

Q.1 - Discuss the significance and outcomes of United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972. How did it shape the international policy, and what were its long-term impacts on global environmental governance?

~~Stockholm Declaration~~

United Nations Conference on Human Environment, 1972

1. Introduction:-

Stockholm declaration was the first large meeting on environmental issues organized by United Nations General Assembly. The main goal of this conference was to satisfy the growing international concerns about the degrading environment. United Nations has organized this meeting on the request of Sweden. There were 114 countries in this conference, but Soviet bloc boycotted it due to exclusion of Germany.

This declaration consists of 26 principles to address the environment issues with other humanitarian aspects. It also introduces a framework for environmental actions.

2. Key Focuses:-

The main areas of Stockholm declaration are were those, which deteriorated the environment. The deleterious issues are listed below:

a) over population

b) climate change

c) Technological and industrial advancement

d) Developing economies.

3. Human Rights and Responsibilities:-

To enjoy clean environment is the right of every individual. As people seek for their right, so they have also some responsibilities to protect their fellow beings and future generation.

In this context, the declaration noted that humans should have to preserve and protect natural resources and wildlife.

4. Required efforts from developed and developing countries:-

UNEP noted that both developed and developing countries are deteriorating environment. The major obstacle is poverty which has hindered proper environmental management in developing countries; thus, has harmed the environment. The technological advancements in developed countries have also damaged environment.

5. Action plan

There were 109 specific recommendations in 'Action plan' to ensure that concerning government would implement the environmental laws effectively. Apart from it, there were 69 recommendations on how government, intergovernment agencies, and NGOs could work together.

6. Significance of Stockholm declaration:

As Stockholm declaration was the first large meeting attained by concerning governments, NGOs, IGOs, and more than 400 non-governmental organisations, so it has numerous importance:

a) This was the first platform to unite many countries.

b) The declaration provided many ways to counter many environmental issues.

c) It serves as successor for other environmental institutions and organisations.

d) It has provided the basic framework of environmental policies.

e) It highlighted many environmental issues.

f) Stockholm declaration fostered multilateral cooperation among various countries.

g) It has given rise to the formation

UNEP for providing institutional machinery and financial framework as per decisions of this conference.

70 Role of UNCTE in shaping international policy:-

UNCTE has played significant role in shaping international policies through provision of human rights and condemnation of colonialism, assisting developing countries as integral part of environmental preservation policies, the rational planning between environment and development of countries, promotion of effective population policies, international cooperation and ban on nuclear weapons to stop the release of harmful radioactive elements.

70 outcomes of stockholm declaration
There are numerous outcomes of UNCTE resulted from the joint meeting of various countries on one platform. Some of which are listed below:

- a) It placed environmental protection and preservation of natural resources and wildlife on the official agenda of international policy and law.
- b) It has laid down the framework for future environmental policies.
- c) It has give rise to 'action plan' with 109 recommendations.
- d) A number of governments produced detailed ministers of environment

through this conference.

e) The United Nations Environmental Program created under the resolution of this conference.

90 Long-term Impacts of Global Environmental Governance:-

Stockholm declaration remained active for 40 years. It has long term impact in manifold sectors:

a) It has contributed in awareness of public and government to take account of environmental issues.

b) The ministers created for environmental protection and preservation was one of the significant decision of UNCTE.

c) The green funds which were regulated by it, is one of the long-term impact.

d) It serves as base for international cooperation and establishment of national standards.

The 1972 Stockholm declaration was the product of its time. It had focused on every possible way to foster natural resources preservation. It emphasized the dire need of international cooperation on environmental issues and has suggested a number of ways to counter it. However, there are certain areas which are surprising when viewed from contemporary

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perspective, yet it remained a robust
framework in that time. As environmental
policies and laws are evolutionary process,
but the UNCHE continues to
be the hardcore of continually growing
body of law

