

Climate Change Litigation and Pakistan's Perspective

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Abstract

Climate change represents one of humanity's most pressing challenges, significantly affecting ecosystems worldwide. Climate change is evident through extreme weather events, irregular precipitation patterns, glacial melting, rising sea levels, uneven temperature trends, elevated ocean temperatures, and detrimental effects on natural ecosystems and biodiversity. Over the past decade, there has been a notable increase in climate change litigation, accompanied by a growing body of legal and social science literature analyzing these cases. Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement, climate litigation has surged, marked by various innovative elements, including landmark rulings, a diverse array of participants, and a wide range of litigation goals on a global scale. The planet is currently under significant threat from climate change, primarily driven by human activities such as fossil fuel combustion. This contributes to rising global temperatures and results in more frequent extreme weather events, including heatwaves, floods, droughts, and severe storms. Additionally, rising sea levels, melting glaciers, and disruptions to ecosystems and biodiversity pose serious risks to human populations and the environment. The impact of the climate crisis extends beyond humans, affecting wildlife and their habitats, which are likely to undergo profound and potentially catastrophic changes. Rising temperatures may lead to delicate ecosystems collapsing and triggering widespread extinction. Currently, the earth is approximately 1.1°C (2°F) warmer than it was in the 1800s, and projections indicate that global temperatures could increase by 2.7°C (4.8°F) by the century's end. The long-term effects of these temperature and weather pattern shifts on the planet's fragile, interconnected ecosystems remain uncertain, as changes in one area can influence others, affecting various animal species. Individuals are increasingly turning to the courts regarding climate change, believing that governments and other entities are responsible for addressing these pressing issues.

Keywords: Climate Change, Hazards, Sustainable Development.

Introduction

One phenomenon that has become relatively clear is climate change. Unlike common belief, climate change is a growing issue with significant hazards (Hansen et al., 2025). Two primary elements define the fundamental problem: people's ignorance of the consequences of their activities and the pace at which this crisis is developing. Leaders everywhere are not on the same page either. Following his swearing as the 47th president of America, he swiftly issued an executive order pulling out from the unjust, one-sided Paris Climate Accord (Jain et al., 2022). "The United States will not sabotage our industries while China pollutes with impunity," said he (Iwabuchi, 2022).

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Though it is not a new idea, climate change is among the three existential hazards to humans. Broadly covering many environmental issues, climate change often causes misinterpretation, primarily because of inadequate knowledge of the differences between global warming and climate change (Schoeberl et al., 2024). One of the several aspects of climate change, global warming, affects communities all around incredibly negatively. The degree of its consequences on communities worldwide, which is anticipated to become more severe as temperatures keep rising, is the leading cause of great worry (Whyte, 2020). For example, since pre-industrial times, worldwide average temperatures have increased by almost 1.2°C, resulting in more frequent and severe heat waves, drenches, and extreme weather events (NASA, 2023).

People and countries with little resources or poor educational possibilities are less suited than others to take advantage of economic operations. They are less ready to face and recover from major challenges (Hansen et al., 2023). They lack the means to protect themselves against the whole weight of these problems. Along with increased threats to their life owing to climate change, billions of people—especially in undeveloped and emerging nations—are expected to experience serious food and water shortages in the following decades (Adnan et al., 2024). The World Bank estimates that 2025 climate change might drive 143 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America to flee their nations (Rigaud et al., 2018). Before it is too late, these countries desperately and constantly need to apply sensible solutions (Fesenfeld & Rinscheid, 2021).

The anthropogenic era's climate change has been raising the Earth's temperature and generating negative changes to our surroundings (Agrawal & Rook, 2014). The ecological equilibrium for present and next generations is in danger from greenhouse gas emissions brought on by human activity. Among the several adverse effects, human rights abuses are significantly rising (Priya et al., 2023). Initiated at local, national, and international levels, efforts to slow down climate change's effects will help create a safe and livable Earth for current and subsequent generations. The world came together in 2015 to support a historic accord meant to mitigate the effects of climate change and advance sustainable development (Zhou & Gu, 2024). Adopted in December 2015, the Paris Agreement aims to keep the rise in world temperature to no more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels (UNFCCC, 2015). The Paris Agreement's preamble emphasizes even more the need to carry out actions to protect sensitive groups from the effects of climate change (Falduto et al., 2024). In cases when legislative and policy frameworks fail to handle climate crises, the court has become increasingly important in many nations (including the United States, UK, Pakistan, and India) to guarantee the defense of citizens' rights concerning climate issues.

