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Impact of climate change on: international relations and world politics

Outline

I. Introduction:

The impact of climate change on international relations and world politics is both positive and negative. Positively, it has increased the role of United Nations and world is gradually moving toward climate resilient policies. Negatively, it has divided the world into camp politics and provided dents to globalization. Therefore, remedial steps are need to overcome its negative impacts.

II. Positive impacts of climate change on international relations and world politics:

A. The role of United Nations (UN) has increased

- COP (Conference of Parties) ^{has} ~~was~~ become an active forum

B. States seem more committed to climate change than a decade ago

C. Inter-state research collaboration for climate change mitigation has improved states' relations

D. World is gradually shifting towards eco-friendly policies indicate a harmony of interest in world politics

II. Negative impacts of climate change on international relations and world politics:

A. Failure of United Nations (UN) to stop high carbon emitters from CO₂ emissions undermines UNO (United Nations Organization)

B. States' priorities in dealing with climate change divided the world into camp politics

- America versus China in Paris Climate Accord

C. Climate related disasters are threatening global supply chain which decides world politics

2. States' reluctance to reduce fossil fuels is threatening the worst effectees of climate change such as poor nations

3. Wayforward to overcome the negative impacts of climate change on international relations and world politics:

A. Increasing technological collaboration ~~will~~ can improve international relations and world politics

B. Strengthening ~~the~~ cooperation between developed and developing world ~~can~~ can improve the fight against climate change

C. Binding treaty to fight climate change can restore the faiths of nations in UN again

IV. Climate change - the case of Pakistan

V. Conclusion

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Impacts of climate change on international relations and world politics

While experimenting with a frog, a scientist observed that it jumped out quickly from a pot of cold water and stays there when the water is warm. He placed a burner beneath the pot and started to warm the water. He then put the frog in the pot and he soon observed that the frog is exhausting itself to ~~keep~~ stay inside the pot instead of jumping out despite the fact that water is warming gradually. Similar to the above experiment, the world can be termed as the pot, the warming water as the climate change, and the frog as the nations of the world. Nations around the world are well aware of the consequences of climate change. These consequences have ^{brought} ~~given~~ both positive and negative impact on inter-state relations and on global politics. Climate change has improved the role of United Nations Organizations (UNO) significantly as it is conducting Conference of Parties (COP) annually. These COP events have made states more committed to climate change than a decade ago and as a result inter-

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state research collaboration to mitigate climate change has increased. These developments have improved overall international relations and world politics. Conversely, climate change have also created rifts between global players such as United States of America (USA) and China which divided the world into camp politics again. Such division is threatening globalization and global supply chain. However, by taking remedial steps such as increasing technological collaboration and political inclusiveness can minimize the above mentioned negative impacts. In short, climate change is impacting international relations and world politics both positively and negatively. Therefore, remedial steps are needed to overcome the negative impacts.

It is an established fact that climate change is endangering the whole earth. It has led the global community towards some positive developments. One of them is the enhancement of the role of UNO (United Nations Organization). UNO has first drafted and approved the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) in 1993 but it has become effective in 1996. After the enactment

of UNFCCC, the COP (conference of parties) started on annual basis. COP succeeded in improving international relation and world politics which is evident from landmark treaties between states such as Kyoto Protocol and Paris Climate Accord. The above discussion suggest that climate change has improved international relations and world politics.

Similar to the increased role of UNCTAD, the impact of climate change have made states more committed to minimize it than a decade ago. The impacts of climate change are not limited to developing countries only. It is also impacting the developing world equally. For example, the rate of glaciers melting is fastest in Europe than in Asia. If not mitigate, the rising temperature, both continents will face water shortages in the coming years. Similarly, the rising sea levels are also endangering the coastal cities around the world. These impacts have made states realized that they need to be more committed to climate change than a decade ago. As a results, states are now collaborating and sharing climate change related

data actively which has strengthening the international relations and world politics.

