

High-Level Collaborative Seminar · Peshawar 2026

Climate Change & Inclusion

Building a Resilient and Equitable Future, a high-level seminar on inclusive climate governance, justice, livelihoods, and disaster risk reduction.



Diplomacy | Inclusivity | Climate | Education

Acknowledgements

The DICE Forum extends its deep gratitude to Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi for hosting the seminar at the Governor House and for his leadership on inclusive climate governance. We thank our partners, the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and ZLK Securities for their commitment and collaboration. We are grateful to all speakers for their expertise, candour, and generosity of time. Finally, we thank all participants policymakers, practitioners, civil society leaders, academics, and youth representatives whose engagement made this event more than the sum of its parts.

T H E D I C E F O R U M

Diplomacy · Inclusion · Climate · Education

Seminar Report | April 2026 | Peshawar, Pakistan

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EVENT OVERVIEW





About the Seminar

This report documents the proceedings, key discussions, speaker contributions and emerging recommendations of the high-level seminar on Climate Change and Inclusion, convened on 13 April 2026 at the Governor House, Peshawar. The event was organised by The DICE Forum in collaboration with the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and ZLK Securities.

E V E N T O V E R V I E W

Background and Context

Climate change represents one of the most pressing governance, humanitarian, and development challenges of our era. In Pakistan, and particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, communities are already contending with the accelerating consequences of environmental disruption: catastrophic floods, prolonged droughts, erratic monsoon patterns, severe water scarcity, rapid glacial melt, and large-scale displacement.

Yet the burden of climate change is profoundly unequal. Women, children, low-income communities, persons with disabilities, rural populations, and indigenous groups bear the greatest costs of a crisis to which they have contributed the least. This intersection of environmental vulnerability and social exclusion demands an urgent, inclusion-centred policy response.

The DICE Forum, a multi-stakeholder platform built around four pillars of Diplomacy, Inclusion, Climate, and Education recognises this imperative. The seminar was convened as the opening chapter of a sustained policy dialogue process, bringing together a diverse range of voices to interrogate how inclusion can be systematically embedded within climate governance and policymaking at provincial and national levels.

EVENT OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

- To examine the disproportionate impacts of climate change on marginalised and vulnerable communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Pakistan.
- To explore frameworks for inclusive climate governance that embed representation and participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and minority groups.
- To discuss the links between climate change, livelihoods, green jobs, and economic resilience
- To identify actionable recommendations for disaster risk reduction with an inclusion lens.
- To launch a broader series of expert roundtables and policy dialogues aimed at shaping Pakistan's climate governance framework.



E V E N T O V E R V I E W

Focus Areas

Discussions at the seminar were organised around four interconnected themes:

Theme 1	Inclusive Climate Governance How governance structures and decision-making processes can be reformed to include marginalised voices and ensure equitable outcomes.
Theme 2	Climate Justice The moral and political dimensions of climate change including who bears responsibility, who suffers the most, and what redress looks like.
Theme 3	Livelihoods and Green Jobs The transition to climate-resilient economies and how green job creation can benefit vulnerable and excluded communities.
Theme 4	Disaster Risk Reduction Building early warning systems, community preparedness, and resilient infrastructure with an equity-centred approach.

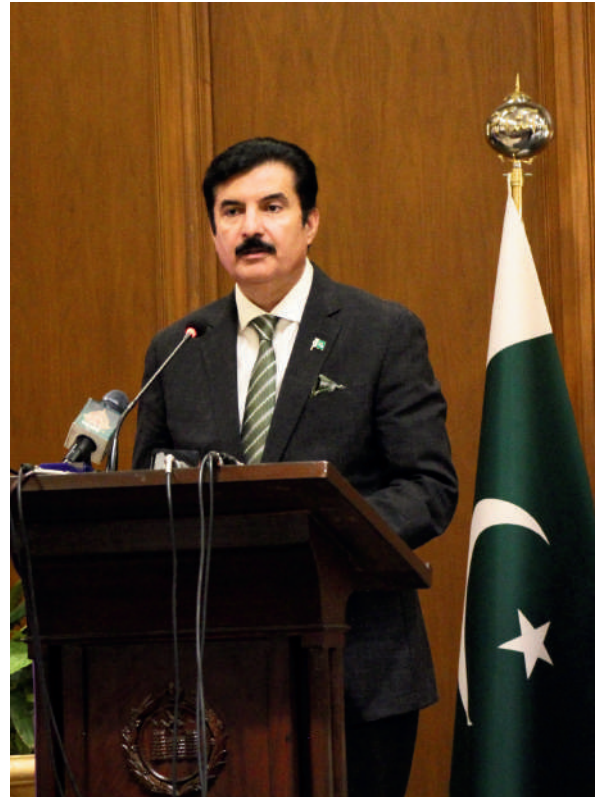
Inaugural Addresses

VOICES OF LEADERSHIP

FAISAL KARIM KUNDI

**Governor
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

The seminar opened with keynote addresses that set the intellectual and moral frame for the day's discussions. Both speakers underscored that climate change is not merely an environmental problem but a crisis of governance, justice, and inclusion one that demands urgent, coordinated, and community-centred responses.



Governor Faisal Karim Kundi delivered the keynote address as chief guest, opening with an unambiguous declaration: climate change is no longer a future threat but a crisis unfolding in real time across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He drew attention to the province's accelerating experience of floods, droughts, unusual weather patterns, and glacial melting as evidence that communities are already living with the consequences of environmental breakdown.

While acknowledging Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's natural wealth, the Governor underscored the province's acute vulnerability to environmental degradation. He noted that climate change is systematically undermining agriculture, water resources, infrastructure, and the livelihoods of ordinary citizens disproportionately so for vulnerable communities.

"Effective climate action must be inclusive and community-centred — women, youth, and local communities must not merely be consulted but be active architects of the response."

The Governor called for a collective, multi-stakeholder approach: one that unites governments, academia, civil society, private institutions, and international partners behind the shared goal of a sustainable future. He stressed that inclusion is not an optional add-on to climate policy but a precondition for its effectiveness.

Inaugural Addresses

VOICES OF LEADERSHIP

ALIYA AGHA

**Chairperson
The Dice Forum**

Aliya Agha, Chairperson of The DICE Forum, offered a framing address that situated the seminar within a broader struggle for justice and equity. She argued that climate change is simultaneously an environmental crisis, a challenge of justice, and a test of inclusion and that understanding it through only one lens will produce incomplete and ultimately ineffective responses.



She highlighted a persistent pattern of exclusion: women, minorities, rural populations, youth, and other vulnerable communities have historically been sidelined from decision-making, information, and economic opportunity. Climate disasters, she argued, do not merely affect these groups disproportionately they actively deepen the inequalities that already marginalise them, intensifying poverty, displacement, and social fragmentation.

