

CLIMATE CHANGE A GREATER THREAT TO HUMANITY THAN TERRORISM

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Abstract

The paper under analysis considers climate change as a complex threat to socio-economic life in Pakistan and national security, comparing it with the effects of terrorism. A special mix of environmental exposure and a historical vulnerability to terrorism makes Pakistan an exceptional case to examine the ranking of the threats facing humanity. This article explores disasters caused by climate, the 2022 monsoon floods and compares them to cases of terrorism, the APS Peshawar attack, through the comparative case study methodology. Government report data, international agencies and peer-reviewed sources are utilized to determine magnitude and duration and the social-economic effects of the two threats. The results indicate that climate change has extensive, chronic and systemic effects on livelihoods, infrastructure and governance than terrorism, which is periodic, local and can be dealt in a manner similar to security. The paper concludes that climate change is a more serious risk to human security and state stability in Pakistan in the long run. The policy implications include integrating climate adaptation planning in the national security planning, enhancing disaster risk reduction systems and setting priorities for long-term resilience strategies.

INTRODUCTION

To determine whether climate change represents a more significant multidimensional security threat to Pakistan than terrorism, this report will review the socio-economic and long-term impacts of climate change on the country and national-security. It reviews the literature on climate change as a security issue, and compares that to literature on economic and social impacts of terrorism. According to the latest studies, the increase in climate risks in Pakistan (e.g. floods, droughts, water shortage) deteriorates livelihoods, health, and infrastructure of the population, which can lead to the destabilization of society on a larger scale than terrorism (Burke et al., 2023). Terrorism, by contrast, leads to acute loss of life and property but with less localized and one-dimensional effects (Ahmed, 2021). The literature

also says that climate change is a threat multiplier, which increases vulnerabilities (poverty, resource competition, displacement). The report places these problems in the human security perspective by stating that terrorism and climate change should be perceived as non-conventional challenges to socio-economic stability. It concludes that although terrorism is a severe issue of immediate security, stresses caused by climate change may have more extended and long-term effects on Pakistan's economy, governance, and social cohesion. Among the policy implications are that climate adaptation must be integrated into the national security planning and that socio-economic resilience in the vulnerable areas must be strengthened (Climate change, terrorism and potential implications for P/CVE: 2023).

Current security discussions are increasingly taking into consideration non-traditional threats such as environmental change in addition to conventional threats like terrorism. To illustrate, Sir David Attenborough emphasized that climate change is the largest threat to security in human history (UNSC, 2021). On the same note, the Obama government claimed that climate change is more of a direct threat to the lives of individuals than terrorism (ABC News, 2015). By contrast, decades of militant violence have dominated the public discourse of Pakistan and its policy, even though this is not always explicit. Pakistan has always been one of the worst-affected countries by terrorism, despite thousands of people being killed, and the economy lost an estimated 3% of the GDP every year due to violence (Gasura et al., 2023). Therefore, the conventional security policies are aimed at combating terrorism and rebellion.

Nevertheless, Pakistan is highly prone to climatic threats as well. It is frequently hit by devastating flooding, long droughts, heat waves and meltdown of glaciers, that disrupt agricultural activities, send millions of people displaced and putting the governments under strain (Fatima, 2025). To give an example, the 2022 monsoon floods covered one-third of the state and directly caused losses of about 5% of GDP (Fatima, 2025). Such effects imply that climate change will bring a long-term socio-economic insecurity through eroded livelihood and infrastructure.

This paper analyses these antagonistic threats. It is influenced by human-security and non-traditional security paradigms, expanding the meaning of security to the economic, food, water and environmental aspects (Arnall, 2023). It is in this light this study examines how climate change and terrorism both contribute to the socio-economic instability in Pakistan, and how long-term risks to national security owing to climate change measure against those associated with terrorism.

This study conceptualizes climate change is as a threat multiplier that will increase poverty, scarcity of resources and displacement (Wells, 2023). we oppose it to the immediate shocks of terrorism. The theoretical approach underlines that the two phenomena have significant impact on human and state security due to their socio-economic outcomes.

