

► Punitive restraint mechanism suggested to monitor commitments

# Western leaders skip climate summit, help Africa with another 'empty cheque'

By Cui Fandi

With no Western leaders showing up at the climate summit in Rotterdam, Netherlands on Monday besides the host country, developed countries in the West responsible for most historical CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have been slammed as being indifferent and irresponsible for dodging their moral obligation and hampering global climate cooperation, with their pledge of \$25 billion funding to support climate change adaptation in African countries doubted as another empty cheque that could not be cashed.

The \$25 billion was promised by the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program, a joint initiative of the African Development Bank and the Global Center on Adaptation, the amount being the biggest ever globally, according to AP.

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Academy of Social Sciences.

"Throughout the Paris Agreement and some previous framework conventions on climate change, there are still ambiguous areas regarding the implementation details of some responsibilities and obligations of developed countries," said Li Zhiqing, a professor of environmental economics and Chinese economy at Fudan University.

The scholar suggested a punitive restraint mechanism be added. "There is currently a lack of an effective constraint on whether pledged funds are being delivered," he said. "In the Paris Agreement, there is a five-year check mechanism on the fulfillment of countries' emission reduction obligations,

and such a mechanism could perhaps be extended to bind the delivery of pledged funds."

Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of Netherlands, the host country, was the only Western leader to attend the summit. He admitted that attendance "has not been at a level [they] would have liked."

"I cannot fail to note with a touch of bitterness the absence of the leaders of the industrialized world," said Senegalese President and African Union chief Macky Sall at the opening of the event, AFP reported. "Because these are the main polluters of our planet and it is they who should finance adaptation."

Zhu reminded developed countries that their carbon emissions and pollution are the cause of Africa's climate vulnerability and that they have both a moral and practical responsibility.

"The African continent has the smallest impact on climate change, but paradoxically suffers the majority of its consequences," Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi said at the event on Monday.

## Pakistan expresses condolences over quake in SW China, shows ironclad ties

By Liu Caiyu and Zhang Hui

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque and Chairman of Pakistan's Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani expressed condolences over the loss of precious lives after a 6.8-magnitude earthquake jolted Luding county in Southwest China's Sichuan Province on Monday which killed 66 as of press time.

In an exclusive interview with the Global Times on Tuesday, the Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said that the country is deeply saddened by the loss of so many precious lives in the earthquake in Sichuan, and also said "our sincere condolences and thoughts are with the bereaved families and we pray for the early recovery of the injured."

In a statement published on the website of the senate, the chairman said that "People and Parliament of Pakistan stand in solidarity with our Chinese brethren in this difficult time."

"The Parliament on behalf of the people of Pakistan extend our deepest condolences and sympathies over the loss of precious lives and damage to property," he said.

He said that they have no doubt that the brotherly Chinese people will overcome the effects of this natural calamity with their characteristic resilience.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif tweeted on Monday that he was deeply saddened by the loss of precious lives as a result of the earthquake.

As all-weather strategic cooperative partners and "ironclad" friends, China and Pakistan have been sharing weal and woe and rendering each other assistance in times of need.

Pakistan has been hit by severe floods recently, and China has provided Pakistan with urgently-needed assistance including 3,000 tents and other supplies. Chinese top leader also sent a message of sympathy to the Pakistani President Arif Alvi over the severe floods hitting the country, stressing China will continue to provide urgently needed assistance to Pakistan and support the country in its disaster relief work.

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### ► Picture of restoration



French Culture Minister Rima Abdul-Malak (C) visits Notre-Dame de Paris' cathedral paintings restoration site in the outskirts of Paris, on September 6, 2022. Photo: VCG

## US forces continue blatant looting of Syrian oil, 'exposing gangster nature'

By Zhang Changyue

The US continues to make things worse in the conflict-torn and poverty-stricken Syria due to its blatant plundering of Syrian mineral resources, especially oil. As the US' stealing has led to losses to the Syrian government of up to \$107.1 billion, experts said this behavior exposes the US' gangster nature.

According to Syrian state

media the Syrian Arab News Agency, US forces on Monday sent another 31 vehicles including oil tankers filled with stolen Syrian oil from US bases in northeast Syria's Hasakah province to its military base in northern Iraq, following the looting of Syrian oil with 64 US oil tankers illegally transporting oil to Iraq a day earlier.

The Syrian government has slammed the US' brazen robbery behavior for quite a time

alleging the US has sent oil tankers at least eight times to transport stolen Syrian oil in August. Syria claims the US' thefts of Syrian oil, natural gas and other mineral resources have led to energy shortages as well as further deterioration of the economy and people's livelihoods.

The US forces guarded and transported the stolen Syrian oil to Iraq where they sell it to Iraqi oil companies at a lower price

and use the money to support the Kurdish-led, US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces and other opposition armed groups in Syria, said Zhu Weilie, an expert at the Shanghai International Studies University.

Zhu said that the oil fields are concentrated in areas out of Syrian government's control where the US' blatant plundering of local resources to split Syria and spoil its sovereignty and territory integrity has lasted

for more than ten years.

The US practices in Syria including its unlawful trafficking of Syrian oil have caused direct and indirect losses of about \$107.1 billion to Syria's oil and gas sectors since 2011 to June in 2022, read letters that Syria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates handed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council on August 29, Syria Times reported.