Referring to the floods and cloudburst events that have struck Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in recent years, Aliya Agha described the province as standing at the frontline of climate vulnerability. She emphasised that this geographic and social exposure demands urgent, targeted policy attention and that The DICE Forum is committed to being a vehicle for that response.

"This seminar is the beginning of a sustained process not another event that ends with applause and good intentions, but the first step toward real, actionable recommendations for inclusive climate governance."

She introduced The DICE Forum's four foundational pillars Diplomacy, Inclusion, Climate, and Education as an integrated framework for the sustained policy engagement that climate justice requires.

CLOSING REMARKS

VOICES OF LEADERSHIP

Zahid Latif Khan

Chairman ZLK Group



In his closing remarks, Zahid Latif Khan emphasized the importance of collective awareness, collaboration, and innovative solutions in addressing climate change challenges in Pakistan. He thanked Faisal Karim Kundi for hosting the seminar at the Governor House and appreciated the efforts of Aliya Agha, partner organisations, and participants for contributing to the discussion on climate change and inclusion.

He explained that the seminar was intentionally organised in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa because the province remains highly vulnerable to climate-related disasters, and there is a strong need to create awareness among local communities regarding environmental challenges and resilience-building. He appreciated the fact that experts and stakeholders in the province are not only aware of the climate crisis but are also actively exploring ways to mitigate its risks.

Highlighting Pakistan's global climate position, Zahid Latif Khan noted that although the country contributes less than one percent to global carbon emissions, it faces disproportionately severe consequences of climate change, including floods and environmental degradation. Referring to his experience in the capital markets sector, he stressed the importance of exploring climate finance mechanisms such as carbon credit exchanges, which could support sustainable development and environmental initiatives in Pakistan. He concluded by emphasizing the need for continued partnerships, awareness, and practical action to tackle climate challenges effectively.

SPEAKERS AT THE PANEL

Following the opening addresses, a distinguished panel of experts delivered presentations and engaged in moderated discussion across the seminar's four thematic areas. Summaries of each contribution are presented next.

EXPERT PRESENTATIONS

SPEAKER CONTRIBUTIONS

DR. KHALID
KHAN

Synoptic Systems Architect

Dr. Khan argued that framing climate change primarily as an environmental issue fundamentally misrepresents its nature and scope. He positioned it instead as a challenge of governance, inclusion, and social justice — one that requires structural as well as technical responses. Drawing on Pakistan's socio-economic realities and the scale of destruction wrought by recent floods, he demonstrated how climate disasters disproportionately affect women, low-income communities, and persons with disabilities, consistently producing the greatest harm for those with the least capacity to absorb it.

Key Points:

- Climate disasters follow existing fault lines of inequality affecting most severely those who are already most excluded.
- Inclusive climate governance must address three fundamental questions: who is affected, who participates in decision-making, and who benefits from climate action.
- Pakistan requires stronger institutional capacity not merely better policies, but the organisational infrastructure to implement them.
- Discussions must move from seminars and policy dialogues toward concrete, implementation-oriented action.

Dr. Khalid Khan, while moderating the seminar on Climate Change and Inclusion at the Governor's House in Peshawar, emphasized that climate change is no longer merely an environmental concern but a broader issue of governance, justice, equity, and inclusive development. Setting the tone for the discussion, he highlighted that the impacts of climate change including floods, heatwaves, and water scarcity do not affect all communities equally. Instead, their effects are shaped by poverty, gender inequality, geographical vulnerability, disability, and social exclusion.

He stressed that climate change must therefore be viewed as both a development and governance challenge, requiring policy responses that prioritize inclusion and social justice. Referring to Pakistan's socio-economic realities, Dr. Khalid Khan pointed out that a significant percentage of the population lives below the poverty line, while millions of people live with disabilities or face mental and psychological challenges.

According to him, these vulnerable groups must be fully integrated into climate policies and resilience planning. Dr. Khalid Khan also highlighted the scale of destruction caused by climate disasters in Pakistan, particularly following the devastating floods of 2022. Referring to estimates of losses amounting to over 30 billion dollars and rehabilitation needs exceeding 17 billion dollars, he noted that international commitments and financial support have remained insufficient. He observed that only a limited portion of pledged climate assistance has materialized, while concerns continue to exist regarding institutional capacity to effectively utilise available resources.

He argued that Pakistan faces a dual challenge: the climate crisis itself and the lack of sufficient institutional preparedness to address it. According to him, unless governments and institutions develop stronger implementation capacity and political will, discussions on climate change will remain confined to seminars and policy dialogues without meaningful impact on communities.

Summarizing the essence of the discussion, Dr. Khalid Khan stated that climate change is fundamentally about "who is affected, who decides, and who benefits." He stressed that without adopting an inclusive and people-centered approach, climate action efforts will fail to produce lasting change. Concluding his remarks, he appreciated the participation of distinguished panelists and acknowledged the Governor House for hosting a platform that encouraged open and accessible dialogue on one of the most pressing issues facing Pakistan today.

EXPERT PRESENTATIONS

SPEAKER CONTRIBUTIONS

DR. ARJUMAND
NIZAMI

Country Head Helvetas



Dr. Arjumand brought a systems-thinking perspective to the seminar's discussions, stressing the imperative of balancing climate resilience with mitigation treating both as essential rather than competing priorities. She argued that Pakistan must simultaneously improve industrial systems, advance sustainable production, and strengthen environmental management while deepening adaptation efforts at community and district levels. Her analysis of water scarcity reframed water efficiency as an obligation rather than a technical preference, demanding policy treatment commensurate with that urgency.

Key Points:

- **Climate resilience and mitigation are complementary, not competing both must be pursued simultaneously.**
- **Water efficiency is not optional; it is an obligation at household, agricultural, and industrial levels.**
- **Science, technology, and grassroots implementation must be united in climate governance frameworks.**
- **Small farmers must be empowered through training, collective organisation, and targeted capacity-building initiatives.**
- **District-level institutions require strengthening to be effective vehicles for climate resilience and food security.**
-

Dr. Arjumand, while addressing the seminar on Climate Change and Inclusion, emphasized the urgent need for Pakistan to simultaneously focus on climate resilience and mitigation measures. She noted that although Pakistan's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions remains relatively low, the country still has time to improve its environmental trajectory by modernising industries, improving factory systems, and adopting sustainable production methods. She stressed that climate adaptation and resilience-building cannot be separated from efforts to address the root causes of climate change.