Policy Statement

Pakistan is in the tropical region of the globe. It is the region where climate change is causing more disasters. The area of Pakistan is more sensitive to climate change than others (Syed et al., 2022). According to the report of the United Nations Environment Program, the impacts of climate change on agriculture, forestry, water resources and agriculture is a more significant threat to Pakistan. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns and increased frequency of extreme weather events due to climate change adversely affect food and livelihood security, leading to land degradation and increased displacement (Duchenne et al., 2021). Pakistan will likely face extreme weather conditions in the coming years (Ajani & van der Geest, 2021).

Furthermore, Adnan et al. (2024) Pakistan does not have enough resources to help its citizens protect themselves from this natural disaster. Approximately one billion people live in places with high or very high climate hazard exposure. Many of the most at-risk populations reside in least-

developed countries. Within a population, women, the young, the elderly and the poor are most disadvantaged and vulnerable to the effects of change. Pakistan is among the top nine countries that face the highest risk of climate hazards (Global Peace Index, 2019).

The adverse impacts of climate change are extensive and diverse. It happens over various timeframes, causing severe weather events such as heavy rainfall, storms, hurricanes, and phenomena that develop gradually, like sea level rise, ocean acidification, melting ice masses, coastal erosion, biodiversity loss, and decreasing soil productivity. The impacts of these changes can already be seen worldwide (Syed et al., 2022). The frequency and severity of impacts are increasing. Depending on our greenhouse gas emission ('GHG') trajectories. Floods and torrential rainfalls persist as one of the most frequent and devastating disasters (Ahmad et al., 2022), affecting millions worldwide, especially in developing countries (Ahmad & Afzal, 2022). The likelihood of such events has increased due to the rising frequency of extreme weather conditions. In 2023, Pakistan experienced unprecedented flooding that submerged a third of the country (Ahmad & Afzal, 2019), displacing 30 million people and resulting in a staggering cost of US \$ 30 billion and 2,200 lives. The financial burden of flood adaptation and mitigation measures compounded this immediate human toll. Cases are diversifying and evolving rapidly, ranging from seeking to penalize illegal activities such as deforestation, greenwashing, fraud, and failure of fiduciary duties.

A well-defined legal strategy must be developed to address the challenges of climate change, which will likely become a significant responsibility for the legal profession (Higham & Setzer, 2023). The judiciary plays a crucial role in interpreting current laws to create a new legal framework in light of the escalating effects of greenhouse gas emissions and the continuous economic activities that influence all aspects of human productivity, daily life, and the ongoing global climate change discussions. If adequate measures are not implemented, the consequences could be severe.

What Is Climate Litigation?

Climate lawsuits are legal challenges brought by individuals, groups, or organizations (Lim & Varottil, 2022) against governments or corporations over failures to take adequate action on climate change. These lawsuits are rooted in the belief that these entities must protect the environment and, by extension, the public from the adverse effects of climate change. They leverage existing environmental laws, public trust doctrines, and, increasingly, human rights frameworks to argue their cases (Savaresi et al., 2024).

Climate lawsuits seek to hold entities accountable for contributing to global warming through emissions of greenhouse gases, quoted by Alanna Belmont (4 December 2024), failure to enforce environmental regulations, or misleading the public about the impacts of climate change. Plaintiffs in these cases range from activist groups and local communities to entire cities and states. Defendants are typically fossil fuel companies, large polluters, corporations, business entrepreneurs and governmental bodies. The legal claims often revolve around negligence or constitutional or human rights violations, arguing that inadequate climate action infringes on health rights, a clean environment, and, in some cases, life (Ahmad et al., 2023; Nguyen et al., 2023). Over the last two decades, annual climate litigation cases have grown from below 10 to over 200 by 2021 (Glob. Clim. Litig. Rep. 2023 Status Rev., 2023). Of these, just under 10% are filed against corporations, and the remainder against government bodies or other entities in 2021. Claims are expected to grow further following successful cases that generate more momentum.

