

National Religious Coalition on Creation Care

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The Honorable Imran Khan
Prime Minister of the Islamic State of Pakistan
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The American religious organization, The National Religious Coalition on Creation Care (NRCCC), has served since 1999 as a voice for American religious organizations before government. We represent Roman Catholic and Evangelical Christian organizations, Mainline Protestants, Jewish, Eastern Orthodox plus smaller religious groups. We sponsor the annual National Prayer Breakfast for Creation Care, conduct educational visits to legislators on key issues, and develop specialty conferences and advocacies.

At times we have journeyed to The World Bank to advocate for funds to assist particular causes. For example the NRCCC's advocacy before World Bank leaders has raised \$92 million for reforestation in the Mexican states of Oaxaca, Michiocan and Chiapas.

As representatives of religion in America, we are willing to volunteer our advocacy to aid the people of the Islamic State of Pakistan. We know that climate change is already bringing increasing drought and extreme weather events to the Pakistani people. The monsoons will become increasingly erratic; the glaciers of the Hindu Kush-Karakoram will melt and threaten the Indus river system; flooding is likely to increase and agricultural productivity will decline, perhaps by as much as 8% to 15% or more. Similarly, Pakistan's rising temperatures are being boosted because forests are being destroyed as people clear areas for housing and other development. The trend is also resulting in less fertile land for farming.

These threats and others not easily anticipated will lead to major survival concerns for the citizens of Pakistan. Climate change is affecting all nations, yet Pakistan is particularly vulnerable. Some of its hazards cannot be prevented, but their impact can surely be minimized by adaptation and proper preparedness. According to research by Dr. Adil Najam at Lahore University, proper climate adaptation practices could result in a net agricultural productivity gain of up to 40%. Similarly the proposal by Prime Minister Imran Khan to plant ten billion trees is another important step.

From a spiritual perspective as people of one God, we share the same earth. We share similar hopes and aspirations. We all value peace, family and hope that our children can experience a better world. Just as climate change impacts us all, we also share one common set of solutions to the need to reduce carbon emissions and to transition to clean renewable sources of energy.

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We also share the fact that we now live in the midst of a planetary-wide emergency. With increasing alarm, scientists declare that we have only a short period of time in which to avert an escalating, unmanageable cascade of changes that will render the planet ungovernable, possibly even uninhabitable. If we continue with a business as usual mentality, scientists warn us that we risk raising average global temperatures to a level that would destroy life as we know it.

As people of faith, we intuitively know that it is morally wrong and sinful to leave a ruined world for our children and generations yet unborn. We have a moral responsibility to stop the surge of extinctions now underway because of climate change. These extinctions threaten the viability of humanity's food supply. Therefore, we refuse to stand by while the lives of the poor are devastated and displaced, suffering first and most grievously from the effects of climate change.

For these reasons, we lend our prayers and support to the people of Pakistan as you face some of the most traumatizing impacts of global climate change.

To demonstrate our support, we can provide several services to your situation. We can advocate for funding for your massive tree planting program. Ten billion trees can do a great deal to absorb carbon dioxide and lessen the impact of the climate change. That will benefit not only Pakistan, but the whole world.

We can provide expertise in "blockchain" technology which is a cutting edge system that is enormously helpful in addressing the difficulties of measuring, reporting, and verifying (MRV) forest restoration and conservation projects. MRV is crucial for securing international funding for reforestation efforts.

For example, according to Dr. Richard Miller at Creighton University, the government of Norway has over \$1 billion set aside to help plant forests in developing nations. Indonesia sought those funds, but because it does not yet have a MRV system that can guarantee that the money will go to preserving the forests, Norway has not given Indonesia any funds. With a proper system of verification, Pakistan could receive financial assistance from Norway's conservation fund as well as funds from other global sources.

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that for temperatures to remain under 1.5 degree C, we have roughly 12 years to make drastic cuts in CO2 emissions . More precisely we must cut emissions 45% below 2010 levels by 2030 to reach this goal of 1.5 degrees C.

Yes, this is an enormous challenge. But if we bring the courage, the sacrifice and the willingness to work cooperatively with our neighbors around the world, we can achieve this goal.

Yours in service to God's good earth,

Frederick W. Krueger

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Executive coordinator