

# DESPITE ITS URGENCY, CLIMATE CRISIS REMAINS THE MOST NEGLECTED CAUSE

## OUTLINE:

### 1. Introduction:

**Thesis Statement:** Despite the horrendous shocks of climate crisis, it remains the most ignored subject. The direct effects of climate woes on seasons, geography, demography, agriculture, economy and infrastructure highlights the need for urgent intervention. Lack of consensus and poor implementation of policies at global level adds to the neglect of the most urgent issue. However, execution of resolutions from top to grassroots level through collaborative efforts can bring the focus on critical issue.

2. How climate crisis is neglected despite its urgency.

3. Climate Crisis as the most urgent subject for the world.

a. Rise in global warming exhibits irregular patterns of disasters leading to unpredictable occurrences.

b. The evolving shift in seasonal patterns i.e. El Niño and La Niña.

c. Irregular climate disasters bring havoc for development projects.

d. Climate catastrophes creates huge humanitarian crises.

e. Agricultural damage due to climate calamities

engenders worst food crisis.

f. Climate upheaval severely dents global GDP growth.

4. **Despite its urgency, climate crisis remains neglected**

a. Failure to thwart elephant in the room

i.e hydrocarbons and conventional resources.

b. Lack of consensus on climate policies at global level.

c. Interest of corporate businesses pushes the problem at back end.

d. Financial lag to address climate liability.

e. Lack of strict implementation on climate resolutions adds to its neglect.

f. Absence of accountability of deviants underscores climate initiatives taken at international platform.

5. **Climate crisis can be addressed on urgent basis**

a. Strict implementation policies through top to bottom approach.

b. Blue prints for clear financial plan to tackle climate issue on urgent basis.

c. Public awareness of climate urgency through digital media and open discussions.

d. Establishment of global institution for accountability of deviants from consensual policies.

6. **Conclusion**

## DESPITE ITS URGENCY, CLIMATE CRISIS REMAINS THE MOST NEGLECTED CAUSE:

Hook's law describes the linear relationship between stress (force applied to a material) and strain (resulting deformation) within the elastic limit of a material. Beyond the elastic limit, materials can undergo plastic deformation. Just as materials experience irreversible deformation when strain beyond a certain point, our planet is undergoing irreversible changes due to the strain imposed by human-induced climate change. The rise in climate disasters, loss of biodiversity and the melting of ice caps are akin to the irreversible changes observed in material under stress.

Despite its urgency, neglect related to climate crisis is comparable to wait for uncontrolled and irreversible man-made disaster. The challenge is not only to mitigate further strain but also adapt to the already irreversible transformations and work towards a sustainable future as soon as possible.

Climate crisis is the most buzzworthy topic in recent years. The catastrophes <sup>due to</sup> climate change has exacerbated the need to address the most neglected issue. Increase in greenhouse emissions, global temperature, ocean acidification, exceptional melting of glacier ice volume and extreme weather patterns contribute to urgent intervention and prevention of further climate change escalation. According to Global Risks Report 2024 from the World Economic Forum, the topmost global risk in a long-run is extreme weather. Despite its urgency and potential existential threat to the planet, world leaders continue to neglect and all the pleas fell on deaf ears.

The foremost cause for the climate crisis, which contribute to its urgency is rise in greenhouse gas emissions. The GHGs severely destroy the protective layer of atmosphere named Ozone layer. It prevents the transmission of harmful

Ultra-violet rays in earth's ecosystem.  
Global GHG emissions continue to increase, with CO<sub>2</sub> at 149pc of pre-industrial levels, methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) at 264pc of pre-industrial levels (State of Global Climate 2022, WMO). The unabated rise in Greenhouse gas emissions could be the most urgent subject for the world.

Climate crisis not only proves detrimental for planet's atmosphere but also leads to extreme temperature. The greenhouse gases add up to further increase global warming and evolving shift in seasonal patterns i.e. El-Niño and La Niña. In 2022, the global mean temperature was 1.15°C above the 1850-1900 average, making the last eight years warmest on record. This was despite three consecutive years of a cooling La Niña - such a "triple dip" La-Niña has happened only three times in past 50 years. (World Meteorological Organization). The irregular weather patterns intensifies the urgency for climate change issue.

The extreme events caused by rising global temperature bring havoc for global economy. Climate upheavals such as floods, hurricanes, tornados, storms, wildfires and droughts severely dents global GDP growth. Global economic losses could reach \$5 trillion under a plausible increase in extreme weather events linked to climate change (Lloyd of London, Reuters). The severe threat of financial losses to the world illustrates the climate crisis as the most urgent matter.

The climate change problem not only restricts to the financial subject, but also creates huge humanitarian crisis. The climate change induced deaths and population displacement. Extreme heatwaves and floods pushes people to migrate and take refuge in other countries. The flooding in Pakistan affected some 33 million people, including 800,000 Afghan refugees hosted in affected districts. Around 8 million people have been internally displaced by the flood (Devastating

floods in Pakistan, UNICEF). The record breaking humanitarian crisis due to catastrophic implications of climate change depicts its urgency.

The ripple-effect of climate crisis on agriculture is also inalienable. The falling crop yields due to extreme weathers and climate disasters harbours food insecurity for vulnerable population. This severely affects the well-being and nutritional status of people. About 80pc of global population most at risk from crop failures and hunger, from climate change are in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, South-East Asia (What you need to know about food security and climate change, world Bank). The urgency of climate crisis is illustrated from depleting food resources to nourish the masses.