According to her, discussions around inclusion, climate justice, and the rights of climate-affected communities must also involve concrete action to reduce environmental degradation and emissions. She highlighted the importance of investing in science, innovation, and technology to tackle climate challenges effectively. Referring to the country's scientific and technological potential, Dr. Arjumand said Pakistan possesses capable researchers, scientists, and technology developers who can contribute practical solutions for climate adaptation and sustainable development. However, she stressed the need to translate research and policy discussions into practical implementation at the grassroots level.

Dr. Arjumand, while addressing the seminar on Climate A major focus of her speech was water scarcity and the need for water efficiency. She warned that changing rainfall patterns and decreasing water availability leave no room for complacency. According to her, improving water management is no longer a matter of choice but an obligation. She called for immediate adoption of efficient water-use practices, particularly in agriculture, which remains highly vulnerable to climate change. Discussing institutional capacity building, Dr. Arjumand underlined the importance of strengthening local governance systems and improving coordination among government departments, development organisations, and stakeholders working in climate-related sectors. She referred to agroecological studies and regional assessments as important tools for climate planning and adaptation. Appreciating the efforts made in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly in the forestry sector, she said the province has demonstrated positive examples of environmental management compared to other regions.

She also highlighted the central role of agriculture and small farmers in Pakistan's food security. Referring to Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as critical contributors to the national food basket, she stressed that small landholders and self-sufficient farmers are the backbone of the agricultural economy. However, she noted that these communities often lack collective bargaining power and institutional support. To address this, she proposed organising farmers into groups and cooperatives to enhance their economic strength, encourage entrepreneurship, and improve mutual support systems.

Dr. Arjumand further stressed the importance of building farmers' capacity at the local level. She argued that climate resilience efforts often remain concentrated at provincial or policy levels, while district-level institutions lack adequate resources and technical capacity. She called for greater prioritisation of district-level training and climate preparedness mechanisms so that adaptation efforts can directly benefit vulnerable communities.

She also pointed out that the majority of Pakistan's farmers are small landholders, yet policy frameworks and financial allocations do not sufficiently focus on them. Stressing the need for inclusive agricultural policies, she urged policymakers to shift their attention toward the 85 percent of smaller farmers who remain underserved. Rather than limiting support to commercial farming systems, she advocated training farmers at the systems level to improve sustainability, productivity, and resilience.

Concluding her remarks, Dr. Arjumand described farmers as an untapped national resource and urged institutions to recognise them as valuable economic and environmental stakeholders. She called for greater financial investment, training opportunities, and policy support for farming communities, stating that empowering farmers is essential for achieving climate resilience, food security, and inclusive development in Pakistan.

EXPERT PRESENTATIONS

SPEAKER CONTRIBUTIONS

MS. SHUGUFTA
MALIK

MPA

Ms. Malik brought the voices of affected communities directly into the seminar's deliberations. Drawing on her fieldwork and experience with disaster management, she presented a detailed account of how climate change disproportionately burdens women and vulnerable groups — not only in the immediate aftermath of disasters, but in the long, slow processes of displacement and recovery that follow. Referring to the 2010 floods, she documented the hardships faced by displaced women and exposed persistent gaps in disaster management implementation that continue to leave communities without adequate support.

Key Points:

- Climate policies cannot succeed without genuine grassroots participation from the communities they aim to serve.
- Women must be meaningfully included not tokenistically in climate governance, district-level planning, and local decision-making.
- The 2010 floods exposed structural gaps in disaster management implementation that remain unaddressed.
- Proper budget allocation, coordination between local governments and communities, and follow-through on commitments are essential.

Ms. Shugufta Malik, while speaking at the seminar on Climate Change and Inclusion, highlighted the severe climate vulnerabilities faced by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and stressed the urgent need for inclusive and community-driven climate policies. She noted that the province remains on the frontline of multiple challenges, including terrorism, natural disasters, and climate-induced crises, which together place immense pressure on local communities and governance systems. Referring to the recurring floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, she observed that despite continuous discussions and policy debates on climate challenges, the real difficulty lies in implementation and execution at the grassroots level. She emphasized that climate-related disasters disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, particularly women. Recalling the devastating floods of 2010, Ms. Malik stated that women suffered the most during displacement and emergency situations. Many families were forced to leave their homes and live in temporary camps under extremely difficult conditions. According to her, women not only faced physical displacement but also struggled with insecurity, lack of privacy, and limited access to essential facilities during disaster response efforts.

Ms. Malik pointed out that although legislation and disaster management frameworks exist, their implementation remains weak due to gaps in coordination, awareness, and community involvement.

She argued that climate and disaster policies often fail because they are not effectively connected to the realities faced by people at the local level. In her view, policies cannot succeed unless communities directly affected by climate disasters are actively involved in planning, decision-making, and implementation processes.

A central theme of her discussion was the importance of women's participation in climate governance and disaster management. She stressed that women are among the first and most severely affected during natural disasters, yet their voices are often excluded from policymaking. Referring to emergency evacuations during floods and disasters, she explained how women face unique challenges when sudden announcements force families to leave their homes without preparation or support systems.

According to Ms. Malik, meaningful inclusion of women at the district, village, and community levels is essential for building effective climate resilience strategies. She argued that women must be given representation not only in disaster response mechanisms but also in local governance structures and policy formulation processes. Greater participation of women, she said, would strengthen grassroots preparedness and ensure that climate policies reflect the actual needs and concerns of vulnerable populations.

She also highlighted the importance of public awareness and legal understanding regarding climate-related laws and policies. In her opinion, legislation alone is insufficient if communities remain unaware of their rights, responsibilities, and available support mechanisms. She emphasized that affected communities must be informed and empowered to participate in climate action initiatives so that policies can produce meaningful outcomes on the ground.

Discussing climate budgeting and governance, Ms. Malik noted that budget allocation remains a significant challenge. While governments may allocate funds for climate initiatives and disaster management, delays in release, weak utilisation, and lack of grassroots distribution often limit their impact. She stressed that proper implementation and transparent utilisation of resources are necessary to ensure effective climate adaptation and resilience-building measures.

She further underlined the important role of political parties, parliamentarians, local governments, and elected representatives in addressing climate challenges. According to her, local communities can only be effectively supported when district-level leadership and elected representatives actively engage with climate-related issues and ensure that policies are implemented at the grassroots level.

Concluding her remarks, Ms. Malik reiterated that climate change is ultimately a human and community issue that must be addressed through inclusive governance, public participation, and local empowerment. She stressed that without involving affected communities—particularly women—in climate policymaking and implementation, sustainable and equitable climate resilience cannot be achieved.

