

"DESPITE ITS URGENCY, CLIMATE
CRISIS REMAINS THE MOST
NEGLECTED CASE"

: Outline:

1) Introduction

Thesis statement: "Climate crisis is one of the pressing issues faced by the planet in twenty-first century. However man has failed to respond effectively to this urgency. World should come together and devise effective ways to deal with the growing climate crisis before it's too late."

2) The growing threat of climate change and world response

3) Unprecedented urgency evident from the climate catastrophies

a) Melting permafrost and dripping glaciers

b) Flood disasters having a toll on socioeconomic domains.

c) Storms growing fiercer and deadlier.

d) Rising temperatures causing devastating heatwaves.

e) Ocean warming and dying corals.

4) Global neglect of looming climate threat;
The "Pay no heed" factor.

a) Ineffectiveness of climate accords evident
by ongoing fossil fuel consumption.

b) Lack of consensus on action policies
regarding carbon footprint cuts.

c) The sluggish growth of "Carbon off-setting
markets."

d) The tug of war between hydrocarbon-
exploration and green energy needs

e) Lack of proactive approach to deal with
climatic catastrophes.

f) Lack of effective post climatic disaster
management.

5) Why couldn't the world address climate crisis
effectively.

a) Global shift to renewables as a blow to
ongoing petrocurrency, cold war.

b) The current era of polycrisis diverting
the spotlight away from climate urgency.

c) Disproportionate effect of climate change
on developing world; financial constraints.

d) Research and technological ^{solutions} ~~answers~~ to
surging temperatures yet in growing phase.

6) Urgent problems require urgent solutions;
the need of unified actions.

a) Development of Carbon markets
at state level.

b) Bringing loss and damage funds
into effectivity; Justice for global South.

c) Global consensus on control of
Greenhouse Gases.

d) Planetary shift towards green energy.

7) Conclusion.

They were the times soothing and calm. The sheer ice enclosed in the permafrost, cool breeze of summers, storms invading with much peace. Gone are the days when climatic happenings ^{phenomena} dissipated colours of nature which soothed mankind. The humans seemed to have gone ungrateful of the mother nature and started meddling with ~~its~~ ^{their} own environment.

Climate has today undoubtedly become a dilemma since the anthropogenic activities ^{have} started interfering in the processes of nature.

Global temperatures are on the rise leading to permafrost melting and disasters such as those of floods, heatwaves and ocean warming. In contrast to the expected response, world seems to be neglecting the urgency factor as seen by failure of international climate accords to dispence, lacking global consensus on policy action and proactivity. The reason ~~seems~~ is hesitation of countries to let go of the fossil fuels being heavily dependent on them.

Developing world faces financial constraints to respond to disproportionate effect of climate over them. Also the technological and infrastructural

solutions to surging temperatures are still developing. Climate urgency requires some solid actions to be taken worldwide such as development of carbon markets, mobilisation of funds by Global North for climate hit Global South, limiting GHG emissions and shifting to renewable energy resources. Therefore, climate crisis is one of the pressing issues faced by the planet in twenty-first century. However man has failed to respond effectively to this urgency. World should come together and devise effective ways to deal with the growing climate crisis before it's too late.

According to United Nations Environment Program UNEP, planet earth has reached so near to the 1.5 degree celsius mark, i.e., 1.2^o degree rise in temperatures. The second decade of twenty-first century started to aggressively display the symptoms of this climatic shift. Climatic shifts are a thing of the past when climate would show a set of traits over a course of centuries and this shift. The second half of twentieth century saw a rise in

anthropogenic activities particularly with industrial revolution. This caused the climate to undergo some unprecedented changes like consistent rise in temperature and enhanced severity of climatic disasters. Living beings are adapted to exist in a narrow range of temperature variations. Resultantly the planet responded severely the brunt of which mankind has to face today.

Climate crisis has caused an alarming situation to dwell which can be seen by climate catastrophies. Consistently high temperatures have caused the ages old ice caps to melt. Polar ice melting has lead to disastrous effects on the entire water cycle. In 2020, a big chunk of solid ice broke off from Alaskan landmass. Similarly reduction in arctic ice mass has even lead to appearance of new routes for ships through the polar regions. The north of Pakistan also called third pole of the world for its ^{third} huge glaciers after poles have seen increased number of "Glacial Lake Outburst Flood" - GLOF events over a past few years. According to authentic estimates, it is predicted that 70% of world's ice caps would

melt by the year 3000^{AD}. So ice-melting is one of the major events proving urgency of climate crisis.