Climate litigation serves as an essential mechanism for driving change, urging governments and corporations to prioritize and expedite their climate initiatives by proper scientific guidance and

international accords. Climate lawsuits are founded on a combination of environmental law, human rights assertions, and, in certain jurisdictions, dedicated climate change statutes (Savaresi et al., 2024). These legal proceedings aim not only to alleviate the impacts of climate change but also to ensure that those responsible for contributing to global warming are held accountable. This discussion delves into the legal foundations that support these lawsuits (Ganguly, 2024; Sato et al., 2023).

Climate litigation around the world has doubled in recent years. According to a recent report published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), it has become an essential, dynamic, and popular tool for tackling the climate crisis. Furthermore, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in its sixth report, stated that there is now "growing academic consensus suggesting that climate litigation has become a powerful force in climate governance" (Setzer & Vanhala, 2019). Due to various reasons, governments, especially in developing countries, are arguing and giving space, or pseudo-intellectuals and business entrepreneurs are emphasizing that the government does not take stringent steps against development works, and such policies are being adopted in the name of development and progress (Gaffikin, 2023; Jones & Steven, 2014). It is an obvious fact that the increasing severity and scope of climate impacts and the inadequacy of public and private sector responses have led to a surge in lawsuits seeking to hold governments and corporations accountable for their contributions to climate change.

In September 2015, Judge Syed Mansoor Ali Shah (Peel & Osofsky, 2018) of the Lahore High Court in Pakistan made history with his finding that the national government's delay in implementing the country's climate policy framework violated citizens' fundamental rights. A few months earlier, the Hague District Court in the Netherlands handed down its decision in *Urgenda*. The State of the Netherlands to considerably more media fanfare (Peel & Osofsky, 2018). The Hague District Court ordered the Dutch government to adopt more stringent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction measures in line with international scientific recommendations (Simlinger & Mayer, 2019). In the academic and media commentary that followed the *Urgenda* decision, much was made of the case being the first to use a tortious cause of action to hold a government accountable for its inadequate climate change mitigation efforts (Preston, 2021). Far less remarked upon were the rights-based arguments by the Dutch non-governmental organization (NGO) *Urgenda* in support of its contention that the Dutch government was not doing enough to protect its citizens from climate change harm. Unlike the Lahore High Court in the *Leghari* case, which based its decision on the breach of rights obligations, the Hague District Court did not find a violation of the petitioners' human rights in *Urgenda*. Nonetheless, it gave serious consideration to the arguments based on human rights. It used rights as an interpretative tool to analyze whether the Dutch government had breached its duty of care towards *Urgenda* and the Dutch people.

Methodology

The study focuses on climate change litigation research from 2000 to 2023. It comprehensively analyzes research articles published in research and law journals, judicial orders, and international and national case details. The data is collected from legal databases such as Westlaw, LexisNexis, and Hein Online to retrieve judicial opinions and case summaries. Additionally, international treaties and reports from sources such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), IPCC reports, and national climate policies, enacted laws, rules, and regulations are used to contextualize the legal frameworks within which cases operate. Orders from

the Apex Court of Pakistan and High Courts were also carefully reviewed to ascertain the gravity of the matter.

Data Sources

Our main source of data is the Climate Change Laws of the Database, an open-access searchable data created and maintained by the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics and Political Science. The database is a joint initiative with the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School, using cases, data, and summaries identified and prepared by Sabin Center staff and their partners (including the authors of this report) and included in the Center's Global Climate Litigation Database. We also sought data assistance from the website of the Apex Court, newspapers, judgments published in law magazines, and articles published by scholars.

Litigation Collection

To the extent possible, we have collected all climate litigation lawsuits—involving climate as a material issue—anywhere in the world against North American and European companies between 2000 and 2023. Our main source of data is the climate litigation databases maintained by the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law with contributions from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Data was taken in March 2023. The Sabin Center maintains two separate databases, one for US litigation and one for 'global' litigation (all cases outside the United States). Together, these databases contain more than 2,600 cases before judicial and quasi-judicial bodies that involve material issues of climate change science, policy, or law. Cases where climate change is only incidental to the main issues are excluded from the Sabin databases.

