

Humanity's response to climate change is just rhetoric.

## OUTLINE

Good

### 1. Introduction

Humanity's response to climate change is merely rhetoric, as developed countries are struggling to gain economic superiority and developing countries are incapable to shift towards clean energy sources. Its consequences are unbearable on human health, food security, and global economy. By determining sustainable mitigation mechanisms, the response to climate change can be made practical.

### 2. Climate change has reached its apex

### 3. Why the response of humanity to climate change is merely rhetoric?

- a. Vested interests of developed countries to gain economic superiority
- b. Incapability of developing countries to shift towards clean energy sources amid insufficient allocation of funds
- c. Fear of economic volatility
- d. Lack of uniform goal attainment policies
- e. Climate injustice and inequality

f. Increased global populations require increase - commodities resulting in increased industrialization ✓

#### 4. Consequences of just rhetoric response to climate change by humanity,

a. Extreme weather changes are risking human health ✓

b. Children's health and education are at stake and ultimately Human Development Index ✓

c. Global economy would be at risk ✓

d. Food insecurity surges due to damage to agricultural infrastructure ✓

e. Climate refugees are increasing ✓

f. Frequent wildfires are erupting ✓

g. State legitimacy is undermined as non-state actors get find the room to conspire ✓

#### How the response to climate change can be made more practical,

a. Determined efforts ~~to~~ <sup>for</sup> sustainable mitigation mechanisms to reduce emissions ✓

b. Formation of committees for climate resilient <sup>goals</sup> and its accountability ✓

c. Inclusion of technology-driven climate infrastructure for earlier forecasting

d. Judicial and sustainable allocation of finances/funds for adaptation and mitigation.

## 6. Conclusion

### ESSAY

On climate change, we often do not fully appreciate that it is a problem. We think, it is a problem waiting to happen (Kofi Annan).

The former United Nations Secretary has stressed that climate change is not considered a problem otherwise, it has been turned into an issue which needs to be solved at the earliest. However,

the response of humanity to the climate change issue is just rhetoric. All the world countries are in the race of economic superiority. Developed countries

have the excuse that both developed and developing countries are involved equally in creating the issue of climate change. While, developing countries are of the view that they are not capable enough to convert completely towards renewable energy sources. Moreover, increased global population requires more commodities resulting in increased emissions.

Subsequently, the extreme weather changes are affecting the human health, children education and ultimately the human development is being impacted. It can impact the global economy badly, if the response to the climate change is not made. Therefore, humanity's response to climate change is merely rhetoric, as developed countries are in the race of economic superpower and developing countries are incapable to shift towards clean energy sources. It poses

unbearable impacts on human health, food security, and global economy.

By determining sustainable mitigation mechanisms, the response to climate change can be made practical.

Humans have created the issue of climate change themselves for them and for their future generation. Various human activities have increased the temperature of Earth to the extent that it is hindering the activities of people. According to European Commission, the global temperature of air breached of  $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  as of pre-industrial levels. Therefore, due to this much increase in temperature, human lives are impacted badly by the effects of climate change. According to United Nations World Meteorological organization, almost 12000 events related to climate-change have occurred

In the past century, almost 2 million people are died and economic loss of \$4.3 trillion.

~~Also~~ Climate-related disasters have harmed humans and this habitat badly. Various conferences have been taken place on the issue of climate change, but no final verdict has been reached by the countries on the solution of the issue.

The response of humanity to the issue of climate change is merely rhetoric, as there are vested interests of developed countries to gain economic superiority. Not a single developed country has ~~transformed~~ their half of energy production from renewable energy resources.

In Paris Climate agreement, US pledged to cut down its carbon emission by 45-50%, but US later on refused and take out

of agreement with the claim that America first, American economy first. Therefore, the race of being a superpower is not letting the developed countries to think about the climate. In this way, the response to the climate change and its after-effects has remained merely rhetoric.