Climate Change as a Security Menace

Climate change has emerged as one of the main security issues of the world by scholars. In a wide agreement scholars observe that climate change can destroy the security of nation states and individuals, making such security vulnerable to exacerbate the existing economic and political vulnerability (UNSC 2021). Humanitarian crises can spill across borders, caused by climate shocks such as, severe flooding, extended drought and heat waves. To take but one example, WRI analysts caution that climate calamities in Pakistan will disrupt an already politically unstable country, triggering national and international security issues in the long run (Burke et al., 2023). Likewise, Arnall (2023) conducts a literature review of climate-security and draws upon the fact that climate change is a major threat to human livelihood and a contributor to other forms of threats, such as poverty and exclusion, which are the drivers of conflict (Arnall, 2023).

Migration and governance, along with a lot of the scholarly literature on climate security, revolve around conflict. There are some quantitative studies reporting positive relationships between weather extremes and violence in areas that are vulnerable (but causality is controversial (Buhaug et al., 2023). As an example, both scholarly and policy analysts hypothetically connect climate trends with a decrease in social relations and eruption of conflict that can add to the existing insecurities like economic inequality (Buhaug et al., 2023; Arnall, 2023). According to the IPCC estimates and think-tank reports, as climate hazards (water scarcity, crop failures, sea-level rise) become a reality, they can lead to displacement and an increase in competition due to limited resources (Climate change as a national security imperative for Pakistan, 2019).

Pakistan, in particular, has been shown to have a deep vulnerability to climate in a research. The country is much susceptible to floods, glacial melting and monsoon variations. For example, Strauss-Center analysts report that devastating floods and drought have destroyed infrastructure and agriculture several times endangering the agrarian based economy. A state-owned security assessment of Pakistan clearly enumerates food and water shortages caused by climate change, migration, and resource wars as being threats to its national cohesion (Amodwala, 2018)

Simply put, both scholarly and policy sources confirm that climate change in Pakistan is more than an environmental issue, it is a multidimensional security problem, and its potential to trigger economic shocks and then turn to political instability (Burke et al., 2023).

Socio-Economic Instability and Terrorism.

Pakistan has been heavily affected by terrorism in the world after 9/11; the Global Terrorism Index placed Pakistan 5th in the world in terrorism deaths (6,825 deaths in 2019). Economic impact is measured through analyses: one report is of over 150 billion in total losses since 2001, almost 70,000 Pakistanis killed. Econometric studies have discovered terrorism lowers the GDP growth and investment. A study demonstrated that frequent occurrence of militant assaults has helped to trim down the annual GDP growth by some 3 percentage points, predominately by discouraging FDI and decreasing domestic production. There is also destruction of infrastructure (roads, schools, factories) and increased security costs by terrorist attacks which in turn affects economic growth and social services (Zakaria et al., 2019).

The social consequences of terrorism augment the economic consequences of the same. Big terrorist attacks (e.g. 2008 bombing of Marriott, 2014 school massacre) have traumatized societies and destroyed faith in state security. In addition to the loss of lives, the ongoing terrorism threats cause social instability on a vast scale: the constant attack causes fear, disrupted markets, declining tourism and foreign trade, and inflated governmental budgets. Practically, this implies the destruction or closure of schools, healthcare systems with burdens of attack victims, and displaced or poor families as a result of violence, which affects the stability of socio-economic systems. Although devastating, terrorism is more likely to have sharp, but localized effects. The attacks are usually focused on particular targets or areas (e.g. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan) instead of attacking the entire economy. The counterterrorist machine (army, police, intelligence) has over time become skilled at dulling the militant networks, resulting into a recent fall in the large-scale attacks. However, the literature points out that terrorism has continued to be a persistent scourge to the development of Pakistan. Notably, the effects of terrorism tend to be

similar to those of climate shocks: both can provoke internal displacement and health crises, and both can also place state resources in securities and emergency response.

Coupling of Climate Change and Terrorism.

Climate change and terrorism can interact, as opposed to being independent. Most commentators consider the climate change as a multiplier of insecurity with the potential to indirectly cause terrorism. Grievances or power vacuum caused by natural calamities and scarcity of resources can be utilized by militant groups. Arnall (2023) argues that climate-induced losses in food and income can only exacerbate the social fissures that are already present and increase the chances of violence indirectly.

The causality is however, complex. As the research reviews warn, there is little direct evidence that can be used to connect climate change and particular terrorist acts. Rather, climate is seen to accelerate the circumstances that terrorists capitalize on (poverty, disenfranchisement, weak governance). As an illustration, migration within a country because of famine or harvests can place a burden on weak central governments and leave behind waves of bored young people who can be easily radicalized. An example of this is presented in a Pakistan case study by Saad et al. (2024): they demonstrate how out-migration due to climate change has already increased local conflicts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, and may result in future instances of socio-economic instability by providing new recruits to militants and terrorist activities may take a different immediate route.

