article 9 – Right to Life:

The **right to life** has been expansively interpreted by the **Supreme Court of Pakistan** to include the right to a **clean and healthy environment**. Courts have ruled that environmental degradation, pollution, and ecological harm directly affect the quality of life and, therefore, fall within the scope of **Article 9**.

In **Shehla Zia v. WAPDA (PLD 1994 SC 693)**, the Supreme Court recognized that environmental hazards, such as exposure to electromagnetic radiation, could violate the right to life. This case set a precedent for environmental litigation in Pakistan.

Article 9A- Right to healthy and clean environment:

The 26th Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan passed by the Senate on Sunday, 20th October, has had the media, intellectuals, and citizens on their toes with its controversial postulates. While the discussion about the consequences of the amendment continues, one provision has gone unnoticed. Amid the many provisions of the amendment, Article 9A, i.e., the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, has also made its way to the constitution of Pakistan.

This was a much-needed provision considering Pakistan's increasing vulnerability to climate change. Article 9A is good news for the legal fraternity, environmental activists, and the vulnerable sections of society often at the receiving end of ecological disasters in Pakistan, as it marks the beginning of environmental constitutionalism in Pakistan. (Rajper et al, 2024)

Article 14 – Dignity of Man and Privacy of Home:

Article 14 guarantees the **dignity of individuals**, which the courts have linked to the right to a clean and pollution-free environment. The judiciary has recognized that **environmental degradation, poor sanitation, and pollution** compromise human dignity and can lead to severe health hazards. Thus, even though the Constitution does not explicitly mention the **right to a healthy environment**, the courts have progressively **expanded the interpretation of fundamental rights** to include environmental protection.

b) Key Environmental Laws in Pakistan

To regulate and protect the environment, **Pakistan has enacted several environmental laws and policies** that outline the **legal framework for environmental governance and protection**:

Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA) 1997:

The main environmental law of Pakistan, which contains the main rules and regulations with respect to pollution control, protection of environment and conservation, is called PEPA 1997. It made the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) and provincial EPAs that will monitor and enforce environmental regulations. Environmental Impact Assessment, and Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) are mandatory as per law to prevent environmental damage as a result of development projects. (PEPA, 1997 (XXXIV of 1997))

National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2012:

The policy sets Pakistan's course to deal with the challenge of climate change mitigation, adaptation, disaster preparedness, and sustainable resource management. By focussing on the flood, heatwave, glacial melting and deforestation which are all serious threats to Pakistan's environment, it provides an approach and strategy for the betterment of the country. Climate resilience and incorporation of environmental components into national development planning are emphasized by the NCCP. (NCCP,2012)

Pakistan Climate Change Act 2017:

This act established Pakistan Climate Change Council (PCCC) and Pakistan Climate Change Authority (PCCA) to carry out climate policies and strategies implemented. It is aimed at coordinating climate actions,

enforcing environmental laws and promotion of sustainable development concentrated on international commitments. (THE PAKISTAN CLIMATE CHANGE ACT, 2017)

3. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations:

In addition, these regulations require EIAs for all major development projects to identify and mitigate potential environmental risks of such works. EIA is a process, implemented by environmental laws, through which industries, infrastructure projects and urban development ensure that they do not jeopardize biodiversity, water resources, or air quality.

It would, however, be erroneous to conclude that Pakistan's courts have never acknowledged the right to a healthy environment, especially in the absence of explicit constitutionalism of the same. Environmental issues have gradually been integrated into fundamental rights through judicial activism, so that a pollution free and ecological balanced environment is necessary for human life and dignity.

During the times, the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Lahore High Court and other courts have delivered landmark judgements which influenced the area of environmental jurisprudence in the country. These decisions have not only strengthened the right to the environment but also compelled taking actions in curbing environmental degradation by the government.

