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# Human Actions on Climate Change are merely rhetoric”

## Outline

### 1) Introduction

Thesis Statement: Climate Change is affecting the planet at a rapid pace. While human actions to counter them are not suffice. Human beings have failed to mitigate climate change effects and their actions are merely limited to lip services and rhetoric.

### 2) An overview of human actions and climate change

### 3) How human actions on climate change are merely rhetoric

a) Inability of human beings to enforce Montreal protocol and continuous depletion of ozone layer

b) Non compliance to Paris Agreement and increasing temperature of earth

- c) Inadequate human actions to identify the real cause of Global warming  
i.e The fossil fuels
- d) Holding Conference of Parties (COP) in Oil producing countries and making human action skeptical
- e) High subsidies on Fossil fuels while paying lip services to phase out usage of fossil fuels
- f) Despite clamour developed nations are delaying to finance Loss and Damage Fund to mitigate climate change effects
- g) Agriculture based economies are not shifting to other means and are the source of Methane emission
- h) Continuous Deforestation and Urbanization are the manifestation of how the human actions are merely rhetoric
- i) Lack of collaboration among developing and developed countries to share technology to counter climate change
- 4) How to mitigate Climate change effects by taking practical steps.

- a) Strict implementation of Montreal Protocol and Paris Agreement
- b) Holding Conference of Parties (COPs) in non biased countries
- c) UN should strictly impose climate resilient policies in world under UNFCCC
- d) Spreading awareness among masses through media about climate change
- e) Conclusion

Climate change is one of the alarming issues of 21st century. It is a global issue which requires global actions to deal with it. Although significant discourse is going on the issue of climate change for decades but human actions, so far, are not enough to combat this danger.

**"Protecting our climate is the world's greatest test of leadership."**

**(UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, at COP 28)**

As it is evident from nebulous human actions regarding climate change that the actions are merely rhetoric. No doubt human beings gathered for so many times to take actions against climate change but at the same time all those steps were not implemented in their true spirit. Although it was decided in Montreal Protocol to phase out the use of substances responsible for ozone depletion but human actions have been merely rhetoric and ozone <sup>layer</sup> is depleting day by day. Another agreement which was signed by almost 197 countries, Paris Agreement, to control the increasing temperature of the earth, but this way <sup>again</sup> also the lip service paid by human beings and earth is witnessing hottest days. Not only this, due to the various interests of human beings

they remained hesitant to identify the real cause of global warming, which are the fossil fuels. In addition to this Conference of Parties were held in major oil giants countries which made human actions skeptical. Apparently human beings pledge to phase out fossil fuels but at the same time many countries are subsidising fossil fuels. Also developed nations are not serious to finance 'Loss and Damage Fund' to combat climate change. Deforestation and Urbanization is taking place at rapid pace. It is also unfortunate to witness that countries are not collaborating to share technology to overcome climate change consequences. All this shows that although human beings are talking a lot about climate change but their actions are merely rhetoric.

Due to various scientific researches and studies, it has

been understood by the human beings that climate change is a reality. Also it is a global issues and all countries will be affected by its consequences.

Therefore, human beings have realized the potential disaster of climate change and are taking actions to counter it. Different meetings and <sup>policies</sup> ~~plans~~ are being made in this concern but as far as the practical actions are concerned humanity is lagging behind. The non compliance to the policies made and due to dual standards; human beings have been limited to rhetoric and are not taking practical actions to mitigate climate change.

Different activities of human beings shows how human actions on climate change are merely rhetoric. As it is evident

from Montreal Protocol which was signed in 1987. It was decided at Montreal Protocol to phase out production and consumption of ozone depletion substances e.g Refrigerators, air conditioners and fire extinguishers. But studies shows that human actions could not fulfill the targets. In 2023 Antarctic zone hole reached its maximum size at 10 million sq miles which ranked 12<sup>th</sup> largest since 1979.

This shows how human actions on climate change are merely rhetoric.

Another manifestation is the signing off and non-compliance to Paris Agreement.

Almost 197 countries signed this agreement in 2015 to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre industrial level and to pursue efforts to limit increase in temperature even further to 1.5°C. But human actions to

reduce carbon emissions and increase in temperature <sup>are not satisfactory.</sup> In 2023, world witnessed some days where daily global average temperature was greater than  $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  warmer than preindustrial levels. In August 2023, Northern Hemisphere witnessed hottest meteorological summer on record, at  $2.59^{\circ}\text{F}$  above average. This shows human actions on climate change are merely rhetoric as global temperature is rising every year.