Theoretical Perspective: Human and Non-Traditional Security.

Both terrorism and climate change are commonly addressed in larger human security or non-traditional security concepts. These strategies contrast with the focus of hard state security (territorial defense) on defending the wellbeing of the civilians (including their economic livelihoods, health, and the environment). As an example, Arnall (2023) points out that there is a distinction between state security (sovereignty) and human security (access to resources and services) now being debated. Practically, the discourse of Pakistan is evolving in terms of security: its new National Security Policy (2022) recognizes

explicitly climate change as a non-traditional threat, but observers claim that the policy has not been converted into tangible adaptation strategies. The emerging theoretical concept of climate change as a threat multiplier indicates this conceptual shift (Smith and Vivekananda, 2009) where even though climate disasters may not be a direct cause of terrorism, they have the potential of increasing social and economic stress that are the roots of violence.

Overall, according to the literature, terrorism and climate change act on different time and space scales. Terrorism is more likely to bring about acute, focused interference, killing and traumatizing certain groups, and lowering the economic productivity of areas that were impacted by the attacks. On the other hand, climate change imposes extravagant, accrual-based pressures on agriculture, infrastructure and community health that develop over the decades. Nevertheless, instability caused by climate can also precondition the conflict and terrorism as it may weaken the regime and create dissatisfaction. The crucial question is the extent to which any of these threats will result in overtime causing more disruption, overall, to the socio-economic stability of Pakistan. In order to handle this, the following sections are going to compare the impacts that can be achieved empirically and debate about how this can be interpreted.

Rationale of the Present Study

One of the nations that is the most susceptible to the change of climate is Pakistan, where regular floods, droughts, heat waves, and melting of glaciers negatively affect the socio-economic and national security of the country. Although terrorism has traditionally been perceived as a significant source of threat to Pakistan, its effect is not always thorough and usually localized. Conversely, climate change generates systemic, long-term, multi-dimensional risks which cut across all aspects of society and thus it is much greater and persistent threat to national well-being.

Climate change also has a direct negative effect on the economic stability of Pakistan, as it is affecting the agricultural sector, water supply and energy infrastructure. As an example, the 2022 floods touched upon more than 33 million people, destroyed thousands of kilometers of roads, and had a critical

effect on food security (Iqbal, 2025). Contrary to terrorism, which mainly affects the security forces, infrastructure, or city centers, climate-related disasters destroy the livelihood of ordinary people and increase poverty, unemployment, and pressure of migration. The resulting socio-economic shocks undermine the capacity of governance, diminish the trust of the population and increase social tensions, indirectly leading to the establishment of preconditions in unrest and extremism (IMF,2022).

The energy security, agricultural productivity, and urban infrastructure are at risk due to water shortage, glaciers withdrawal in the Himalayas, and escalation of extreme weather incidence. Such environmental pressures increase the competition among limited resources especially in areas like Balochistan, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and this may lead to internal conflicts and cross-border tensions. Terrorism is serious but its window of operation is shorter and its effects are more limited; it is possible to respond to terrorism operation by directly reducing the threat. Climate-based disasters, on the other hand, sabotage the structural integrity of the state over the decades, posing a consistent security dilemma, which becomes more difficult to forecast and control. Climate change works as a threat multiplier. It worsens the social, economic, and political weaknesses in Pakistan. As an illustration, the constant floods trigger mass displacements, which in turn causes internally displaced populations putting pressure on the urban centers and social services. This forced migration has the potential to have an indirect effect of making people vulnerable to radicalization and criminal networks by connecting environmental stress to security threats in a manner not uniquely associated with terrorism. Moreover, recurring climate disasters impair the long-term resilience by diverting funds to the economic expenditures of development and defense budgets.

In Pakistan, terrorism has been geographically localized and over the last several years the number of fatalities have been on the decrease as a result of the continuous counter-terrorism activities. Its impacts are tragic, but periodic, and can be recovered through sound policy and security actions. Climate change on the contrary is irreversible, accumulative and geographically extensive, involving millions of citizens at the same time, and placing a burden on

administrative institutions. Climate risks are systemic, and that is why Pakistan is being continuously and unabatedly threatened unless adaptive and mitigation strategies are put into place on a massive scale.