Glacial melting comes with a direct consequence of disturbances in protruding water channels. As ice melting activity has got accelerated with rising temperature, flood disasters have also risen in number and strength. The molten glacial water immensely increases the cubic millimeters of water passing through rivers originating from them. The world has never been geared up to deal with such outflux of river waters, so ends up bearing a lot of destruction. As seen by the 2022 floods of Pakistan, GLOF lead floods are disastrous producing ripple effects throughout the socioeconomic systems of countries. Nearly $\frac{1}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of Pakistan was drowned and 33 million people got affected. Right after the floods, a state of polycrisis emerged in Pakistan with infrastructural damage, humanitarian crisis, health emergency, social dilemmas, all hitting at once. Floods 2022 of Pakistan are a proof that climate catastrophes are urgent ones. require an urgent solution.

Another outcome of climate change is rising deadliness and severity of storms. Since 2010 onwards, the whirlpools hitting coasts of Florida, Typhoon hitting beaches of Hong Kong or hurricanes hitting coasts of South Asia have gone far deadlier & and immense. One of the key symptoms of climate crisis is unprecedented ^{air} pressure variations in addition to temperature variations. These changes have resulted in such catastrophic water storms. Typhoons hitting coasts of Hong Kong, China and Taiwan in summers of 2023 were an alarm call for humanity. These storms have brought along them a consciousness of our unpreparedness for disaster management at such massive scale. According to a reliable estimate $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of world's coastal cities are lacking resources to face catastrophic water storms. Hence climate emergency is evident as the swirling waters.

After glacier melting and water storms, increased temperatures and spans of heating are the most felt effect of climate crisis. Since living beings have adapted to survive in a narrow range of temperature variations, the variations faced by them today have had

lethal effects on them. UNEP defines heatwave as "Temperature remaining above the global average for a minimum of three days." These heat waves have now become a new normal.

As UN secretary general Antonio Guterres said, "that era of 'Global boiling' has arrived." According to the book "Heat will kill you first!", global heating events account for 80% of climate induced deaths. Also as per statistics of 2023, Europe alone faced 60,000 heat related deaths in summer of 2023. Therefore heatwaves are gradually replacing seasonal serial killers inducing a climatic emergency.

Alongside terrestrial life, heat has immensely affected the oceans and seas. One of the factors inducing an urgency state is warming of the oceans. According to a research by University of Chicago, in 2023, the ocean surface temperature rose by a few degrees consistently which is downright lethal for marine life. Corals throughout the oceans have been dying which are a big indicator of ocean health. Humans depend heavily on waterbodies for food via the food chain and any disastrous effect on

them will have a direct impact on life on land. Since oceans are the biggest carbon sink, increase in temperature reduces their ~~water~~ oxygen and carbon dioxide holding capacity potentially forming a recipe for disasters. Over a past few decades "coral bleaching" which is a sign of dying corals has seen a stark rise of encompassing 70% of world's coral reefs. Hence our oceans also portray a gloomy picture of alarm and warning.

Despite ^{that} the symptoms of a suffering planet at the hands of a climate catastrophe are visible and clear, world has yet not been able to respond to this urgency effectively. The climate emergency ^{has} united mankind ^{over} on a common cause but in spite of ever increasing awareness and consciousness of a grim future, no success in curbing its effects has been achieved. Paris accords, 2015, had set the global temperature limit to 2°C at most and 1.5°C at the least and to keep the global temperatures from rising beyond this threshold, countries were required to limit their greenhouse gas emission upto 50% by 2030. Also in COP-27 in

Sharm al Sheikh Egypt, GHG cuts by 2050 upto 70% had been agreed upon. But neither could the world stop temperatures from rising at a rapid rate, nor could they cut down their GHG emission. This is probably the biggest evidence that we have taken climate catastrophe for granted.