Judicial Activism and Landmark Case Laws

1. Shehla Zia v. WAPDA (PLD 1994 SC 693) – Foundation of Environmental Jurisprudence in Pakistan.

This was the first case of environmental challenge against a public infrastructure project in Pakistan by citizens on environmental grounds. Shehla Zia and other residents of Islamabad had filed a case demanding that Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) does not construct a grid station which was planned to be set up near their homes, and would have emitted EMR so that they could not carry out their daily affairs. EMR was documented to be a cause for serious health problems, including cancer, the petitioners asserted and argued that they have a right to live in a safe, healthy environment.

Article 9 of the Constitution was held by the Supreme Court of Pakistan as extending the right to life to a clean and healthy environment. The Court also established that public authorities should prevent citizens from experiencing environmental hazards, unless the absence of such a measure might harm more people than it would protect. Also, any action affecting the environment shall be fulfilled with proper assessment. This was the precedent for the environmental litigation in Pakistan, and it stated that the government has responsibility to ensure environmental safety. (PLD 1994 SC 693)

2. LHC Smog Case (2017) – Government's Duty to Combat Air Pollution

The levels of smog pollution in Lahore and most of the big cities of Punjab were abysmal and were hazardous to people's health, affecting them with severe respiratory illnesses, loss of visibility and environmental damage. The petition was filed in Lahore High Court (LHC), against which the government is asked to intervene to control air pollution and the smog related hazards. Petitioner argued that as an act of air pollution violated the fundamental right due to life and health, and not taking steps by the government amounted to breach of constitutional duties.

Environment and public health consequences caused by air pollution were taken cognizance of by the Lahore High Court (LHC) and directed the government to remove smog and bring control over the dispensation of air pollution on immediate emergency basis. Regulation of industrial emissions and brick kiln operations. Reduced transportation related pollution through implementation of the vehicle emission standards. The

campaign to increase green cover through promotion of afforestation campaigns. To monitor the air quality indexes (AQI) for the effective smog control policies. (Case No. W.P. No.34789/2016)

3. General Secretary, West Pakistan Salt Miners Labor Union v. Director Industries

Due to pollution it has generated that it poses a risk to human health, plant life, and animals, the mining operations residents have in fact initiated a legal action against the company. The Court has applied Shehla Zia precedent in case review to hold that the right to a clean environment is a part of the right of life and human dignity. Pakistan Supreme Court found that the pollution caused by the mining industry infringes a constitutionally protected fundamental right. Therefore, the relevant agency was directed to move the mining operation to another site within four months. More often than not, when at the lower common denominators of an economy's social clashes, the ruling tends to be less than friendly towards the environment. (1994 SCMR 2061)

4. Pakistan Chest Foundation vs. Government of Pakistan

In the case of this matter, the Lahore High Court saved television, advertisements in newspapers and on bill boards from being disrupted on behalf of cigarette companies. However, The Court protected its ruling with Public Interest Litigation and Public Trust aims on the ground that ads should not be aired on television, print and electronic media. (1997 CLC 1379)

Judiciary's Expanding Role in Environmental Protection

These landmark cases highlight how the judiciary has stepped in to protect environmental rights despite the lack of an explicit constitutional provision on environmental protection. Key takeaways from judicial activism in Pakistan include:

- Article 9, 9A and Article 14 have always been interpreted by the courts to containing protection for the environment. It has established a legal basis for environment litigation and augmented the state's legal liability.
- The courts have allowed state authorities to comply with their constitutional obligations in regard to environmental matters. Hospitals and private entities have also been judicially scrutinized for environmental compliances in certain industries.
- It is required by court rulings for the government to draft pollution control, waste management and climate adaptation policies. The examples of a 'LHC Smog Case' (2017) pushed to more stringent system of environmental regulations.

4. Empowering Citizens through Public Interest Litigation (PIL):

It has encouraged the citizens and the environmental organizations to file the PILs to challenge the environmental degradation and to render the legal remedies. Public demand for environmental justice has been made easier by the courts.

