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## Topic: Climate Change and Call for a collective Action.

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- (ii) Climate change and the need for collective action.
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- (i) UN Definition of Climate Change
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#### C. Climate Change and Call for a Collective Action

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a) Foundation of IPCC, UNFCCC, SDGs.

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## D. Case Studies: Specific Examples of Global Initiative for Collective Climate Action

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## E. Hurdles in the Process of Collective Climate Action: A Glimpse of Past and Present

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a) "This Changing Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate" by Naomi Klein.

2. Shifting to clean-energy and reaching the target of Net-zero emissions globally.

b) "Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan ever proposed to Reverse Global Warming" by Paul Hawken.

3. Governments should work on three fronts: Technology, policy, and markets.

c) "How to Avoid Climate Disaster" by Bill Gates.

## G. Conclusion

## Essay

One day a father taught his sons that while one stick can easily be broken, a bundle of sticks bound together is much stronger. This principle has been illustrated in "The Bundle of Sticks" by Aesop's Fables. The modern concept of 'unity is the strength', the most popular proverb, has been part of human wisdom for centuries, highlighting the idea that people achieve more when they work together rather than individually. Unfortunately, the climate crisis is not more a new phenomenon for anyone today. It is like the cause of humans' materialism approach. The phenomenon of climate change had emerged since the discovery of steam engine, particularly from the dawn of Industrial Revolution. Many scientists had observed the exacerbating rates of temperatures around the globe, discovering the ozone hole in the Antarctica, and calling for the collective action against the flawed governmental policies. However, through the dissemination of misinformation and propaganda, certain challenges aroused for the scientists to explain that climate change is not a fiction, it is a real threat, and it is happening now. Subsequently, the discovery of ozone hole raised concerns and <sup>thus</sup> led to the foundation of Montreal Protocol,

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Toronto Conference, Kyoto Protocol in which the IPCC and then Paris Agreement, were a launch initiative against climate crisis. However, with the passage of time and with the solidarity movements, demanding the climate justice, held by the people across the global, was not to be easily ignored. Therefore, the developed and developing countries came on the same page for joint action. For instance, the initiative of COP conferences, from COP26 to COP28 and the coming COP29, is a meaningful initiative for bringing down the temperature at  $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  globally and transitioning to clean-energy sources. Such collective action is the need of the hour. Therefore, climate change is an existential threat for the survival of human beings as well as other species in this planet. However, keeping the barriers in mind, there is a need for collective action in order to tackle the climate crisis.

To begin with, climate change, as per United Nations has been defined as a long-term shift in global or regional climate patterns, specifically referring to changes that are largely driven by human activities since the mid-20th century. UN attributes this change primarily to increased levels of atmospheric greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide,

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methane, and nitrous oxide, due to activities like burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes. These gases trap heat in the atmosphere, leading to global warming, rising sea levels, and changes in weather patterns. ~~It is so important to highlight that where does this phenomenon of climate change come from?~~ Since the dawn of Industrial Revolution, scientists had predicted changing in weather patterns in 1880's and 1990's. However, no one considered it a fact, until, a ozone hole was discovered in the Antarctica in 1985. The findings revealed that ozone hole were dropping by as much as 60% in certain areas. At that time, a Book had published name "Merchants of Doubt" by Naomi Oreskes and Eric Conway. They said that "Researchers shouldn't try to cure cancer because that would be too expensive and in any case people in the future might decide that dying from cancer is not so bad. Thus, the situation was alarming and the need for collective action was in demand.

In fact, the scientists, and organizations, and civil societies begin their journey for joint climate action.

Most importantly, the collaboration of scientists in the past and present is very important. Scientists like James Hansen, <sup>the NASA scientist,</sup> had called for an urgent meeting with other scientists to discuss this issue. In 1979,

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Hansen dialed into a meeting in Cape Fear, CO to discuss the changing climate. The meeting discovered that the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration would double by 2035 and the world would warm by 2 to 3°C as a result. When President Reagan did not take any critical step then in 1985, scientists jointly fought for the ongoing crisis in the meeting of UN Environmental Program and the World Meteorological Organization in Villach, Austria. The concentration of CFCs was totally decried until the ozone hole was discovered in Antarctica. Resultantly, the grave concern for climate action was initiated and that led to the foundation of Montreal Protocol, Toronto Organization and then Kyoto Protocol. To sum up, the collective contribution of scientists actually started the process of climate action.

Moving forward, Toronto Conference on Changing Atmosphere held in 1988, actually laid the foundation for joint climate action. As a result, many UN-based organizations were formed including: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement in 2015. It was really important for different countries to come together and collectively resolve the exacerbating scale of climate change that were impairing economies, lives,

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environments, and the survival of other species. Moreover, the main target was to limit the green house gas emissions and transition towards the renewable energy. However, that was actually not the initial success because many countries like US, Russia, China, and India, were having clashes on curbing the dependence on fossil fuels. Thus, lead to the environment protection call by the people around the world. To conclude, the joint climate action was important, but many lapses were to be removed.