Climate change is a much more serious challenge to the human security and socio-economic stability in the Pakistani context than terrorism. Its effects are long-term, multidimensional, and diffuse and cover agriculture, water, energy, livelihoods, and governance. Climate change indirectly increases other security threats, such as terrorism and domestic lawlessness, by undermining the structural facets of resilience in the society. It is imperative that the long-term issue of climate change be considered as a national security issue, so that proactive policies are developed to mitigate both the environmental and socio-political vulnerabilities, ensuring sustainable development and stability in Pakistan in the coming decades.

Research Questions

1. How does climate change factor contribute to the socio-economic instability of Pakistan, in comparison with the effect of terrorism?
2. How do disasters caused by climate change become long-term national security threats, as compared to terrorism-related threats?

Objectives

1. To examine the socio-economic consequences of the climate change in Pakistan and contrast it with the effects of terrorism.
2. To examine the national security threats of disasters caused by climate change in Pakistan in the long run.
3. To examine the nexus of climate change, socio-economic instability and security threats in Pakistan.

Research Design

This paper uses qualitative research design that is founded on secondary data analysis in order to examine how climate change presents more socio-economic and national security threats to Pakistan than terrorism. The research approach involves a documentary analysis, the systematic review of reports, publications, and datasets of the reliable sources such as IMF, World Bank, UN, think tanks and peer-reviewed journals to find the patterns,

trends, and expert reviews on climate change effects and terrorism in Pakistan. A comparative framework is used to contrast the socio-economic and security effects of climate change and terrorism to expound the disparity in terms of magnitude, time and extent. The data was collected through systematic document reviews and content analysis, categorizing data into themes such as socio-economic impacts and national security risk. Thematic analysis will be used to integrate findings and comparative synthesis highlights the scale, frequency and systematic risk through data visualization to illustrate the disaster frequency, economic losses and population impact. The study ensures trustworthiness through source triangulation, critical evaluation and an audit trail while respecting ethical considerations.

Analysis and Discussion

The relative analysis of the 2022 floods caused by climate change and the Army Public School (APS) attack of 2014 indicates that there are two fundamentally distinct types of security threats that Pakistan is facing: systemic climate-driven insecurity and event-driven terrorism-induced insecurity. Although both occasions involve great human, social and political expenditure, their magnitude, time frame, institutional and long-term consequences of the situation in national security differ greatly.

Case Study 1: 2022 Climate Induced Floods in Pakistan

With an estimated 33 million affected, nearly 8 million displaced and an estimated 1700 dead mostly children the 2022 floods rank among the most catastrophic climate related disasters in Pakistani history. The USD 1530 billion to USD 16 billion rate of economic losses and the USD 16 billion plus rebuilding requirements are examples of not just physical decimation but a massive loss of socio-economic infrastructure (IMF, 2022). Housing, transport infrastructure and agricultural assets were swept off in the floods and this resulted in severe production, trade and living contractions in rural areas. According to secondary sources more than a million people were forced into poverty after millions of acres of agricultural land were flooded, animals were killed and crops destroyed, directly

compromising food security and incomes in the agrarian areas (UNDP, 2023).

The floods had an extreme impact on the health and wellbeing of people, not to mention the losses in the economy. Polluted water bodies and stagnant floodwaters caused water-borne infections to spread and made hunger more likely. This affected women and children more than others because of the structural weaknesses in the Pakistani socio-economic framework (World Bank, 2022). At the same time, the devastation of more than 13,000 kilometers of roads, over 430 bridges and thousands of schools and health establishments interfered with the vital services and limited access of states to the populations affected (UNDP, 2023). All of these consequences show that climate change is a systemic socio-economic destabilizer rather than a single environmental problem, undermining infrastructure, health care, education and livelihoods in a mutually reinforcing cycle. The floods put an unprecedented burden on governance capacity institutionally. The magnitude of the catastrophe required the active military engagement in the process of relief, transportation, and restoration in the various provinces. Although this intervention was essential, it had the effect of crowding out other security and development concerns with security forces and administration; this is an example of how climate shocks may engulf institutions that are traditionally focused on conventional security or development functions. Poor local government in areas prone to flooding also aggravated the situation especially in relief camps where food shortage, slow response, and lack of coordination created strains and law-and-order issues. This kind of dynamics dangerously leads to distrust and mistrust of state capacity and legitimacy, and strengthens institutional stress patterns in long-term crises.