However, environmental protection laws and policies in Pakistan have a strong legal framework yet remain inadequately enforced. There are, however, many structural, administrative and socio-political difficulties that see the gap that exists between law and implementation remain wide. (Razzaque, J. 2004)

Enforcement Challenges in Environmental Protection in Pakistan

1. Weak Institutional Capacity

The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) and other provincial EPAs lack adequate funding, have insufficient technical expertise, and staff shortages due to chronic underfunding. Since budget allocations to regulatory institutions are generally too small, they are unable to carry out regular inspection,

implement environmental regulations, as well as purchase monitoring technology. In most cases, there are not enough trained environmental scientists, engineers and legal experts in many environmental agencies, thus making it hard for them to manage and assess environmental risks. Agencies lack the infrastructure, and outdated monitoring systems determined that they cannot track industrial pollution levels, deforestation and environmental damage in real time. Rural and remote areas are subjected to severe degradation of their environment but with most environmental regulatory offices in urban centres, the areas are largely unmonitored. (Khan, M., & Chaudhry, M. N. 2021)

Impact:

- Weak enforcement of pollution control measures and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).
- Industries and businesses continue to operate without complying with environmental laws.
- Slow response to environmental emergencies such as oil spills, hazardous waste disposal, and deforestation.

2. Political and Industrial Influence

Although Pakistan's environmental law enforcement is strengthened by corporate and political influence, it is weakened by corporate and political interference. Manufacturing, energy, and construction industries tend to be large industries, which often evade monitoring and thus also environmental regulations because a lot of them have such political connections. There are ways in which many corporations end up circumventing environmental laws by submitting biased environmental impact reports or by negotiating with political powers to obtain exemptions. Regulatory agencies may drag on taking action against companies violating pollution standards by the choice of corruption and political favoritism. In the dirty industries such as coal power plants, brick kilns and real estate development, politicians and influential business figures have a direct financial stake. The fines imposed on industries for environmental offenses are not high enough to deter in most cases and is rarely at a level to necessitate their closure. (Khan & others, 2020)

Impact:

- Unchecked industrial pollution leading to worsening air and water contamination.
- Deforestation and land degradation caused by unregulated real estate and infrastructure projects.
- Failure to transition to greener energy solutions due to the strong lobbying power of fossil fuel-based industries.

3. Public Awareness and Participation

Environmental protection cannot be achieved without public engagement but in Pakistan, awareness and civic participation to ensure polluters are brought to book is low. There is not enough environmental awareness visible in their school curricula; hence, the citizens are unable to file a complaint if they are not knowledgeable of their environmental rights and obligations. In contrast to many developed countries, there is what is more akin to political apathy regarding environmental issues in Pakistan. Environmental protests and advocacy movements are, however, small and have little political backing. The disconnect between policy objectives and ground realities is invariably caused by the fact that environmental policies are generally created and implemented without any community consultation. It is hard for citizens to legally challenge violations if the data on pollution levels, deforestation rates or industrial emissions is not readily available. (Anjum & others, 2021)

Impact:

- Communities remain unaware of the long-term consequences of environmental damage.

- Lack of grassroots pressure on industries and the government leads to delayed policy responses to environmental crises.
- Environmental litigation remains limited, as few citizens are aware of their right to file cases against polluters.

4. Inconsistent Policy Implementation

Pakistan has enacted strong environmental policies, which, however, they are not able to effectively and consistently implement on the provincial and local levels. Devolution of environmental governance took place after the 18th Constitutional Amendment (2010), when environmental governance was devolved to provinces. Nevertheless, even many provincial governments have not built institutional capacity to effectively implement policies. The National Climate Change Policy (2012) and Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA) 1997 have been remained on paper policy though they lack any practical enforcement. The environmental projects take longer to be implemented because of slow decision-making process and between departments conflicts. Even though Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are mandatory for new projects, new ones are constantly launched without clearance, and authorities do not act. (Shahzad & others, 2022)

Impact:

- Environmental policies fail to produce tangible results.
- Large-scale infrastructure projects continue without proper sustainability assessments.
- Conflicting environmental policies between federal and provincial governments create confusion and inefficiencies.