In addition to this, climate crisis also contribute to turbulence in sea levels and regular pH of ocean. Rise in global sea levels

due to melting glaciers, ocean warming severely affects marine ecosystem and well-being of land. Freshwater, marine and coastal ecosystems are degrading at an unprecedented rate, limiting their ability to support human well-being. The recent IPCC sixth Assessment report has concluded that open ocean surface pH is now the lowest it has been for at least 26,000 years. Therefore, climate crisis is the urgent issue, as it severely affects the biodiversity of planet earth.

Despite clear warnings from the nature to control and analyze the actions adding to climate change, humans are busy for turning blind eye to the alarms. It was <sup>already</sup> evident that the cause of all climate mess was excessive use of fossil fuels. Despite clear indication, mankind failed to thwart elephant in the room i.e. hydrocarbons and conventional resources. The recent controversy related to phasing out of fossil fuels globally in COP28 demonstrates that the



despite urgent intervention for climate crisis, the world continue to brush off the issue. Thus, ignoring to point out the culprit and work for the solution demonstrates negligence of mankind.

In spite of several obstacles, global leaders try to take some actions. But all those steps for resisting climate change go down the drain due to lack of consensus. The failure of unanimous agreement on key issues indicates negligence at global level. The recent summit of G20 was unable to reach a consensus on several significant points in relation to climate crisis, even though its members account for 80% of global green house gas emissions. Hence, lack of consensus by world leaders to address climate urgency, the issue is pushed to the walls.

Inability to give common consent is due to the conflict of interests between the corporate entities.

Interests of corporate businesses to keep their boat afloat pushes the problem at back end. The guardian reported that OPEC+ had already warned its members to proactively reject any text or formula that targets fossil fuels rather than emissions, underlining this would put our people's prosperity and future at risk.

The prioritization of personal interests of enterprises neglects the most dangerous man-made climate issue.

In addition to this, financial lag to address climate liability is another cause for negligence. The lack of economic resources create disturbance to address climate issue in most vulnerable countries. Most of developed countries that are more responsible for contributing to greenhouse emissions do not pledge the required funds by developing countries. In COP28, wealthy countries most responsible for climate emergency have so far pledged a combined total of just over \$700m, the

equivalent of less than 0.2% of irreversible economic and non-economic losses developing countries are facing every year. Estimates for annual cost for the damage have varied from \$100B to \$580B. The avoidance of the world to contribute in financial resources to mitigate climate issues results in its negligence.

Moreover, already signed resolutions and accords lacks strict implementation. Many countries usually lip service to abide by provisions and neglects most urgent issue for humanity. The aim to restrict global temperature to  $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  by the end of century was only recognized as goal in Paris Agreement. However, strict adherence of Nationally Determined Contributors is on the legislative bodies of each country. The lack of central legislative body for member countries to ensure strict implementation demonstrates neglect in climate crisis.

Apart from implementation of climate resolutions, absence of accountability of deviants underscores climate initiatives, that adds to its neglect. Despite its urgency, many countries do not adhere to their climate goals. This deviance results in boosting other countries to follow their path. China claims that Global North advanced their economies during Industrial revolution, that excessively prompt emissions. But when global south is aiming to develop, several restrictions over emissions ~~are~~ loom over them. Thus, despite many reservations on climate change; unaccountability of deviants as seen in case of China, climate issue is neglected.

In order to address the urgency of climate issues, public should be aware about the climate reparations through digital and print ~~for~~ media. The neglect to climate crisis is mainly due to lack of awareness and cooperation.

The global poll found that on average 85% of young people aged 15-24 surveyed in 55 countries said that they have heard of climate change, yet just 50% of those chose the correct definition of UNFCCC (Gallup report, UNICEF). Public awareness is the most urgent step to be taken to address climate crisis for comprehensive strategy.

Moreover, transparent global institution for accountability of deviants should be established. The consensual policies would then be easily implemented due to fear of sanctions and penalties. United Nations office on drugs and crime shows that corruption is most important enabling factor in environmental issues. People working in Anti-corruption agencies do not necessarily consider it part of their mandate to look after environmental issues and climate change projects or policies. Therefore, establishment of accountable

institution at international platform will address the climate crisis on urgent basis.

Apart from accountability, clear blue prints of financial plan to tackle climate issue is the need of hour. The lack of clarity in finances of climate projects thwart the crucial initiatives for the right direction. The uncertainty in the donation for mitigation and adaptation of climate change pertaining to loss and Damage fund (LDF) adopted in COP27 still hangs fire. Many vulnerable countries are unable to meet climate policies due to lack of financial resources and thus the economic problems should be resolved urgently.

In addition to facilitate resources, public awareness and transparent accountability, strict implementation of climate policies is of foremost value.

Stringent adherence to resolutions through top to bottom approach will indicate urgent intervention of climate change. The lag in easy implementation of global policies in member countries due to donor-recipient relationship challenges, monitoring and evaluation systems, data collection and compliance overpower the urgent addressal of the issue. Hence, in order to sustain attention on the concern strict enforcement of policies should be enacted in the world.

Regardless of many hardship coming in way to deal climate issue, the epitome of high spirits still prevails in mankind. All the reservations could vanish once humans strictly follow their inherent tendency to avert challenges at any cost. The neglect of climate crisis has already costs the mankind alot at the expense of their existence. World

should intervene urgently unless major disaster looms over their heads. Through keen attention to financial, political, strategic and diplomatic strains in addressing climate crisis, the world would sustain the beautiful nature of planet Earth.