Along with improvement in states' commitment, inter-state research collaboration for climate change mitigation has also improved the relationship between states. The impacts of climate change such as changes in weather pattern and rising temperature are threatening the agriculture around the world. Various research institutes around the global are collaborating to make climate resilient agri-cultural products. For example, China and Pakistan are collaborating in agri-cultural research for climate resilient rice, wheat and cotton. Similarly, USA and China are also working closely on GMOs (Genetically Modified Organism) to increase climate resilient agricultural products. These two examples suggest that the impacts of climate change is again improving the international relations between states. And when international relations started to improve such as that of between USA and China, global politics will improve automatically because they are the key global players at the moment.

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In addition to inter-state research collaborations, the impacts of climate change are shifting the world focus gradually towards eco-friendly policies. The gradual shifting of policies suggest that there is a growing harmony of interest in world politics. For example, China announced that it will not install any new coal fired power plants in future in a move to minimize the impacts of climate change. Similarly, Europe in general and Germany in particular also decided to phased out coal fired power plants from their countries. Many other countries such as Pakistan, Canada, and Australia also announced to take similar steps in near future to fight climate change. All of these commitments were made by states voluntarily. These examples suggest that the impact of climate change have created a harmony of interests between states. Such harmony is improving the world politics as all of them desire the same result. These moves improve the international relations as states work closely to achieve their targets. In short, impact of climate change is again improving international relations and world politics.

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After discussing the positive impacts of climate change on international relations and world politics it is necessary to discuss the negative impacts on them. In this regard, the failure of UNO to stop high carbon emitters from Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions is resulting into undermining of the role of UNO. The undermining of the role of UNO is impacting the international relations and world politics negatively. For example, despite repeated calls from Secretary General of UNO, Antonio Guterres, COP 28 failed to devise a plan to fund the climate related disasters in poor nations. Similarly, global and regional powers such as China, USA, Saudi Arabia and Russia, collectively delayed the phasing out of fossil fuels from energy mix of the world. It was also against the policy guidelines of the COP 28. These examples suggest that UNO which supposed to regulate the international relations and world politics is not respecting equally by all states which is deteriorating the global politics and international relations.

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Similar to undermining of UNO, the differences of priorities of states in dealing with climate change has divided the world into camp politics. Camp politics were witnessed by the world during Cold War which have deteriorated the international relations and resulted into tense global politics. USA before Paris Climate Accord (PAC) have led the world towards it. However, after the ratification of PAC, USA decided to step down from it. After USA, China started to led it. However, the allies of USA followed the move of USA and they also stepped down from PAC. During 2018 to 2020 period, the world witnessed camp politics with specific reasons of climate change. Although, USA has rejoined it in 2020, the discussion of camp politics is still there. Such decisions are not fruitful for international relations and world politics.

In addition to camp politics, the climate related disasters are threatening global supply chain.

Global supply chain decides the policies of the world. For example, it facilitates the trade between two states. Now if trade is good between two states, one can say that their bilateral relation is also good. Similarly, global supply chain also facilitates regional and continental trade. For example, the relation between Russia and Europe is not good these days because they are not actively engaged in trade now a days. Similarly, Europe and USA are at good terms largely because of trade. All these examples suggest that global supply chain facilitates trade which decide the level of harmony or disharmony in international relations. However, climate change is threatening it as the world is struggling for agricultural productivity and rising sea levels. These impacts if not mitigated can drowned trading hubs of the world. And in such scenario, it will impact negatively on inter-state relations and on global power politics.

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Along with the threat of disruption in global supply chains, the reluctance of states to reduce fossil fuels is also impacting the international relations and world politics negatively. Fossil fuels are considered as one of the primary factor behind climate change and the mitigation of it is not possible without limiting fossil fuels. However, the reluctance of industrial giants such as China, India and America to reduce fossil fuels consumption is threatening the worst effectees of climate change such as Pakistan and Maldives. These poor nations are constantly raising their reservations but the high emitters are not in the near future ready to reduce fossil fuels consumption. Due to these reasons, the bilateral relations between these poor nations and ~~developing~~ high carbon emitter countries will be turbulent in coming years. Such turbulences will impact the global politics as well. Currently, the African region and Europe has some relations due to above mentioned factors.