Debate and Awareness

There can be no doubt that climate litigation sparks fervent debate and promotes social awareness on the topic. Climate litigation's strategic character aims at making science and information more accessible to public opinion in democratic regimes. However, problems such as the lack of concrete empirical studies that can measure its overall effectiveness in promoting climate goals, the precise delimitation of the scope of control that judges hold when adjudicating political-scientific issues, the evolution of the science of attribution for more properly drawing the causality chain when adjudicating liabilities, as well as the legal theoretical hurdles in rights-based litigation are a constant source of debate among legal scholars.

Research Methodology

The research methodology used in this article is a mix of literature review and case studies. According to Smith and Sahramäki (2024), understanding the legal framework and existing research through literature reviews provides a solid foundation for further analysis (Eisenhardt, 1989). This approach is supported by Yin (2018), who emphasizes the importance of case studies in understanding complex social phenomena (Dao et al., 2024). Creswell and Poth (2017) also highlight the significance of literature reviews in qualitative research and outline various qualitative research designs, including case studies (Creswell, 2023). Furthermore, Eisenhardt (1989) underscores the value of case study research in theory building and provides a detailed methodology for conducting case studies. By employing a comparative qualitative research design, this study aims to investigate the role of climate change litigation in shaping and reforming global

environmental policy, examining different jurisdictions' responses and identifying patterns, trends, and unique approaches through case law analysis.

Causes of Climate Litigations

- Human activities, along with the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, can lead to significant adverse effects on the environment, property, and public health. This scenario paves the way for possible legal actions against governments or corporations engaged in commercial activities. Historically, affected individuals have sought recourse in the courts regarding the climate impacts stemming from governmental decisions or the government's failure to regulate specific activities.
- A notable example is Asghar Leghari, a farmer from Pakistan, who took legal action against the national government for its neglect in enforcing the National Climate Change Policy established in 2012, as well as the Framework for Implementation of Climate Change Policy for the period 2014-2030. Leghari argued that the government had a responsibility to undertake measures related to climate mitigation and adaptation. He asserted that the government's inability to achieve its climate change adaptation objectives had led to significant repercussions for Pakistan's water, food, and energy security, thereby infringing upon his fundamental right to life. On September 4, 2015, a Pakistani appellate court upheld Leghari's claims, characterizing climate change as a critical challenge of our era. The court referenced both domestic and international legal standards, concluding that "the State's delay and inaction in executing the Framework violated the fundamental rights of its citizens." It reasoned that the constitutional rights to life and human dignity, as outlined in Articles 9 and 14 of the Constitution, encompass the right to a healthy and clean environment.
- In the notable case of Urgenda Foundation v. The State of the Netherlands (2015), the court accepted claims by citizens and the Urgenda Foundation that the Dutch government has a constitutional duty to protect its citizens from climate change. The court ordered the Dutch government to reduce carbon emissions by at least 25 percent by 2020. This decision was upheld on appeal in October 2018, confirming that the State was acting unlawfully by failing to pursue a more ambitious reduction (European Convention on Human Rights, Articles 2 and 8).
- The Urgenda case has inspired numerous other cases. For instance, in *foster v. Washington Department of Ecology*, the Department of Ecology was ordered to issue an emissions reduction rule following a court order. Additionally, in 2017, Friends of the Irish Environment brought an action against the Irish government for its inadequate National Mitigation Plan, claiming it violated Ireland's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and international commitments under the Paris Agreement (hearing scheduled for January 2019).
- For defending companies, these lawsuits may have multiple repercussions. Direct or tangible costs include legal fees, fines or penalties, higher insurance costs and changes to credit ratings which could increase capital costs and decrease their financial leverage
- The legal grounds for climate litigation are specific to the substantive and procedural laws of the jurisdiction in which the lawsuits are filed. Climate-related lawsuits typically involve allegations that the parties being sued have by act or omission exacerbated climate change, failed to mitigate or effectively adapt to the effects of climate change, or lacked adequate transparency in their climate-related disclosures.
- According to a 2023 report by the UN Environment Program and the Sabin Center, climate litigation tends to fall into six broad categories:

- Cases linked to human rights as part of national and international laws.
- Domestic nonenforcement of climate-related laws and policies.
- The extraction of fossil fuels.
- The extent and quality of climate disclosures.
- Corporate liability and responsibility for climate damage.
- Failure to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Recent litigation shares commonalities with significant issues highlighted by the international community at COP26, including the need to increase ambition and action from countries, phase down the use of all fossil fuels across the energy sector, emphasize the importance of human rights, and collaborate across sectors and society to deliver effective climate action and a just transition (United Nations, 2023). Additionally, it underscores the importance of using finance as a lever for systemic change (UN Environment Program & Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, 2023). According to a 2023 report by the UN Environment Program and the Sabin Center, five areas to watch in the coming year include cases involving personal responsibility, cases challenging commitments that over-rely on greenhouse gas removals or 'negative emissions' technologies, cases focused on short-lived climate pollutants, cases explicitly concerned with the climate and biodiversity nexus, and strategies exploring legal recourse for the 'loss and damage' resulting from climate change (UN Environment Program & Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, 2023).
- The changing climatic conditions are evident through rising sea levels, extreme heat and hot summers, floods, cyclones, damage to agriculture productivity, health impacts, and increasing disasters in Pakistan. These conditions have led to litigation claiming environmental justice being reported to the courts. The main causes of such litigations are water and air pollution, violation of fundamental rights, human rights, and writs seeking orders for statutory authorities to play their role in avoiding climate change and violations of environmental protection norms and laws (Ajani & van der Geest, 2021).
- The cumulative number of climate-related cases launched has more than quadrupled over the past 10 years, rising to 2,410 in 2023 from 581 in 2013. This trend reflects societal pressure and increasing awareness of the impacts of climate change as data and information on physical climate risks and transition risks become more available and accessible worldwide (UN Environment Program & Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, 2023).
- Oil and gas companies remain a key focus of climate-related litigation, but the range of sectors involved has been slowly widening since 2021. Research from Setzer and Higham (2023) shows an extension of such litigation to include most sectors, but in particular travel, food and tobacco manufacturing, financial, chemicals, and utilities. One of the reasons for this diversification is the increase in cases focused on the alleged misrepresentation of environmental credentials by entities. For instance, in 2023, environmental groups filed the first climate-related lawsuit against a commercial bank, BNP Paribas, for its continued financing of fossil fuels. And, in January 2024, Friends of the Earth Netherlands announced it is initiating a climate-related lawsuit against ING Group on similar grounds. We see a trend of so-called climate-accountability lawsuits in the U.S., where mainly oil and gas companies are sued for their alleged role in climate-related damage and deception. In September 2023, the State of California filed a case against five oil majors claiming those companies had deceived the public by downplaying risks posed by fossil fuels and causing billions of dollars in damage (Horton, 2004).

- Climate lawsuits are built on a mix of environmental law, human rights claims, and, in some jurisdictions, specific climate change legislation. These legal actions seek not only to mitigate the effects of climate change but also to hold responsible parties accountable for their roles in contributing to global warming. Climate change constitutes a significant human rights concern, as every individual deserves the autonomy to lead a life marked by dignity. The ongoing climate crisis, however, results in the loss of lives, livelihoods, languages, and cultures, endangering many individuals with food and water scarcity and inciting displacement and conflict (UN Environment Program & Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, 2023). Furthermore, the climate crisis obstructs the right to health, with escalating temperatures, a higher occurrence of extreme weather events, and contaminated air and water leading to serious health repercussions such as heat-related illnesses, disease outbreaks, malnutrition, and psychological trauma stemming from experiences of disasters (World Health Organization, 2023).

Impacts

- **Climate change litigation**

Climate change litigation has amplified the global sense of urgency and public awareness surrounding climate change-related risks. This increase in litigation is driven by national laws and international commitments, creating a new class of legal action. Judicial orders, research articles published in journals, and data shared by scientists and environmental experts have significantly increased the volume of litigation. This surge is placing a heavy burden on governments and corporate companies to strictly follow environmental laws in order to avert imminent danger to the planet. Lawsuits targeting specific policies and regulations aimed at curbing fossil fuel production and use are crucial. By blocking or delaying construction projects, these legal actions limit access to new fossil fuels, potentially leading to emission reductions (Setzer & Vanhala, 2019).

- **Climate Change and Global Action**

Climate change is now firmly on the global agenda, prompting action by political and business leaders around the world. The October 2018 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the impacts of global warming concluded that reducing carbon emissions below 1.5°C pre-industrial levels would require "rapid and far-reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities". The two biggest players on the global stage—the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 13)—both target greenhouse gas emissions². Government action to meet these commitments has the domino effect of changing expectations for corporate action, investor diligence on climate change risk, and the role of state and local authorities. A further effect is the casting of a wide net for potential liability and, by extension, climate-related justice (Adnan et al., 2024; Falduto et al., 2024).