Furthermore, the role of media and peaceful protest held across the globe was a true example of the joint call for a collective action against the devastating climate crisis. The rising of youth like a young teenage girl Greta Thunberg, and on September 20, 2019, marked what is likely to be the largest climate protest in history. There were more than 2,500 events in 163 countries around the world. Additionally, as per the report of **People Climate Vote** held by **UNEP** in **2024**, illustrated that, in China almost **80%**, India **76%**, US **54%** and Saudi Arabia **75%**, don't want a fast transition to clean energy. **53%** are more worried about climate change than they were last year, and **86%** want their countries to set aside their political



differences and work together to find a solution. Therefore, the attention of media and the joint solidarity movements can really tackle the climate crisis today.

Afterwards, due to the solidarity movements held worldwide and people call for action together, setting aside their national and cultural differences, came together on the same page, and urged governments to unite together because only collective action can solve this issue. This has led the different countries including the developing and the developed world to come together and initiated a promise to fulfill, they made in Paris Agreement in 2015. Therefore, different Conference of Parties (COP) for the collective climate action had started. For instance, COP26, COP28 and the coming COP29 will be the game changer. The COP28, held in 2023, this agreement signals, "Beginning of the End" of fossil fuels. Countries pledged to keep the temperature aligned to 1.5°C globally and promised to transition to clean energy source. Moreover, the participation of think tanks, stakeholders, philanthropists, and youth, came across from different countries to collectively propose remedies in order to combat the existential threat of climate change. Thus, a more productive and joint action can lead the world to clean environment and safe for humanity.

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In addition to the importance of COP conferences, there is the contributions of climate activists and civil society groups and organizations cannot be denied. Bill Gates, a philanthropist and founder of Microsoft company, has written a book "How to Avoid Climate Disaster". In this phenomenal work, he had discussed the causes of climate change and the ways to tackle it. He has given the idea that joint collaboration of governments by establishing stringent long-term sustainable policies and clean-energy transition can combat the climate problem. Similarly, a well-known young climate activist, Greta Thunberg, stressed upon a collective call for climate action. She said, "People are suffering, people are dying, entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are at the beginning of a mass extinction and all you can talk about is money and fairytales of eternal economic growth; how dare you."

Hence, this thought provoking statement by a young climate activist and emphasizes the importance of a joint call for climate crisis.

Not only this, it is very important to note that the vulnerable countries, that do not have resources for transitioning towards renewable energy sources. because their economic growth totally depends upon the fossil fuel consumption. Similarly, a joint action for Green climate Fund has

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initiated by globally advanced countries. At the platform of United Nations, many countries pledged to participate in donating the Loss and Damage Fund in order to compensate the vulnerable communities. These countries, despite emitting less carbon, are more exposed to natural calamities that not only harm their economic growth, but also a threat for humanity. Therefore, in 2024, countries like Azerbaijan pledged to donate \$1 billion for developing countries in the coming COP29 conference that will held in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan. Similarly, organizations like the UN office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UN office for Project Services, are also working for the developing nations. To conclude, the initiative of joint Green Climate Fund is a major step towards cleaner and healthy environment in order to tackle climate issue.

After that, along with the initiative of Green Climate Fund, the collective action of regional alliances cannot be ignored. The regional initiatives like G7 has proposed the "climate club" in which the top seven countries are collaborating with each other to enhance the production of clean energy projects and met the target of net-zero emissions by 2050. Similarly, the **European Union** has introduced the carbon

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Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), often referred to as a "carbon border tax" is a step by a regional institution to impose carbon tax cost on trade, aiming to encourage global emissions and incentivize the other countries to adopt stricter carbon policies.

This joint initiative is a meaningful step towards climate action. Moreover, South Asian countries are also jointly collaborating.

For Instance, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a regional institution of South Asian countries, are laying their emphasis on importance of climate action. This was done by the recently held SCO summit of head of governments in Pakistan in 2024. Thus, such regional organization can bring a more positive step for collective action against climate crisis.

Next, the many countries are collaborating with each other by leveraging the technological and scientific innovations.

For Instance, the Nordic countries, like Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway work closely on climate initiatives through organizations like Nordic Energy Research and Nordic Council of Ministers. As a

result, these countries are among the top ten countries of Energy Transition Index, held by World Economic Forum, 2024. Moreover,

these bilateral alliance known as "The International Solar Alliance (ISA)" between France and India is also much inspiring.

