

Q: Give a brief account on Stockholm Declaration 1972.

Stockholm Declaration 1972

The Stockholm Declaration, formally known as Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment, was adopted on June 16, 1972 in Sweden. This declaration is of capital significance as it marked the first major international conference to address global environmental issues. It has laid the foundation of modern environmental movements for ensuring sustainable development.

Objectives of Stockholm Declaration 1972

Ensuring healthy human environment

Restoring forests

Conserving biodiversity

Sustainable development

Promoting efficient Use of Technology

Conserving natural resources

Promoting environmental awareness

Explicating Main Objectives of Stockholm Declaration

1- Ensuring Healthy Human Environment

One of the primary objective of Stockholm Declaration is promoting healthy human environment. Keeping in view this objective, UN General assembly declared^{on 28th July 2022} that "everyone has right to enjoy healthy environment." Even world's largest plant called Mammoth is designed to suck 36000 tons of carbon annually (CNN, Iceland's efforts for healthy human environment, May 2024). This step serves as a key example of the principle highlighted in Stockholm Declaration.

2- Restoring Forests

Another aspect on which Stockholm Declaration focuses is restoration of forests. Restoring forests involves a combination of ecological, social and economic measures aimed at bringing back forested areas. Brazil's potential to utilize carbon prices exceeding \$20 per ton of CO₂ to catalyze natural regeneration of deforested areas in the Amazon, capable of capturing 16 Giga tons of CO₂, represents a significant step for achieving the objective mentioned in Stockholm Declaration (Foreign Policy, Restoring forests in Brazil, March 2024).

3. Efficient Use of Technology

Stockholm Declaration also focuses on promoting efficient use of technology. For instance, UN specialized agency for information and communication technology, in partnership with 40 UN agencies, including UN Human Rights and Swiss government highlighted their aim to identify practical applications of AI for sustainable development at **AI for Good Global Summit of 2024**. This aim encapsulates the underlying objective of Stockholm Declaration.

4. Conservation of Natural Resources

Another objective of this declaration is conservation of natural resources. USAID (United States Agency for International Development) is making efforts to achieve this objective of Stockholm Declaration.

For instance, USAID has established a five-year \$16 million grant facility to help civil society in natural resource management (**The Economist, USAID Conserving Natural Resources, Promoting June 2024**).

5. Sustainable Development

Stockholm Declaration also included promotion of sustainable development as a key objective in its agenda of environmental conservation.

United Nations is making efforts even in this 2024 to achieve this objective. For instance, UN has introduced its agenda toward **2050** for sustainable development. This agenda is

aiming to cut global green-house gas emissions by at least 58% compared with 2019 (BBC, UN Agenda towards 2050, February 2024).

6- Achieving Net-zero Emissions

Another objective of Stockholm Declaration is achieving net-zero emissions. This can be achieved by ensuring the fulfillment of new commitments like at Times Higher Education Climate Impact Forum, 1050 universities from 68 countries made a range of new commitments to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Even University of Glasgow has become the first university to declare that it would divest from fossil fuels within a decade (The Guardian, Efforts for Achieving Net-zero Emissions, March 2024).

7- Conserving Biodiversity

Stockholm Declaration focuses on the conservation of biodiversity. All the efforts made by international organizations for conserving biodiversity reflect Stockholm Declaration of 1972. For instance, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project in Phillipines provides inclusive support for conservation of biodiversity, alligning with the principles of Stockholm Declaration. This initiative has led to identification of 228 key areas of biodiversity across Phillipines, a home to 855 globally important species (GEF, Conservation of biodiversity, July 2024).

8. Promoting Environmental Awareness in Public

Stockholm Declaration also focuses on promoting environmental awareness in public. For instance, Qatar's vision of 2030 included promoting environmental awareness in public as a significant initiative that reflect principles of Stockholm Declaration (Gulf Times, Qatar's Vision 2030, Jan 2024). This shows that Qatar, ^{despite} being a desert country, is leading the gulf toward green environment by embracing horticulture and encouraging its public for environmental stewardship.

9. Establishing International Cooperation

Stockholm Declaration encourages international cooperation for the sake of environment. The recent cooperation of states for environmental conservation at the platform of COP-28 also signifies the same objective as of Stockholm Declaration. Similarly, the insights shared by SCO Secretary General among SCO members for strengthening this cooperation merely for the sake of environment highlight the importance of international cooperation among states for environmental resilience, exemplifying the objective of Stockholm Declaration.

10. Ensuring Proper Solid Waste Management

All the efforts made by the world for ensuring proper solid waste management reflect Stockholm Declaration. For instance, according to UN Food

and Agriculture organization, food accounts for 40% of solid wastes in US. This food waste is the third largest source of human related methane emissions in US. Investing \$4 billion ^{per year} in cost-effective solutions for reduction of solid wastes could reduce solid wastes by 45 million tons for those years which is a goal of Stockholm Declaration.

Concluding Thoughts

Conclusively, Stockholm Declaration ^{was} the first initiative taken by the world for the prevention and control of environmental pollution, urging countries to take measures to reduce and eliminate pollution and to promote the development of technologies that can minimize environmental harm and increase sustainable development. Thus, Stockholm Declaration has marked a pivotal moment in the history of environmental protection.

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