5. Climate Vulnerability and Natural Disasters

Many people in Pakistan are very vulnerable to climate change and Pakistan is one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world, scoring fifth (out of 45 ranks) in the Global Climate Risk Index. Beyond that, environmentally enforced law in the country is complicated due to its susceptibility to climate induced disasters. Perceiving the situation in Pakistan on a day to day basis is an emergency, disasters strike every day so it's difficult to apply an long term environmental strategy when there to react to an issue and try and fix it every day. Rapid urbanization and deforestation for housing projects make the climate susceptible due to increased lack of natural water absorption capacity and worsen heat island effects. Communities are not prepared to cope with climate shocks because they do not have proper early warning systems and disaster risk management strategies. Many other communities, like those which are forced to migrate due to rising sea levels and terrible desertification are dealt with new social and economic challenges. (Hussain et al, 2020)

Impact:

- Severe economic losses due to climate-related damages.
- Increased strain on environmental resources, such as water and agricultural land.
- Failure to integrate climate adaptation strategies into national development planning.

5. Recommendations for Strengthening Environmental Rights in Pakistan

To ensure effective enforcement of environmental rights and improve governance, Pakistan must adopt a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach. The following key measures are crucial for strengthening environmental protection in the country:

1. Explicit Constitutional Recognition of the Right to a Healthy Environment

The right to a healthy environment is not explicitly part of the Constitution of Pakistan at present. However Article 9, 9A and Article 14 have been interpreted by courts to encompass the environmental protection. A constitutional amendment should be introduced to formalize environmental rights as a fundamental human right and to solidify this right. Propose an amendment to the Constitution to impose a new constitutional right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Make the Constitution in line with the international environmental agreements, including the Paris Agreement, Stockholm Declaration and Aarhus Convention. Define natural resources as objects of constitutional obligation for the government, industries and individuals to protect and preserve.

Impact:

- Provides strong legal backing for environmental activists, lawyers, and policymakers.
- Strengthens judicial authority in enforcing environmental laws.
- Encourages lawmakers and regulators to prioritize environmental sustainability.

2. Strengthening Environmental Institutions

Financial and technical resources to enforce the laws effectively are often lacking in regulatory bodies such as the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA), provincial EPAs, etc. Compliance, Pollution Monitoring as well as Environmental Violations have to be ensured through institutional strengthening. Firstly, the government must increase considerably the funding of the agency responsible for environmental protection in order to increase their operational capacity. Less political, industrial pressure should be given to environmental agencies to enforce laws independently. A modern environmental monitoring system should be adopted by the agencies — satellite imaging, real-time air quality monitors, and digital reporting platforms. Environmental scientists, legal experts, and compliance officers will be hired and those would lead to better regulatory effectiveness.

Impact:

- Improved monitoring and enforcement of environmental laws.
- Greater transparency and accountability in environmental governance.
- Enhanced research and data collection for evidence-based policymaking.

3. Judicial and Administrative Reforms

While Pakistan's judiciary has been involved in the expansion of environmental rights, delays in case resolution and the absence of so specialized courts obstruct quick legal action. Environmental justice can be expedited by judicial and administrative reforms. Cases related to pollution, deforestation and industrial violations should be brought to environmental courts and tribunals, and should be dedicated. Provide expedited legal procedures for environment cases to be resolved on a speedy basis. Such training should be provided on environmental law, climate change and ecological jurisprudence for judges, legal professionals and other persons involved in the furtherance of real, viable and constructive environmental justice. Make a national level Environmental Ombudsman to take care of citizens' complaints against the environmental violations.

Impact:

- Ensures faster legal remedies for environmental damage.
- Reduces burden on general courts by handling specialized cases separately.
- Improves legal certainty and consistency in environmental rulings.