In addition to ineffectivity of previous climate accords and agreements to control global warming, any consensus has been unable to be reached currently on any policy action. As seen by the sideline climate conference in the G-20 summit Goa India, the G-20 countries were unable to reach a consensus on future strategy to address climate crisis. This is awful because these developing and first-world countries have got the liability on their shoulders for accelerating this change and also have the potential to save humanity from an irreversible ~~point~~ climatic change. Such ineffectivity of agreements and lack of global consensus shows that mankind pays no heed as of yet to climate emergency.

Another indicator of global neglect of climate cause is sluggish growth of carbon off-setting markets. Carbon markets allow individuals, parties, businesses or governments to invest in environmental friendly projects against the equal amount of loss they caused to environment. This can include investment in reforestation campaigns or making up for climatic disasters in developing states. Unfortunately except a few countries investing in carbon markets like Saudi Arabia and a few airlines compensating for environmental damage in their ticket prices, most of the world is yet unaware of carbon them. NGOs and environmental organisation and institutions haven't projected the importance of carbon markets to the world effectively.

In addition to humanity's incapability and helplessness over climate catastrophes, some part of the neglect is accounted to international mischief as well. As the global voice for demand of renewable energy resources in replacement for fossil fuels roared, energy giant countries like us, China

and Middle Eastern countries found it excruciating to replace the established hydrocarbon industry and welcome the green energy. The Amazon Forest Treaty summit held in August 2023 displayed an ironic debate to the world. A community demanded the oil exploration under Amazon for which trees are needed to be cut which was opposed by Brazilian leader, Lula Da Silva in the words that you want to explore hydrocarbons under the Amazon?!

Another way that mankind seems to be neglecting the climate cause is lack of proactive approach to deal with climate induced disasters. One after the other, climate disasters are hitting various parts of earth but just a few of the victim states have succeeded to prepare for the upcoming ones. The 2010 and 2022 floods of Pakistan have exposed the government's negligence and failure to learn from them and proactively take measures to prevent the hardcore damage in the next ones.

In addition to the neglect seen in climatic disaster management, authorities have failed to address repercussions of disasters. A responsible approach towards climate crisis requires effective management of post humanitarian crisis emerging after floods, heatwaves or storms. According to a report by RAND, Internally Displaced people IDPs in Panama due to rising sea levels have nowhere to go and the government has been unable to address the socioeconomic constraints regarding "Climate lead IDPs". Similarly authorities in European and Scandinavian countries are still left with the question mark on how to modify the existing infrastructure according to rising temperatures and heatwaves. Winters of Europe's central heating systems are a thing of the past now which must now be revamped according to heatwaves. So the currently prevalent question is that of post climatic disaster management; a point where world is at a ~~halt~~ stand still.

Climate emergency is downright evident with Death valley California surpassing 50°C in over 90 years, as well as world's negligence.

over the issue, but there exist bigger realities inhibiting its efforts. Solution at the roots of climate catastrophe is to replace the source of GHG emission i.e.; Fossil fuels with renewables like wind, solar, hydro and biomass energy. But ⁱⁿ existing world order, the major players have their strengths relying on hydrocarbon fuels. Oil and gas are the factors of global tug of war potentially turning these fuels into petrocurrency. As a result we find global powers and industrial hubs like US and China instead of shifting to renewables, investing in hydrocarbon projects like the 800 km long Alaskan gas pipeline project of US. Hence shifting to Green fuels is a precarious task for major GHG emitters.

In addition to the competition on fossil fuels, other crisis have emerged recently such as the war in Russia and Ukraine and Covid-19 health emergency. Such issues have snatched the spotlight and shifted the focus away from climate, hence the deprioritization of ^{our response to} climate urgency. Twenty first century has engaged the world

at multiple fronts one of which undoubtedly is global warming but the changing dynamics of international politics and volatility of international system has rendered states unable to focus completely on the environment and planet. US, China, Russia and Middle East contributes to major part of GHG emission but the irony is that the basis of the GHG emission is the thing that has got them stuck in political competition. Hence it is challenging for them to align their policies in favor of the climate and shift to green energy.