EXPERT PRESENTATIONS

SPEAKER CONTRIBUTIONS

DR. ZUBAIR
KHAN

Chairman, Deptt of Water
Resources, University of
Agriculture, Peshawar



Dr. Zubair offered a detailed assessment of the growing climate vulnerabilities facing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, mapping the province's exposure to glacier melt, erratic rainfall, flooding, and drought. He made a compelling case for modern technology and robust data systems as foundations for effective climate governance particularly in the development of early warning mechanisms and the systematic identification of disaster-prone zones. His presentation ranged across water conservation, agricultural resilience, and climate literacy, presenting an integrated vision of adaptation.

Key Points:

- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faces a compounding set of climate vulnerabilities that require coordinated, technology-supported responses.
- Early warning mechanisms and disaster-prone zone mapping can significantly reduce human casualties.
- Rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and sustainable irrigation must be policy priorities.
- Climate education should be embedded in school curricula to build long-term awareness and resilience.
- Government incentives for farmers are necessary to protect agricultural land and strengthen community-level climate resilience.
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Dr. Zubair, during the discussion on Climate Change and Inclusion, highlighted the global imbalance in climate financing and stressed the need for greater focus on adaptation measures for vulnerable countries like Pakistan. He noted that much of the international climate funding has historically been directed toward large economies such as India and China due to their massive populations and influence in global climate negotiations. While acknowledging efforts made by some countries to reduce emissions, he argued that Pakistan's priority should be adaptation and resilience-building, considering the country's limited contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions but high exposure to climate-related disasters.

He emphasized that climate policies should not focus solely on carbon emissions, as environmental challenges are broader and more complex. According to him, even transitions toward clean energy require careful planning due to factors linked to production, efficiency, and sustainability. Therefore, climate action should include practical adaptation strategies that directly protect communities from environmental and economic vulnerabilities.

Responding to concerns regarding glacier melting, erratic rainfall, and extreme weather events, Dr. Zahid spoke extensively about the increasing climate risks facing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He explained that the province's mountainous geography makes it particularly vulnerable to floods, landslides, and water-related disasters. Referring to recent incidents in Swat and other flood-affected areas, he pointed out how entire villages had been washed away, causing severe damage to both public and private infrastructure. He noted that public infrastructure such as irrigation systems, bridges, and roads are increasingly threatened by climate-induced disasters, while private property and livelihoods also suffer immense losses. To reduce risks, he stressed the importance of using modern technology and data-driven systems for disaster preparedness and early warning mechanisms.

According to him, the availability of online climate and weather data has significantly improved over the past decade, making it easier to identify vulnerable or "red zone" areas prone to floods, droughts, erosion, and excessive rainfall.

Dr. Zubair highlighted that timely warnings and evacuation systems can save lives by enabling communities to relocate before disasters strike. He encouraged authorities to use data mapping and predictive tools to strengthen local preparedness and reduce human casualties during extreme weather events.

A major concern raised during his discussion was the growing impact of urbanisation on water management. He pointed out that increasing construction and expansion of built-up areas have reduced the natural capacity of land to absorb rainwater, resulting in water wastage and urban flooding. Referring to recent heavy rainfall in the province, he questioned how much rainwater had actually been conserved versus wasted. He stressed the need for groundwater recharge systems and rainwater harvesting mechanisms, particularly rooftop water harvesting, to maximise water conservation and improve water availability. He also referred to successful recharge initiatives implemented at the Agriculture University with support from USAID, describing them as practical examples that can be replicated in other areas. In his view, better water management and efficient irrigation systems are essential for climate adaptation and sustainable resource management.

Dr. Zubair further emphasized the importance of climate education and awareness. He expressed concern that climate change is still not adequately integrated into school curricula, limiting students' understanding and sensitivity toward environmental challenges. He argued that climate awareness must begin at an early age so future generations can better understand the seriousness of the issue and contribute responsibly toward sustainable practices.

Concluding his remarks, Dr. Zubair stressed the need to support farmers through incentives and subsidies. He explained that many farmers are forced to sell agricultural land for commercial purposes due to lack of financial support and economic security. Drawing comparisons with European countries, he advocated for stronger government incentives and subsidy programmes to encourage sustainable farming and protect agricultural land, which remains vital for food security and climate resilience.

EXPERT PRESENTATIONS

SPEAKER CONTRIBUTIONS



MS. RABIA GUL

Gender Specialist

Ms. Gul drew an explicit and evidenced connection between climate change and human rights, using field experience from flood-affected regions to demonstrate how displacement and environmental disasters create conditions in which social crises proliferate. She described how forced marriages, harassment, and child abuse increase in the aftermath of climate disasters — not as incidental occurrences, but as predictable consequences of displacement, poverty, and the breakdown of protective community structures. Her analysis challenged the framing of affected communities solely as passive recipients of aid.

Key Points:

- Climate displacement directly enables human rights violations, a connection that must be central to policy responses.
- Affected communities must be treated as agents of their own recovery, not merely as beneficiaries.
- Robust monitoring and evaluation of climate programmes is essential to ensure support reaches intended beneficiaries.
- Women in rural areas require targeted capacity-building and access to resources to lead community recovery.

Dr. Rabia Gul, while addressing the seminar on Climate Change and Inclusion, emphasized the urgent need to move beyond viewing climate-affected populations merely as vulnerable communities and instead actively involve them in policymaking and implementation processes. Sharing her field experiences from flood-affected regions, she highlighted the growing intensity and frequency of climate disasters in Pakistan, referring to the major floods witnessed over recent years. According to her, these recurring disasters have exposed serious governance gaps and demonstrated the need for more inclusive, people-centered climate policies.

Drawing from ground-level assessments conducted in flood-hit areas, Ms. Rabia Gul stated that climate-affected communities are often excluded from decision-making despite being the primary stakeholders. She argued that policies designed without direct consultation with affected populations fail to address their actual needs and challenges. Echoing earlier concerns raised during the seminar, she stressed that the lack of grassroots engagement weakens implementation and limits the effectiveness of climate legislation and disaster response strategies. A major focus of her remarks was the connection between climate change and human rights violations. She pointed out that climate-induced disasters are not only environmental crises but also social and humanitarian emergencies.

According to her, displacement and economic instability caused by floods and other disasters often contribute to rising cases of forced marriages, harassment, child abuse, and exploitation of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children. She stressed that climate change should therefore be understood not only as an environmental issue but also as a serious human rights concern requiring comprehensive policy responses.

She criticized the tendency to limit climate policies and action plans to documentation and formal frameworks without ensuring practical implementation on the ground. She argued that while governments and institutions frequently formulate plans and strategies, there is often little evaluation of whether the intended beneficiaries are actually receiving support and assistance. In her view, climate governance requires stronger accountability mechanisms and proper monitoring systems to assess the real impact of policies and development projects.