- **Legal Avenues for Climate Change and Loss & Damage**

When international climate diplomacy fails to advance, affected people may take legal avenues to address the problem of Loss & Damage. By going to court, they can claim that large emitters should take responsibility for Loss & Damage. Based on COP decision 1/CP.21, the Paris Agreement and its Article 8 on Loss & Damage do not "involve or provide a basis for any liability or compensation" (§51). However, the COP decision "cannot exclude the application

of the general rules on liability and compensation between states” – hence, the formulation does not limit the application of other international duties, international law, and national legal systems (UNFCCC, 2015).

- **Evolving Nature of Climate Litigation**

Over time, the nature of climate litigation has evolved. Earlier cases, such as those against oil, gas, and electric companies in the US and Europe, focused more on damages and suing for compensation on the basis that the corporations’ actions had exacerbated damages suffered as a result of extreme weather events. Now, we see a broader range of cases brought under public law, environmental law, tort/delict, human rights, constitutional law, criminal law, and international law. Cases are diversifying and evolving rapidly, ranging from those seeking to penalize illegal activities such as deforestation, to 'climate-washing' claims and failure of fiduciary duties. An example is the 2018 case where Enea was sued by Client Earth, claiming directors were not acting in the best interest of investors because a planned new coal plant would ultimately become a stranded asset.

- **Government and Corporate Accountability**

Social scientists and environmental experts are pressing governments to take strict and punitive action against organizations and corporations for their environmental impacts, particularly in relation to climate change. They are emphasizing swift action under environmental laws such as the Environmental Protection Act, 1997, and the Constitution of Pakistan 1973, including Article 9 and other fundamental rights. This includes both vertical actions (against the provincial government for policy failure) and horizontal actions (against private corporations). Key actors involved include corporations, the state, civil society organizations, and the judiciary (Haque, 2022).

- **Climate Change Science and Duties of Care**

Crucially, the science of climate change is developing linkages to potential duties of care, facilitating alternative approaches for those seeking to demonstrate responsibility for climate change risks and increasing pressure on governmental and non-governmental actors to propel the transition to decarbonization. This has implications for entities in carbon-intensive sectors, energy production, and infrastructure development (Carbon Brief, 2020).

Several cases have been brought forward against Carbon Majors for failing to properly inform the public of the risks of climate change. For example, in *Commonwealth v. Exxon*, the Massachusetts Attorney General accused the firm of failing to disclose climate change risks and the role their products play, as well as of climate-washing.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has addressed the obligations of states in respect of climate change through an advisory opinion request initiated by the UN General Assembly in 2023. You can find more information [here](#).

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) has issued an advisory opinion considering a request by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law to define states’ responsibilities under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to mitigate climate impacts on marine environments. You can find more information [here](#).

Conclusion

Climate change is a multifarious catastrophe that significantly affects ecosystems, economics, and global societies; it is not only an environmental one. Rising global temperatures, extreme storms, and growing abuses of human rights all point to the necessity of tackling climate change—never clearer than it is now. Legal channels—especially climate litigation—have become more important weapons in keeping governments and businesses responsible as well as in advocating more forceful climate change. Cases such as *Leghari v. Federation of Pakistan* and *Urgenda Foundation v. The State of the Netherlands* show how important the court is in implementing climate policies and safeguarding people's rights to a clean surroundings. But there are many difficulties on the road to significant climate action, especially for underdeveloped countries with few resources.

Pakistan is quite sensitive to the effects of climate change even although it contributes rather little to world greenhouse gas emissions. Geographic location, economic reliance, and sociopolitical dynamics of the nation all contribute to increase its vulnerability to climate-induced events. Strong legal systems and sensible climate policies are very vital as floods, heat waves, and other extreme weather events get more common and severe. Climate change litigation in Pakistan, best shown by the historic case of *Asghar Leghari*, emphasizes the need of court action in pressing the government to act in the public interest.

Though much has been achieved, major gaps still exist in fully tackling the climate issue. Both national and international initiatives must be stepped up to lessen the negative consequences of climate change and protect sensitive groups. Achieving climate justice depends critically on including human rights issues into climate policies and supporting sustainable development practices.

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