In addition to this, human actions to identify the real cause of global warming have been inadequate. Human beings failed to identify <sup>and declare</sup> the chief polluters of climate which are the fossil fuels. As scientists for ExxonMobil predicted climate change with shocking skills and accuracy in 1970. Despite this, they continued to cast doubts on climate science and lobby against actions on global warming.



So, this hesitation and inability of human beings to identify and declare that fossil fuels are the reason for climate change, shows human actions on climate change are merely limited to lip services.

Another action of human beings which cast shadow on human actions on climate change is holding Conference of Parties (COPs) in oil producing countries. As those countries also use fossil fuels to produce oil so they will never want to stop using fossil fuels which are polluting environment. COP18 took place in Qatar, COP27 took place in Egypt and COP28 was held in UAE. This makes human actions on climate change skeptical and shows that human beings are not serious enough to take practical actions to overcome climate change but their actions

are merely rhetoric.

Although it has been decided in COP28 to phase out the use of fossil fuels but at the same time it has been noticed that high subsidies are also been given on fossil fuels. According to a study in 2022, Fossil fuel subsidies reached a record level of \$7.1 trillion. This shows how human beings are merely limited to rhetoric and are not taking concrete steps to phase out fossil fuels and to protect climate.

In addition to this hypocrisy of humans, another manifestation is from the financing issue of Loss and Damage Fund. This fund was established at COP27 in Egypt and it was decided that developed nations are more responsible for

climate change so they will provide financial assistance to under developing and developing nations which are badly hampered by climate change. But despite clamour, developed nations continued to delay the financing process and after a year at COP28 it was decided to provide money to Loss and Damage Fund. This delay These delaying tactics shows that human actions on climate change are merely rhetoric.

Apart from this, agriculture based economies are not shifting to other means of Production. Such countries are becoming a continuous source of methane emission. For example, Pakistan being an agricultural country is emitting 43% of greenhouse gases. Livestock also responsible for methane emissions. This attitude of

various agrarian economies reflects that human actions on climate change are merely rhetoric.

Not only the agriculture but the pace at which Deforestation and Urbanization in world is increasing puts a question mark on human's performance to mitigate climate change. Continuous and rapid deforestation and Urbanization has exposed the hypocrisy of human actions on climate change. A study shows that From 2021 to 2022, deforestation has increased from 5.4 million hectares to 5.8 million hectares. This is equivalent to losing a forest area greater than the size of Croatia in one year. ~~As~~ far as the Urbanization is concerned, 2023 census shows that in Pakistan Urbanization is taking place at the highest rate in the history. These

studies are the reflection that human actions on climate change are merely rhetoric.

As it is evident from the disasters of climate change that global collaboration is required to mitigate climate change. But it is also quite unfortunate that there is lack of collaboration among developed and underdeveloped countries to share technology to mitigate climate change. Developing countries are bearing the brunt of climate change. Floods of 2022 in Pakistan is a true reflection that despite international level commitments there are no collaborations with developing countries. Therefore, human actions on climate change are not sufficient to address this global issue but are merely limited to rhetoric.

Although climate change is an intricate issue but still there is a lot of room available <sup>in</sup> ~~for~~ which human actions can play a vital role to overcome this. As Paris Agreement and Montreal Protocol have been signed by majority of the countries so the strict implementation of them can bring significant changes.

Another effort which humans can take is to hold climate related conferences such as COPs in non-biased countries. This will remove the shadows of skepticism from the human efforts to counter climate change. This will also be a step forward to raise awareness of climate change's potential disaster.

As United Nations has the privilege to be the one of the Strong international bodies so it must come forward with proper climate resilient policies and a proper set up of their implementation. UNFCCC should play its role and should impose all of its strategies.

Not only this, in this modern world, the power of media can be utilized to counter climate change. Electronic media, Print Media and Social media should take the responsibility to raise awareness among people about climate change. Media can be used as a strong weapon to highlight climate related crimes and to critically analyze human actions on climate change.

Therefore in the conclusion it is fair enough to say that even after realizing the seriousness of climate change, human actions on this particular issue have been limited to merely rhetoric. But it is still possible for mankind to find opportunities from darkness and should work together to overcome this global issue. By doing so ~~we~~ and by taking practical actions human beings can secure the future of next generations.