She emphasized the importance of establishing measurable standards and evaluation frameworks to monitor the effectiveness of climate resilience programs. Referring to one of the geographic projects implemented under a government programme, she shared findings from field evaluations that revealed major gaps in outreach and accessibility. According to her, despite the existence of communication and warning systems, only a very small number of women were actually receiving alerts and critical information during disasters. She explained that limited access to mobile phones and communication technology in rural areas, particularly among women, significantly reduces the effectiveness of early warning systems and disaster preparedness measures.

Concluding her remarks, Ms. Rabia Gul reiterated the need for practical, inclusive, and evidence-driven climate policies that directly address the realities faced by affected populations. She stressed that effective climate action cannot be achieved through policy documents alone and requires meaningful community participation, continuous evaluation, improved accessibility, and stronger protection of human rights at the grassroots level.

EXPERT PRESENTATIONS

SPEAKER CONTRIBUTIONS

ENGINEER
AHMAD JAN
KHAN

Engineer Ahmad Jan Khan grounded the seminar's discussions in the long-term structural threats that climate change and poor resource management pose to Pakistan's cities and civilisation more broadly. Drawing on his professional experience, he presented detailed evidence of the dramatic decline of groundwater levels in Peshawar over recent decades a crisis driven by excessive extraction, poor management, and the absence of adequate regulatory frameworks. He situated Peshawar's water crisis within the wider context of climate-driven hydrological change, raising concerns about water contamination alongside depletion.

Key Points:

- **Groundwater levels in Peshawar have declined drastically over recent decades due to excessive extraction and poor management.**
- **Water contamination compounds the crisis of depletion both demand urgent, coordinated government action.**
- **Sustainable water usage practices, stronger monitoring systems, and regulatory frameworks are not optional they are urgent.**
- **Climate change threatens societal and civilisational stability if environmental issues continue to receive inadequate policy attention.**

Engineer Ahmad Jan Khan, during the seminar on Climate Change and Inclusion, highlighted the long-term threats posed by climate change and stressed the need for practical, coordinated, and immediate action to address environmental challenges. Reflecting on the rise and decline of civilizations throughout history, he argued that climate change has often been one of the major factors contributing to societal destruction. According to him, the current global environmental crisis should be understood as a serious warning that demands collective responsibility and action.

He observed that although climate-related issues are widely discussed, there remains a significant gap between identifying problems and implementing effective solutions. Using a sports analogy, he explained that while many stakeholders are capable of discussing and advancing climate-related agendas, the final stage of implementation often remains incomplete. In his view, this lack of coordination and execution continues to weaken climate governance and slows progress toward sustainable solutions.

Engineer Ahmad Jan Khan stressed the importance of ensuring that discussions, recommendations, and policy outcomes from such forums are properly documented and formally communicated to the relevant government departments for implementation.

He emphasized that seminars and policy dialogues should not remain limited to discussion alone but should contribute to actionable policy reforms and administrative measures at both provincial and national levels.

A major focus of his remarks was water management, which he described as one of the most critical environmental challenges facing Pakistan, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Drawing from his personal experience as a Public Health Officer in 1974, he recalled that groundwater in Peshawar was once available at very shallow depths, with water accessible within a few feet in most areas. Even in comparatively deeper locations such as Kohat Road and University Town, groundwater levels remained manageable.

However, he warned that decades of excessive and unregulated water extraction have led to a severe decline in groundwater levels. According to him, water that was once available within a few feet now requires drilling hundreds of feet deep, illustrating the extent of environmental degradation and resource mismanagement. He stressed that this alarming depletion of groundwater resources reflects unsustainable patterns of water consumption and demands urgent policy intervention.

Engineer Ahmad Jan Khan also raised serious concerns about water quality and public health. He pointed out that many citizens remain unaware of the actual sources and quality of the water they consume. In his view, inadequate monitoring systems, poor infrastructure, and contamination of water supplies have created a major public health risk. Referring to estimates of widespread contamination, he warned that a significant percentage of water resources are no longer safe for consumption and require immediate government attention.

He stressed that effective water management must become a central part of climate adaptation and environmental planning. This includes protecting groundwater reserves, improving monitoring mechanisms, ensuring safe water supply systems, and promoting responsible water usage practices among communities.

Concluding his remarks, Engineer Ahmad Jan Khan emphasized the need to shift public attitudes from helplessness toward resilience and responsibility. Rather than viewing themselves solely as victims of climate change, he encouraged communities and institutions to adopt a proactive approach focused on survival, adaptation, and sustainable resource management. According to him, meaningful climate action can only succeed through coordinated policymaking, responsible governance, and collective public participation.

EXPERT PRESENTATIONS

SPEAKER CONTRIBUTIONS

DR. SUMERA
SHAMS

Chairperson (KPCSW)

Dr. Shams reframed the gender and climate conversation with a sharp distinction: women must be active decision-makers in climate governance, not merely beneficiaries of climate policies. She discussed the Women Empowerment Policy 2026–2030 as a framework for creating institutional space for women in policymaking — and emphasised that meaningful implementation requires gender-responsive budgeting, stronger inter-departmental coordination, and explicit commitments to inclusion across government. She also broadened the inclusion lens to encompass persons with disabilities and transgender communities.

Key Points:

- Women must be positioned as decision-makers, not just beneficiaries, in climate governance and planning.
- The Women Empowerment Policy 2026–2030 provides a framework for institutional inclusion that must be actively implemented.
- Gender-responsive budgeting is a practical mechanism for ensuring climate policies address women's specific needs and contributions.
- Climate and environmental policies must explicitly address the concerns of persons with disabilities and transgender communities.
- Symbolic representation must give way to meaningful empowerment this is both a moral and practical imperative.

Dr. Sumera Shams, while speaking at the seminar on Climate Change and Inclusion, emphasized that climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable groups and often deepens existing social and gender inequalities. She stressed that women must not only be treated as beneficiaries of climate policies but should also be actively included as decision-makers in climate governance, policymaking, budgeting, and implementation processes.

At the outset of her remarks, Dr. Shams highlighted the importance of meaningful representation of women in public institutions and governance structures. According to her, women's participation should go beyond symbolic inclusion and must involve real authority and influence in decision-making forums. Referring to the role of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and the Women's Commission, she stated that efforts are being made to ensure that women are provided institutional space in policymaking and governance.

She specifically referred to the recently launched Women Empowerment Policy 2026–2030, which aims to bind institutions to include women in decision-making processes. She described this as an important step toward ensuring gender-inclusive governance and stronger institutional accountability. According to her, climate change has now become an important component of women-related policies in the province, reflecting growing recognition of the gendered impacts of environmental crises.

