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SDC calls for action to fight climate debacle, funds for Social Science Research

Renowned researchers and scholars from across South Asia Wednesday called for a joint action to fight against climate disaster and allocation of funds to promote independent social science research.

More than 25 foreign delegates from ten countries and hundreds of delegates from all over Pakistan participated in the 12th three-day conference organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

Speaking at the concluding session, Farzana Raja, Federal Minister and Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program said Sustainable Development is an overarching concept that aims to cater to the development needs of today's generations without compromising future generations' ability to develop. Sustainable development does not focus solely on environmental issues. More broadly, sustainable development policies encompass three general policy areas: economic, environmental and social. Significance of economic and social aspects of any development policy cannot be overemphasized. If the benefits of Development do not accrue across the board especially to the poor and under developed elements of society, it would be called sham or meaningless development. While the fact that the process of development and modernization is also necessary to ensure all round well being of the mankind, the challenge lies in making this process of development go hand in hand with protection of environment and equitable distribution of resources.

Ms Farzana pledged to include literature on the environment and climate change in the quarterly newsletter that the government sends out to some 2.7 million families who receive support from the Program. "We are talking about 20 or 30 million people then. I think it will be a great start", she said. Ms. Farzana supported to launch awareness campaign about climate change.