Case study 2: The Army Public School Attack (2014)

However, the APS attack in December 2014, although among the most traumatic cases of terrorist events in the history of Pakistan, was nevertheless a localized and time-restricted security shock. The murder of more than 130 children brought about deep psychological trauma and national mournings, but the reaction of the state was quick, focused, and security-

oriented. The emergence of the National Action Plan (NAP), the legal reforms that allowed military courts, the development of the war on terror on the level of large scale and effective coordination of intelligence, is the evidence of the ability of the state to quickly organize the institutions against the traditional security threats (NAP, 2014; NACTA, 2014).

This difference is supported by empirical tendencies. The terrorist violence in Pakistan collapsed significantly after APS attack, where the official data records that the terrorist attacks decreased by almost 48 percent in 2014-2015 and thereafter, despite the presence of counterterrorism operations, the terrorist attacks kept reducing in 2019 (Bisit, 2024). The fact that terrorism, although disastrous in particular cases, is relatively responsive to both targeted security, legal, and intelligence-based interventions can be followed in this trajectory. Its effects, though psychologically sharp, are likely to be either geographically localized and time-constrained. Thus, a comparative analysis reveals a significant disparity in time, proportions and institutional controllability. Disasters caused by climate like the 2022 floods impact tens of millions of people at the same time, severely impact various industries in the provinces, and have long-term socio-economic effects that remain decades later. The agricultural output, health conditions of the population, poverty rates, and the stability of the institutions continue to decline even after floodwaters have been receding (World Bank, 2022). On the contrary, terrorist attacks cause acute crises that are followed by immediate responses of institutional actors and, in the long term, may be greatly reduced within the framework of long-term counterterrorism efforts.

Climate change as a multiplier of the risk, but not as an independent risk also presents a challenge to national security. Its temporally sustained and spatially dispensed effects put a strain on governance, increase inequality, contribute to displacement, increase competition over resources- circumstances by way of their indirect impact, may increase social unrest and other security dangers. In comparison with terrorism, which is manageable by using specialized security devices, climate-induced insecurity requires cross-sectoral administration, long-term strategy and institutional strength, which Pakistan is still unable to establish in its totality.

Overall, even though the problem of terrorism may be acute, the relative data indicates that climate change is a more profound and lasting threat to the socio-economic stability and the national security of Pakistan. Adaptive governance, disaster preparedness, climate-resilient infrastructure, and inclusive development plans must replace the conventional security paradigms in order to address this issue. Climate shocks will continue to undermine state capacity, affect legitimacy and exacerbate preexisting vulnerabilities within Pakistani society in the absence of such systemic remedies.

Recommendations

The comparative analysis has shown that Pakistan has established a well-established, strong, and centralized counterterrorism architecture but its governance reaction to climate change is still disjointed, inactive and under-invested. Considering that climate change is increasingly compromising socio-economic stability, human security and institutional capacity at levels that are many times greater than the occasional terrorist violence, the national security paradigm of the Republic of Pakistan needs a strategic realignment. To begin with, climate change must be made to become formally part of the Pakistani national security doctrine as a primary non-traditional security threat, but not a developmental or an environmental challenge. International security assessments are increasingly recognizing climate change as a threat multiplier that exacerbates poverty, displacement, food insecurity, and governance stress conditions that may indirectly fuel conflict and instability (World Bank, 2022; UNDP, 2023; IPCC, 2022). Climate risk is also something that should be factored into national security planning, just as is the case with terrorism after 2014 when it was securitized, this would lead to better prioritization by the political community, cross-agency, and policy consistency over time. Second, Pakistan needs to resolve institutional disunity related to governing climate by putting in place proper coordination between the Ministry of Climate Change and NDMA/PDMAs with planning commissions and provincial governments. The implementation of climate policy has a disadvantage over counterterrorism of overlapping mandate and poor enforcement compared to centralized oversight of NAP and NACTA.