Dr. Shams noted that climate policies cannot be effective unless women are directly involved in shaping and implementing them. Since women at the household and community levels are often responsible for managing natural resources, water, food security, and family wellbeing, their experiences and perspectives are essential for sustainable climate action. She stressed that climate-related planning should therefore integrate women not merely as recipients of support but as key stakeholders whose participation can strengthen resilience and improve policy outcomes.

Addressing the issue of institutional safeguards, Dr. Shams argued that climate resilience and gender inclusion require a multi-stakeholder approach rather than reliance on a single institution. She stressed that awareness and capacity-building efforts must begin at the grassroots level, including schools, educational institutions, community organisations, and local governance systems. According to her, climate change is a cross-sectoral issue that demands coordination among multiple departments and stakeholders.

She pointed to examples where weak infrastructure and poor institutional coordination had worsened the impact of environmental challenges. In her view, effective climate governance requires stronger collaboration between departments such as public health engineering, planning and development, local government, and women-focused institutions. She emphasized that women should be actively involved across these sectors to ensure more inclusive and responsive policymaking.

A major focus of her remarks was the need to transition from gender-neutral to gender-responsive governance. Dr. Shams stated that while many policies may appear inclusive on paper, they often fail to adequately address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups. She stressed the importance of integrating gender perspectives into climate change and environmental policies to ensure equitable access to resources, opportunities, and support systems.

Discussing ongoing reforms, she highlighted efforts related to gender-responsive budgeting and parliamentary advocacy. She referred to the role of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus and initiatives aimed at encouraging government departments to adopt budgeting and planning mechanisms that specifically consider the needs of women and vulnerable populations. According to her, climate governance must also account for the concerns of persons with disabilities and transgender communities, ensuring that policies are inclusive and representative of all segments of society.

Concluding her remarks, Dr. Sumera Shams reiterated that true empowerment requires more than representation alone. She stressed that women must be given meaningful authority and participation in climate-related institutions and policymaking structures. In her view, sustainable climate action can only be achieved through inclusive governance, gender-responsive policies, institutional coordination, and active participation of women and marginalised communities at every level of decision-making.

THEMATIC ANALYSIS

Cross-Cutting Themes

Across the presentations and discussions, several interconnected themes emerged with particular force and consistency. These cross-cutting themes represent the seminar's collective intellectual output and provide the foundation for its recommendations.

1. Climate Change as a Governance and Justice Challenge

There was strong consensus across speakers that climate change cannot be addressed through technical or environmental responses alone. Multiple presenters — including Dr. Khalid Khan, Aliya Agha, and Dr. Rabia Gul — framed it explicitly as a challenge of governance, justice, and social inclusion. Effective climate action, the seminar concluded, requires reforming governance structures to be more participatory, transparent, and accountable — particularly to those most affected

2. Disproportionate Impacts on Marginalised Communities

A consistent thread throughout the day was the pattern of disproportionate climate impact on marginalised groups. Women, children, persons with disabilities, low-income communities, and rural populations face greater exposure, fewer resources to adapt, and less voice in the decisions that shape their futures. Ms. Shugufta Malik, Dr. Rabia Gul, and Dr. Sumera Shams each offered evidence of how this inequality is not incidental but structural — embedded in existing patterns of exclusion that climate disasters intensify.

3. The Imperative of Meaningful Inclusion

Speakers consistently challenged tokenistic approaches to inclusion. Dr. Sumera Shams drew a sharp distinction between symbolic representation and meaningful empowerment, while Ms. Shugufta Malik argued that grassroots participation is not merely desirable but a precondition for effective climate policy. The seminar affirmed that inclusion must be embedded at every stage — from policy design and budget allocation to implementation and evaluation.

4. Water as a Critical Climate Vulnerability

Water — in its multiple dimensions of scarcity, depletion, contamination, and mismanagement — emerged as one of the seminar's most urgent concerns. Dr. Arjumand framed water efficiency as an obligation; Dr. Zahid called for comprehensive rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge programmes; Engineer Ahmad Jan Khan documented the scale of groundwater depletion in Peshawar. Across these contributions, water management emerged as a central front in Pakistan's climate response.

5. The Gap Between Policy and Implementation

Multiple speakers drew attention to the persistent gap between policy commitments and on-the-ground implementation. Dr. Khalid Khan called explicitly for implementation-oriented approaches, while Ms. Shugufta Malik cited disaster management as a domain where commitments consistently fail to translate into effective action. The seminar identified budget allocation, institutional capacity, and coordination between levels of government as key pressure points.

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Inclusive Climate Governance

1. Institutionalize Inclusive Climate Decision-Making

Ensure representation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous communities, and climate-affected populations in all provincial climate planning and decision-making bodies.

Lead Agency: Planning & Development Department KP

Supporting Stakeholders: Women Commission KP, Local Governments, Civil Society Organizations, Academia

2. Establish Community Consultation Mechanisms

Make community consultations mandatory before the approval of climate adaptation and disaster management policies.

Lead Agency: Local Government Department

Supporting Stakeholders: District Administrations, Community Organizations, NGOs

3. Create District Climate Governance Forums

Establish district-level climate councils to connect local communities with provincial policymakers.

Lead Agency: Local Government Department

Supporting Stakeholders: District Governments, Universities, Civil Society

4. Strengthen Climate Policy Implementation Monitoring

Develop an independent monitoring mechanism to assess implementation and impact of climate-related legislation.

Lead Agency: Planning & Development Department

Supporting Stakeholders: Provincial Assembly Committees, Academia, Research Institutions

5. Integrate Climate Justice into Provincial Planning

Ensure climate policies explicitly address social inequality, poverty, disability, and geographic vulnerability.

Lead Agency: Planning & Development Department

Supporting Stakeholders: Social Welfare Department, Human Rights Commission, Development Partners

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Gender and Social Inclusion

6. Mandate Women's Participation in Climate Governance

Reserve meaningful decision-making roles for women in climate, environmental, and disaster-management institutions.

Lead Agency: Women Development Department

Supporting Stakeholders: Women Commission KP, Local Governments, Civil Society

7. Adopt Gender-Responsive Climate Budgeting

Require all climate-related departments to integrate gender-responsive budgeting frameworks.

Lead Agency: Finance Department KP

Supporting Stakeholders: Women Parliamentary Caucus, Planning & Development Department

8. Develop Women-Centered Disaster Response Protocols

Design evacuation, shelter, and relief systems that address women's safety, privacy, and health needs.

Lead Agency: PDMA KP

Supporting Stakeholders: Health Department, Women Development Department, Humanitarian Agencies

9. Improve Women's Access to Early Warning Systems

Expand communication channels to ensure women in rural areas receive timely disaster alerts.