4. Public Participation and Awareness

However, awareness about any such movement in the country is practically nil. Empowering communities to hold polluters and policymakers accountable can strengthen civic engagement and environmental education. It is suggested that schools and universities implement mandatory environmental studies to make people aware. Support local environmental campaigns, tree planting drives etc, in line with sustainable waste management projects. Enact strong Right to Information (RTI) laws which require pollution data, deforestation statistics, climate reports to be made public. Configure the social button to link its visitors to Al than do to encourage journalists and social media influencers to cover environmental stories and uncover violations.

Impact:

- Encourages public advocacy and legal action against environmental violations.
- Empowers citizens to demand policy changes from the government.
- Increases community-driven environmental sustainability efforts.

5. Implementation of Green Policies and Sustainable Development Strategies

Environmental policies in Pakistan tend to remain on the papers untouched. Long term ecological stability requires those policies and climate adaptation strategies to be enforced. To ensure the effective implementation of Pakistan's National Climate Change Policy (2012) and Climate Change Act (2017), and to achieve this, one must set measurable targets and strict accountability mechanisms. Reduce dependence on fossils fuels by investing in solar, wind, hydro power etc. Incorporate green building standards, eco-friendly transportation system and climate resilient infrastructure. Good monitoring and transparency of expand initiatives such as the Billion Tree Tsunami project.

Impact:

- Reduces carbon emissions and industrial pollution.
- Enhances Pakistan's resilience to climate change.
- Fosters eco-friendly economic growth and job creation.

6. Regional and International Cooperation

The environmental issues know no national border and calls for regional collaboration to stem the climate change, deforestation and pollution. Consequently, Pakistan must enhance its partnership with its neighbor countries globally as well as with the international environmental organizations. The actions will have to fully embrace commitments under the Paris Agreement, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Convention on Biodiversity. Cope with India, China, and Afghanistan on common water reservoirs, air pollution control, and adaptation to climate. Seek funding from international bodies such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for environmental projects. Extract from the best experiences created in environmental policies in countries like Germany, Sweden, and Canada, and establish appropriate policies for Pakistan's case.

Impact:

- Improves Pakistan's global standing in environmental governance.
- Provides access to international funding, expertise, and technology.
- Strengthens regional efforts to combat shared environmental challenges.

6. Conclusion

Environmental well-being is of fundamental importance to its human right and sustainable development. Environmental degradation, pollution and climate change are challenges in Pakistan in the form of threats to

public health, biodiversity and economic stability. While constitutional provisions and environmental legislation provide a basis as a legal framework in the environment protection area, there is inexistence of enforcement mechanisms, weak institutional capacity, and political interference that hinders progress. Environmental rights have been expanded through judicial activism using cases like *Shehla Zia v. WAPDA* and the LHC Smog Case (2017) brought under their purview wherein the courts recognized the right to clean and safe environment. Yet legal victories are of little consequence unless there is explicit constitutional recognition and stronger enforcement mechanisms of environmental protection.

To deal with these issues, Pakistan should focus on legal, administrative and policy reforms for environmental governance. For environmental protection, strengthening Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) and provincial EPAs, creation of specialized environmental courts and enhancing public awareness and participation are vital. Secondly, bringing sustainable development schemes into operation, giving impetus to green energy programmes and forming joint efforts with international bodies would be of help in dealing with climate change and ecological degradation in Pakistan. To achieve economic growth along with environmental sustainability, all the government, judiciary, civil society, and industries should contribute together.

Pakistan is at a crossroads where if environmental negligence is not attended to it can no longer be reversed, but if it is addressed on time it will usher in a future that is healthier and more sustainable. Healthy environment must not be a theoretical right but a real right and should be implemented in effective legal and policy measures. If Pakistan responds swiftly and reacts accordingly today, it can actually pass on to future generations an environment that is cleaner and safer, more resilient from climate shocks, and do its duty of protecting the planet.

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