In addition to reflecting the institutional coherence of counterterrorism governance, the establishment of a senior, institutional coordination unit such as a National Climate Security Council that reports to the Prime Minister would improve readiness, early warning, and adaptability (UNDP, 2023; Government of Pakistan, National Climate Change Policy). Third, there is a need to reallocate the budgetary priorities. The achievements of counterterrorism in Pakistan can be partly explained by the long-term financial support of security services, intelligence agencies, and the enforcement of the law. Climate resilience financing, on the other hand, uses the donors and post-disaster emergency funding more frequently, which has not been effective due to the high levels of climate vulnerability in Pakistan (IMF, 2022; World Bank, 2022). The government is to institutionalize domestic sources of funding of multi-years to adaptation to climate, resilient infrastructure, flood management, and disaster-risk reduction and include them in overall development and security budgets and no longer as exceptional costs. Fourth, the disaster management policy must be moved towards a more prevention- and resilience-focused approach as compared to the theory of relief. The 2022 floods have revealed that reactive governance causes huge economic losses, long duration of displacement and institutional overload which in many cases necessitate military intervention to play humanitarian roles. Investing in climate-resilient agriculture, water management, urban planning, and public health systems will reduce long-term vulnerability and improve human security more successfully than ongoing post-crisis responses (World Bank, 2022; UNDP, 2023).

Lastly, Pakistan needs to use experience in counterterrorism to enhance climate governance. The effectiveness of counterterrorism policies has shown that when the prioritization of the threats, the empowerment of the institutions, and the allocation of the resources is made under a clear strategy, the measurable security results can be provided. The same strategic clarity, political dedication, and institutional discipline applied to climate change would decrease socio-economic instability, decrease the threats of climate change to national security in the long term, and stop climate-driven crises from exacerbating existing vulnerabilities including migration pressures,

social and politic Overall, even though terrorist activities are a major security issue, evidence proves that climate change is more profound and enduring to the socio-economic stability and national security of Pakistan. To curb this lopsidedness with combined policy changes, institutional fortification and long-term investment in climate resilience is required in case Pakistan wants to protect human security and national stability in the decades to come.

Conclusion

This paper aimed at discussing the issue of whether climate change poses a more significant menace to humankind than terrorism or Pakistan as a critical case to compare the two. The results reveal that although terrorism can be acute and tragic in terms of threats, its consequences are generally episodic, geographically confined and prone to intensive security actions. Climate change, in its part, is a slow-acting but far-reaching menace that wreaks havoc on socio-economic stability, human security and capacity to govern nations systematically across a longer period of time.

When discussing the efforts of Pakistan in counterterrorism in comparison to its response to the disasters related to climate, one can see that there is no obvious strategic imbalance. Pakistan has evolved a fairly effective, centralized and well-financed counterterrorism structure aided through harmonious policies, well-coordinated institutions and budgetary allocations. These efforts have produced concrete security results, such as a decrease in the terrorist violence with time. Conversely, the governance of climate change is still disjointed, under-invested, and, mostly, reactive, in spite of the fact that Pakistan is highly vulnerable to floods, heatwaves, water stress and food insecurity. The terrible floods of 2022 showed in a very clear way that climatic shocks can be worse than terrorism in terms of breaking up lives, destroying infrastructure, and eroding social trust.

The 2022 devastating floods were a dramatic demonstration of the fact that climate shocks may transcend state capability, interrupt livelihoods, ruin infrastructure, and weaken social trust to the extent unmatched by individual acts of terrorism.

The analysis emphasizes how climate change multiplies threats in a broader security context.

Climate-related disasters indirectly exacerbate poverty, displacement, health crises, and resource scarcity, making people more susceptible to social unrest, migration-related pressures, and weak government. These strategic impacts outlast immediate crisis situation and climate change is more long term and complicated problem facing national security than terrorism which is solvable by specialized military, legal and intelligence instruments.

The analysis thus confirms the finding that it is time to go beyond traditional threat paradigms in the process of redefining the concept of security in Pakistan and, by extension, in vulnerable states. Climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and human security should be integrated in national security systems as core issues and not as peripheral development issues. In the absence of this change, states can still be successful in the short-term fight against on-the-one hand visible security threats, but they can be left dangerously vulnerable to systemic risks which erode stability internally. Terrorism is a severe issue that must be addressed with due diligence, but climate change is a bigger and more global menace to humankind since it undermines the pillars of economic prosperity, social unity and state credibility. Long-term political investment, institutional reforms, and resilience investments on par with or perhaps higher than counterterrorism spending will be necessary to meet this challenge. It is in such a reorientation that Pakistan can hope to protect human security and national stability in a climate that is progressively becoming uncertain.

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