The claim of developing countries that they are incapable to shift towards clean energy sources has made the response to the climate change merely rhetoric. In COP 21, China and India pledged to reduce their carbon emissions by 33% per-cent. However, China's policies had changed under President Xi Jinping that China would cut down its carbon emissions after 2030. The claim of developing world is that the developed countries have

achieved their economic apex while developing countries had used the fossils fuels after 1970, so their economy still requires some time till 2030.

Subsequently, the developing world's economy is not strong enough to convert towards renewable energy sources, as they face many other non-traditional security threats like poverty, unemployment etc.

Another factor which has made the response to the climate change merely rhetoric is the fear of economic volatility. Countries have the fear that their economy can disrupt, if they completely turned to clean energy sources.

Renewable energy sources are expensive, as they require advanced technology and infrastructure. After the COVID-19, world seen the economic



slowdown and still recovering from it. According to Global energy outlook, China had denied to plant their coal-fired projects overseas, But after COVID-19 economic slowdown, China has ordered to plant coal power plants overseas.

Subsequently, the fear of economic volatility is keeping the world away from the clean energy sources and the response to climate change has not become practical.

The response of humanity to the climate change is merely rhetoric due to the lack of uniform goal attainment policies. Various conferences on climate change has occurred, but there is lack of uniform policies for the world countries. There is large North-South divide. Global South is of the view that

all world countries are equally responsible in causing climate change. Global North is claiming of economic stability. Therefore, in Paris Climate agreement 2015 it was pledged to cut down carbon emissions till 2030 by 100%. In COP 26, it was seen that only 20% carbon cuts are made by the world countries in 7 years, while it was promised to be cut down by 33% in first 5 years.

Therefore, the problem is not that the goal is not fulfilled while, there are many countries which have not initiated yet.

One of the other reasons that (climate) response to the climate change is merely rhetoric is climate injustice and inequality on the part of developed world. All the development and progression

has been made by the Global South and the developing world is bearing the brunt in the form of climate disasters. According to European Commission's report entitled "CO<sub>2</sub> contribution by the World countries 2022" that Pakistan has just contributed 0.58% of total carbon emissions. Developing countries are contributing least but facing the climate disasters. In return, only 7% of total climate adaptation fund is given to the world suffering from it.

The response to the climate change is merely rhetoric, as increased world population is making it difficult to control the carbon emissions.

Increased number of people require increased commodities in the form of food, clothes which require increase industrialisation.

According to World Economic Forum,

World population has reached 8 billion and 1 billion more would be added in 2040. Therefore, increased population require more food and the forests are converted into agricultural land and carbon sinks are destroyed resultantly. According to FAO, almost 80 Million hectares forests are cleared globally to meet the need of food. Subsequently, the forests which are the carbon sinks are cleared and carbon emissions have increased. In this way, the population explosion is a reason that the response to climate change is merely rhetoric.

Various consequences can be imposed due to the non-serious attitude towards climate change. One of the consequences is the risk of human health due to extreme weather changes. Global temperatures have increased.

to the extent that it is impacting the lives of people especially the compromised community like children and old age people. According to Europe's Earth Observation agency Copernicus, ~~almost~~ the extreme weather events in 2023 has proved the summer of 2023 as the warmest ever and has taken the lives of 12000 people due to hypotension, shocks and intense heat waves. Therefore, it is proved that the non-serious attitude to tackle the issue of climate change is impacting the health of people.

There are many consequences of just a rhetoric response to climate change by humanity, one of which is the impact on children's health and education and ultimately human development is impacted.

Due to extreme weather events like floods and drought, there are higher chances of displacement of children. Resultantly, their life is at stake and education is impacted badly.

According to UN, almost 2 billion children are at risk in climate change disasters. Almost 40 million children are at risk of their

education. Therefore, the climate change disasters have impacted the health and education of children. Subsequently, human development is impacted.

One of the other consequences of the non-serious response to the climate change is

the risk of global economy slowdown. Climate change disasters are destroying the infrastructure, development projects, and technology.