Lead Agency: PDMA KP

Supporting Stakeholders: Telecom Operators, District Administrations, NGOs

10. Include Persons with Disabilities and Transgender Communities in Climate Planning

Mainstream disability and gender-diversity considerations into all climate adaptation strategies.

Lead Agency: Social Welfare Department

Supporting Stakeholders: Disability Organizations, Transgender Rights Groups, Local Governments

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Water Security and Resource Management

11. Launch Provincial Rainwater Harvesting Programmes

Introduce rooftop rainwater harvesting systems in public buildings, schools, and communities.

Lead Agency: Public Health Engineering Department (PHED)

Supporting Stakeholders: Local Governments, Universities, Development Partners

12. Scale Up Groundwater Recharge Projects

Replicate successful groundwater recharge initiatives across climate-vulnerable districts.

Lead Agency: Irrigation Department

Supporting Stakeholders: Agriculture Universities, PHED, Development Agencies

13. Develop a Provincial Water Efficiency Strategy

Promote efficient water use in agriculture, industry, and urban areas.

Lead Agency: Irrigation Department

Supporting Stakeholders: Agriculture Department, Industries Department

14. Regulate Groundwater Extraction

Introduce monitoring and licensing mechanisms to prevent unsustainable groundwater depletion.

Lead Agency: Irrigation Department

Supporting Stakeholders: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), District Governments

15. Establish Water Quality Monitoring Systems

Strengthen testing and monitoring of drinking water sources to address contamination risks.

Lead Agency: PHED

Supporting Stakeholders: Health Department, Environmental Protection Agency

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Agriculture and Livelihood Resilience

16. Support Farmer Cooperatives

Facilitate farmer groups and cooperatives to improve bargaining power, market access, and climate resilience.

Lead Agency: Agriculture Department

Supporting Stakeholders: Chambers of Commerce, Farmer Associations

17. Prioritize Smallholder Farmers in Climate Policies

Redirect agricultural support towards small landholders who form the majority of Pakistan's farming population.

Lead Agency: Agriculture Department

Supporting Stakeholders: Provincial Finance Department, Farmer Organizations

18. Expand Climate-Smart Agriculture Training

Provide district-level training on climate-resilient farming techniques.

Lead Agency: Agriculture Extension Department

Supporting Stakeholders: Universities, Research Institutes

19. Introduce Incentives for Sustainable Farming

Provide subsidies and incentives to discourage conversion of agricultural land into commercial developments.

Lead Agency: Agriculture Department

Supporting Stakeholders: Finance Department, Revenue Department

20. Build Women's Capacity in Rural Livelihood Sectors

Provide technical training and financial support for women working in agriculture, livestock, and mining.

Lead Agency: Women Development Department

Supporting Stakeholders: Agriculture Department, Labour Department

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

21. Expand Climate Data-Based Early Warning Systems

Utilize satellite, weather, and hazard mapping data to identify and monitor high-risk zones.

Lead Agency: PDMA KP

Supporting Stakeholders: Meteorological Department, Universities

22. Establish Community-Based Preparedness Networks

Train local volunteers and community groups in disaster preparedness and emergency response.

Lead Agency: PDMA KP

Supporting Stakeholders: Rescue 1122, NGOs, Local Governments

23. Protect Critical Infrastructure Against Climate Risks

Climate-proof roads, bridges, irrigation systems, and public facilities in vulnerable districts.

Lead Agency: Communication & Works Department

Supporting Stakeholders: Irrigation Department, Planning & Development Department

24. Develop Climate-Induced Displacement Frameworks

Prepare provincial plans to address migration caused by floods, droughts, and environmental degradation.

Lead Agency: Relief, Rehabilitation & Settlement Department

Supporting Stakeholders: Local Governments, Humanitarian Agencies

25. Integrate Human Rights Protection into Disaster Response

Address risks of child abuse, forced marriages, harassment, and exploitation following climate disasters.

Lead Agency: Human Rights Directorate KP

Supporting Stakeholders: Social Welfare Department, Police, NGOs

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Climate Education and Awareness

26. Integrate Climate Change into School Curricula

Introduce age-appropriate climate education across primary and secondary education.

Lead Agency: Education Department KP

Supporting Stakeholders: Curriculum Boards, Universities

27. Launch Provincial Climate Awareness Campaigns

Conduct sustained public awareness campaigns on climate risks, preparedness, and resource conservation.

Lead Agency: Information Department KP

Supporting Stakeholders: Media Organizations, Civil Society

28. Promote Youth Leadership in Climate Action

Create youth climate councils and volunteer networks at district and provincial levels.

Lead Agency: Youth Affairs Department

Supporting Stakeholders: Educational Institutions, DICE Forum, Civil Society

7. Science, Innovation and Climate Finance

29. Invest in Climate Research and Innovation

Support local scientists, universities, and technology developers to create climate adaptation solutions.

Lead Agency: Higher Education Department KP

Supporting Stakeholders: Universities, Research Institutes, Private Sector

30. Develop Climate Finance and Carbon Market Mechanisms

Explore carbon credit trading platforms and innovative climate-finance instruments to support adaptation and resilience projects.

Lead Agency: Finance Department KP

Supporting Stakeholders: SECP, Private Sector, Financial Institutions, Development Partners

Conclusion and Next Steps



The seminar on Climate Change and Inclusion was convened not as a standalone event but as the first step in a sustained policy engagement process. Its discussions confirmed both the urgency of the challenge and the depth of expertise, commitment, and practical knowledge that exists across Pakistan's policy, academic, civil society, and technical communities.

The conversations that took place at Governor House on 13 April 2026 made clear that the path forward requires three things above all: genuine inclusion of those most affected by climate change in the decisions that shape the response; institutional capacity and coordination strong enough to translate policy commitments into implemented action; and the political will to treat climate change as the governance and justice challenge it is, not merely an environmental one.

"The burden of climate change is not shared equally and neither can the responsibility for action be. Inclusion is not a feature of good climate policy. It is the foundation."

The DICE Forum commits to taking the insights and recommendations of this seminar forward through a series of follow-on activities:

- Expert roundtables on each of the four thematic areas, bringing together practitioners and policymakers to develop detailed, implementable recommendations.
- A formal policy brief consolidating the seminar's recommendations for submission to relevant government departments and parliamentary committees.
- Engagement with provincial and federal government partners to discuss incorporation of inclusion frameworks into climate governance policy.
- A second high-level dialogue to assess progress and expand the stakeholder network engaged in inclusive climate governance advocacy.

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MEDIA COVERAGE

KP governor stresses urgent action against climate change

 Web Apr 13, 2026



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PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday emphasised the need for immediate and effective measures to tackle the growing threat of climate change.