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After discussing both positive and negative impact of climate change on global politics and international relations, it is necessary to discuss some remedial steps to reduce the negative impacts of climate change on them. In this regard, ~~the~~ increasing technological collaboration can ~~improve~~ not only reduce the impacts of climate change but can also improve the international relations and world politics in many ways. First, technological collaboration will help identify the common problems face by each countries due to climate change. Second, appropriate and proportionate resource allocation can be done to eradicate the identified issue without burdening any country. Third, human resource allocation can be made from diversified background which can improve the effectiveness of the technology. Finally, states can find a common goal, necessary means, and technology to fight climate change. Such point of interests improve international relation and improvement in international relation will improve the world politics automatically.

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In addition to technological collaborations, strengthening cooperation between developed and developing nations can also improve the fight against climate change. The cooperation between developed and developing nations can be promoted through inter-dependency and technological transfer. The impacts of climate change has already made each state depended on each other. Technological collaboration and transfer is needed to mitigate the impacts of climate change. These two factors are also play key role in shaping the world politics. China and USA has divided the world into bloc politics through interdependency of countries and through technological transfer. If these two factors are utilized in an effective manner, they can bridged the gaps in power politics. It will reduce countries compulsion to join bloc politics which will improve the international relations.

Similar to strengthening cooperation between developed and developing world, making a binding treaty to fight climate change can also

improve the international relations and global politics. Currently, the rifts in global power politics are cause mainly due to the ineffectiveness of the UNO. Permanent five can veto any resolution which is not suited for their interests. It has ~~be~~ resulted into lost of faith in the UNO. However, as the impacts of climate change is equal for every country, UNO can play an active role in forming a binding treaty. If it succeeded in ~~doing~~ ~~securing~~ a binding treaty, it will not only ~~accelerate~~ accelerate the efforts to mitigate climate change but it can also improve the global politics. The improvement in world politics reduces the chances of conflicts around the world which in turn can improve the international relations.

Pakistan, as one of worst effected of climate change, is also seeing its impacts on its international relations and its role in global politics. Pakistan spearheaded the Group of 77 (G-77) to formed the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF)

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in COP 27. It has greatly improved Pakistan standing in world politics concerning the climate change. Similarly, Pakistan also hosted the Climate Resilient Pakistan Conference in Switzerland in 2023 which have significantly improved its international relations with European Nations, Multi-National Corporations, and International Organizations. Contrarily, the devastations caused by climate change such as that of urban flooding in 2020 and 2021, and flooding in 2022 have limited states' ability to pursue a prudent foreign policy. It is because, the devastations have caused damages in billions of dollars and exacerbated health, education, and employment issues. It is a fact when a country is indulged in internal crisis, its foreign policy becomes weak. In short, Pakistan has also impacted both positively and negatively by climate change in its capacity to deal with international relations and world politics.

In conclusion, it can be safely concluded that the impacts of climate change are devastating

in nature and are impacting states around the world negatively. As a result states in order to find a solution to these impacts of climate change are collaborating with each other in academia, research, and technology. Such collaborations has improving international relations at global level. As the impacts of climate change also effecting the global leaders, they are also forced to collaborate with each others these ~~too~~ developments has been improving the overall international relations and world politics at global level. However, different priority of global players in dealing with impacts of climate change has been dividing the global politics into camp politics. It has resulted into reduction in international relation. Therefore, remedial steps such as technological, political, ~~and~~ and legal collaboration can not only reduce the impacts of climate change but can also improve the overall nature of international relation and world politics at both regional and global level.