Where the first world is enclosed in its own multipolar competition, the third world is busy tackling the economic recession and on top of that the brunt of climate change too. According to reports, the Global North accounts for most of Global warming but the climatic disasters being produced hit the third world the hardest. Mostly because countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and those of Africa face financial constraints to face the disasters & and carry out effective disaster management. In 2022, Pakistan had to face a severe economic crisis

which was exacerbated by the flood catastrophe. This situation rendered the country severely hit by climate. Similarly Africa is facing famine where half of agricultural produce ^{has} shut down. The Global North hasn't till now made up for the damage to the third world which itself is economically unable to recover. So this is also one of the reason for the world to be neglecting climate.

Meanwhile the world is busy dealing with multipolar energy hegemonies of large states or ^{busy dealing} economic recessions, science and technology is on its quest to find solutions to climate. But the scientific community is still in process of understanding the rapid rise in global warming and trying to catch the pace with it. Multironged technological strategies have been presented to control global warming such as development of big carbon sinks, flood water reservoirs, heat pump infrastructure, biofuel energy, and climate friendly farming, but such strategies have been as of yet unable to be commercialised either because of unawareness or budgetary constraints. Shifting to a environmental

friendly society is something to be envisaged in future but presently states deal with a lot of other issues and so have the focus away from climate urgency.

The planet earth has reached 1.2°C of global rise in temperature and at this point some irreversible damages have been done like permafrost melting and biodiversity loss.

To prevent further destruction of the planet, urgent strategies are required to be enacted.

Carbon offsetting markets need to be adopted & developed at state level and proper legislations should be done to incentivise these.

Carbon markets are a good alternative and a quick solution for fossil fuel giants to neutralise their massive carbon footprint. States should raise awareness among masses and corporate companies should involve them in their consumer care services.

Alongside promotion of carbon markets, global alliances and powers should join hands to make up for their carbon mediated damage to the developing states. The loss and damage funds created in COP-27 for large countries like US, EU, Russia and China to compensate

for their carbon footprints should be mobilised and climate emergencies of economically unstable states like Pakistan should be compensated for. Summers of 2022 and 2023 have specifically seen great suffering of developing states at the climate front which has sparked the rise of 'Justice For South' narrative based upon their demand for compensation. Global alliances such as BRICS, G-20 etc should raise this narrative politically.

Another urgent requirement is that the responsible world powers which are themselves biggest GHG emitters should immediately reach a consensus on GHG cuts. Since the delay^{in consensus} is backed by ^{risk and} insecurities attached to the process of shifting the infrastructure from hydrocarbons to renewables, third party mediators should jump in and enable the shifting at equal pace so as to keep a check on insecurities of stepping down countries. Failure in reaching a consensus at G-20 sideline climate conference should be taken as another opportunity for talks and COP-28 be the final forum to agree on industrial shift.

The final and urgently needed solution is that a global shift towards green energy should be enabled and favourable conditions for this shift should be nurtured. Treaties and accords should be binding for all countries of the world and their powers should be discharged via United Nations' enforcement Action policies for a sustainable shift, keeping in mind the delicacies of current multipolar world, should be devised by climate scientists. Global shift to green energy would also need acceleration of research and technological work. Resources such as bio fuels should be internationally encouraged and further be worked upon so as to be better able to be commercialised.

In conclusion, it may be said that twenty-first century has brought with it bizarre ways to challenge humanity. One of these is climate change exerting its influence as catastrophic floods, ice-melting, scorching heat waves, droughts and famines. These natural but anthropogenically accelerated calamities have affected global economic and sociopolitical system bringing a crisis and emergency

situation. But mankind seems to be bogged by all this yet unable to mobilise its full energies to tackle the problem. Ineffectivity of climate accords and no consensus on policy actions shows mankind's incapability in this domain. Probably due to the current situation of international society cooking up and owing to the polycrisis, any serious solution hasn't been enacted till now but there are ways such as carbon markets that can be a ray of hope. Humanity has defeated a lot of monsters such as great pandemics, wars and has succeeded in bringing peace. A little bit of effort regarding climate can still save the planet from the encroaching monster of climate change.

As said by Goodell, a climate scientist,

"Climate can plot against humanity and blindfold it but humans are a wonder of nature, squeeze them hard enough and there's nothing they can't do."