Calling climate change one of the most pressing challenges of the time, he said that more comprehensive and timely actions are required to mitigate its adverse impacts, though the government is actively taking steps to address climate-related issues

He said that climate change poses significant risks to the environment, economy, and public health, making it essential to respond with urgency, as he highlighted the seriousness of the situation.

The Kundi also stressed the importance of raising awareness among the public, saying that informed communities can play a crucial role in reducing environmental damage and adapting to changing conditions.

He urged all segments of society to contribute, adding that collective efforts are key to effectively combating climate change and ensuring a sustainable future.

Likewise, the Punjab government has directed authorities to complete all ongoing drainage and sewerage projects in 15 major cities before June, with round-the-clock work ordered to ensure completion ahead of the monsoon season.

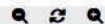
Chairing a special meeting on Sunday, Maryam Nawaz Sharif stressed the urgent need to finish sewerage lines and rainwater drainage systems to prevent urban flooding during heavy rains. She instructed officials to maintain a fast-track pace of work with strict monitoring at every level.

Governor Kundi calls for joint efforts to address climate change



Our Staff Reporter — April 14, 2026

Newspaper, Regional, Peshawar



Peshawar - Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday stressed the need for joint efforts to address climate change, terming it a real and growing threat with visible impacts across the country, particularly in the province.

He expressed these views while addressing a seminar titled "Climate Change and Inclusion," organized by [the DICE Forum](#) at Governor House, where he attended as chief guest.

The Governor highlighted that climate change effects, including irregular weather patterns, rapid glacier melting, floods and droughts, were increasingly affecting the province.

He said that these challenges were not only impacting the environment but also agriculture, water resources, infrastructure and the daily lives of people.

Kundi said such challenges should also be seen as opportunities to promote sustainable development, efficient resource utilization and better future planning.

He emphasized that dialogue-based platforms like seminars played a vital role in encouraging policy-making and raising awareness on key issues.

The seminar was attended by Chairperson [DICE Forum Aaliya Agha](#), Chairman ZLK Group Zahid Latif Khan, Dr Khalid Khan, Dr Sumera Shams, Shagufta Malik, Dr Arjumand Nizami, Engineer Ahmad Jan Khan, Dr Zubair Khan, Dr Rabia Gul, President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Junaid Altaf, Senior Vice President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Khalid Farooq, along with representatives of civil society, lawyers, students and women.

A panel discussion was also held where experts shared their insights and recommendations to cope with the challenges posed by climate change. The importance of tree plantation was particularly highlighted during the seminar.

The Governor appreciated the efforts of [DICE Forum](#) and its partners for organizing the event, saying that such initiatives were essential for promoting constructive discourse on critical issues.

At the end of the ceremony, the Governor distributed shields among participants and certificates among volunteers, while the organizers presented a commemorative shield to the Governor.

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KP Governor Calls for Joint Action on Climate



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Independent Report

PESHAWAR: KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi called for collective measures to tackle climate change while addressing a seminar organized by the DICE Forum at Governor House.

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He described climate change as a serious global threat, with visible impacts across Pakistan, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He emphasized the need for policy dialogue and coordinated strategies.

Despite being rich in natural resources, forests, and rivers, the province is facing adverse climate impacts affecting agriculture, water resources, infrastructure, and daily life, he added.

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KP, Balochistan face similar security challenges: governor

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday said that KP and Balochistan were facing similar challenges, particularly terrorism, due to their proximity to the Afghan border, stressing the need for intelligence-based operations to ensure lasting peace.

He expressed these views while talking to participants of the 19th National Workshop Balochistan, who visited Governor's House here under the leadership of Brigadier Bilal Ghafoor.

The delegation, comprising students from Balochistan's universities, media persons and members of political and social sectors, discussed with the governor various issues, including the overall situation of the province, NPC Award and merged tribal districts.

The governor said that Pakistan's successful facilitation of US-Iran talks in Islamabad reflected effective diplomacy and that the country not only avoided the impact of potential conflict but also brought both sides to the negotiation table, enhancing its global stature.

Responding to questions, he said the province was facing Indian-backed terrorism along the Afghan border and reiterated that intelligence-based operations were crucial for sustainable peace.

Mr Kundi said that Afghan nationals had been found involved in several terrorism incidents in the province.

Highlighting financial constraints, he said only Rs4 billion had been allocated for 34 public sector universities in the province, which was insufficient to achieve desired edu-

cational outcomes.

The governor said that despite being the highest producer of oil and gas, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa still lacked an oil refinery.

Meanwhile, Governor Kundi stressed the need for joint efforts to address climate change, terming it a real and growing threat with visible impacts across the country, particularly in the province.

He was addressing a seminar, titled Climate Change and Inclusion, organised by the DICE Forum at Governor's House, where he was the chief guest.

The governor said that climate change effects, including irregular weather patterns, rapid glacier melting, floods and

droughts, were increasingly affecting the province.

He said that these challenges were not only impacting the environment but also agriculture, water resources, infrastructure and the daily lives of people.

Mr Kundi said such challenges should also be seen as opportunities to promote sustainable development, efficient resource utilisation and better future planning.

He emphasised that dialogue-based platforms like seminars played a vital role in encouraging policy-making and raising awareness on key issues.

The seminar was attended by Chairperson of DICE Forum Aaliya Agha, Chairman of ZLK Group Zahid Latif Khan, Dr Khalid Khan, Dr Sumera Shams, Shagufta Malik, Dr Arjumand Nizami, Engineer Ahmad Jan Khan, Dr Zubair Khan, Dr Rabia Gul, President of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Junaid Altaf, Senior Vice President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Khalid Farooq, along with representatives of civil society, lawyers, students and women.

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KP Governor Urges Climate Action as Punjab Accelerates Drainage Projects

Date: April 13, 2026

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has called for urgent and effective measures to combat Climate Change, describing it as one of the most pressing challenges of the present time. Speaking in Peshawar, he emphasised that while the government is taking steps to address environmental issues, more comprehensive and timely actions are needed to mitigate its growing impacts on the environment, economy, and public health.

He highlighted the importance of public awareness, noting that informed communities can play a vital role in reducing environmental damage and adapting to changing conditions. Stressing collective responsibility, Kundi urged all segments of society to contribute towards ensuring a sustainable future.

Meanwhile, in Punjab, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed authorities to expedite drainage and sewerage projects across 15 major cities ahead of the monsoon season. Chairing a high-level meeting, she ordered round-the-clock work and strict monitoring to prevent urban flooding during heavy rains.

The development plan includes laying over 2,265 kilometres of sewerage lines and 189 kilometres of stormwater drains, along with construction of disposal stations and storage tanks, alongside rehabilitation of roads.

TAGS Governor Faisal Karim

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