Therefore, the increased share of GDP would be turned

to re-construct the damaged infrastructure. According to WEF report entitled "How climate change can impact global economy" that temperature rise of  $3.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  till 2050 can wipe off the GDP of 18% from the world economy. Therefore, a large share of GDP of world economy can be destroyed due to weather-related disasters.

The mere rhetoric response to the climate change can result in serious outcomes. It can result in food insecurity among masses due to damage to agricultural infrastructure. Climate-related disasters like floods can damage the agricultural lands and food productivity would decrease. Resultantly, there would not be enough food for the masses. According to international food policy research Institute,

some 40 million people would be pushed to food insecurity by 2030 due to rising temperature and overall growth of food commodities are decreasing by 18-20% every year by 2050.

For this way, there is a high risk of food shortage and ultimately food insecurity due to rising disasters due to climate change.

One of the other impact of climate change is the proportional increase of climate refugees. Due to rising number of climate disasters every year, people are impacted badly. They leave their homes, their livestock and jobs and move out to another place. It is a challenging for the refugees and a burden for the new place where they would be settled. According to



report by UNHCR, almost 12.5 Million people are displaced every year due to climate related disasters. Therefore,

it is a challenging impact of climate change affecting the lives of people.

There are many consequences of more rhetoric response of humanity to climate change.

One of which is that the legitimacy of state is undermined. Due to states

incapability to deliver optimally in state of crisis, the violent non-state actors get the room to exploit and conspire.

Resultantly, the security of state is at risk amid climate-change disasters.

According to Noah Gordon, in climate-related emergencies the state is incapable to deliver, so non-state actors find the space to exploit

its people. Ultimately, the security of state is at risk amid climate-related disasters.

These are various solutions to make the response to climate change more practical. One of which is to do determined efforts to sustainable mitigation mechanisms. By adapting the sustainable mitigation mechanisms, there is a high chance to reduce the carbon emissions. It can help in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions. It possesses the capability to reduce the carbon emission by 3.79 metric tons every year. In this way, it can prove fruitful in controlling the carbon emissions and ultimately the response to climate change can be made practical.

Another solution to make the response to climate change more practical is the formation of committees for the attainment of climate resilient goals.

Attainable goals should be made and committees should hold all the countries accountable if not adhered to the goal.

The formation of Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and strict conformity to its goal can prove useful in transparent measurement of carbon emission.

Committees should scrutinize transparently in all the NDCs of every country that no one has breached its limit. It can prove fruitful in restricting the carbon emission.

There are many solutions to make the humanity's response to climate change a practical one. The inclusion

of technology-driven climate-related infrastructure for earlier forecasting about weather-disaster. It is the era of technology, so it is essential to incorporate AI-driven technology for adaptation and mitigation of weather-related events. **Case study of US: US utilizes AI-driven drones for early weather forecasting like floods, droughts etc.** In this way, earlier ~~sets~~ mitigation steps can be taken to save the world from the ~~after~~ effects of disasters.

One of the other promising solutions to combat the issue of climate change is the judicial and sustainable allocation of climate funds.

It can help in mitigation and adaptation to climate change for the developing world. A standing committee should be formed at global

level which should collect funds from the developed world according to its their ratio of carbon emissions and then allocate these climate funds to the developing countries according to their vulnerability. According to UNEP, almost \$348 bn a year is required to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Therefore, a judicious and sustainable allocation of funds is required for adaptation and mitigation to climate change.

In a nutshell, the rhetoric response of humanity to climate change needs to be made practical. Its application is imperative to save the world for the future generations. The response can be made practical through determined efforts on the part of Global South and collaborative

efforts on the part of Global North. Committees should be formed to hold the countries accountable on showing non-conformity to the cause. Moreover, judicial allocation of climate funds to vulnerable countries can help in adaptation <sup>at</sup> to climate change.

Therefore, the issue of climate change must be given sufficient attention to save the Earth for good. If you really think environment is less important than the economy, try holding your breath while counting the money (Guy McPherson).