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These countries are advancing solar energy solutions in over 100 member countries. This alliance promotes affordable solar energy technology, particularly in tropical countries, by sharing scientific knowledge and technology. ~~To break up the cross-border scientific research and data sharing is a meaningful step towards a call for collective climate action.~~

Moving forward to the global initiatives taken by Sweden and Bhutto is much inspiring for other countries to learn from them. So, the first case study is of Bhutan. Bhutan is the champion of climate action. As per Bhutan's written constitution, 60% of the country will remain as a forest. There is also a ban on log exports. 71% of Bhutan is covered in trees. As a result, it acts as a carbon sink. It is absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, and is already reached to net-zero carbon emission. Similarly, Bhutan is generating hydro electric power and also providing free electricity to its farmers. According to World Bank, in 2021, Bhutan generated nearly 1000 GWh of electricity and exported over 85% of it. Bhutan is accessing the status of carbon emissions regularly, through modern tech-system like drones, remote sensing techniques, satellites etc to boost its efforts. Hence,

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it is imperative to know that eight countries have already reached to net-zero emissions due to the soft action programmes like Bhutan did by exporting its clean energy.

The next successful story is about the Sweden. This case study is known as **Sweden's Alchemy**. It is called

Alchemy because it is using wasteful expenditure material for energy production and turning garbage to gold. In 1970, Sweden already faced harsh weather conditions.

They needed more fuel to keep their homes warm. With the threat of climate change, Sweden decided to not to depend on fossil fuels because world is going to transition towards the clean-energy. They had adopted

an inclusive strategy. For instance, children were taught how to recycle, not only in their curriculum, but also they celebrate national day in which childrens under supervision of their elders pick up the waste.

Furthermore, Sweden's <sup>had</sup> followed approach of "one man's trash is another's man treasure"

From 1990 to 2006, 34% of carbon emissions are reduced and from 1990 to 2020, 94% green house gases are reduced. The rest

of 47% waste is recycled. People get discount vouchers by putting waste into bins placed at every 300 meter. At least 250,000 e-waste are transformed into energy.

Therefore, Sweden generate 11 TWh of

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of energy. Also, other countries like U.K and Norway give Sweden \$43 per ton for their waste, which are imported to Sweden. Thus, by inclusive and collaborative approach, Sweden has not only adopted the double-edged sword approach, but is accelerating its economic growth as well as curbing the climate crisis.

Furthermore, there are many hurdles that had existed before and now for the collective action against climate change. If talking about the past, countries like U.S. and Soviet Union had different ideologies regarding economic growth. There was a **Discordant and conflict**

These states had ideological as well as political ~~crises~~. Consequently, failed to achieve the joint collaboration during the climate change conference held in Washington, D.C. There was a view in 1987, that Russia would become too powerful in 5 years that they could take over the world. Additionally, ~~the~~ after the Paris agreement of 2015, U.S. had withdrew from it in 2017 because of having a tussle between ~~china~~ and India. Today, most countries ~~lacking~~ renewable energy resources and technological resources, have created ~~another~~ obstacle for joint climate action. Hence, such countries, needs a priority to get help from the developed countries.

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Moving forward towards a need for a multifaceted approach for a collective call for climate action, countries must reverse the capitalist ideologies and policies at first. For instance, in the book, "This ~~is~~ Changing: Everything: Capitalism vs the climate" by Naomi Klein, she criticized the capitalist's materialistic approach that had contributed to the destruction of our environment. She had emphasized that habits can be changed. Except most of times, one cannot see this, because one are "locked in politically, physically, and culturally." to the world that capital had made. "we lack the collective spaces in which to confront the raw terror of ecocide". However, she ~~has~~ stated that if people ~~resist~~ from consumerism, then an joint initiative can hugely impact the capitalist policies. Thus, a more individual resistance is required.

Moreover, reversing the global warming needs a shift from fossil fuels towards the clean-energy sources in order to reach the target of net-zero emissions by 2050 globally. "Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming" by Paul Hawken, is a ~~very~~ wonderful book because it provides 100 solutions for combating the climate change. In this book, Hawken



has mentioned the word "Drawdown" which means the point when greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will stop rising and begin to decline. For this turning point, he said, human needs to adopt the implementation of 100 solutions that he had provided in his book. Some of the solutions include: Microwind turbines, walkable cities, Perennial staple crops, methane leak management, telepresence, Population control etc. Starting from the family planning and moving towards the green-energy transition is an important factors that needs a joint worldwide collaboration. Thus, awareness campaigns and civic engagement can bring a positive impact.

Lastly, implementing on the Hawke's 100 solutions and along with the Governments should also work on three major fronts: Technology, policy and market. These initiatives are mentioned in the Book, "How to Avoid Climate Disaster" written by Bill Gates. Bill Gates in his book, has divided the biggest problems into smaller chunks and then also had provided the solutions for them. Not only this, he also had given the inclusive approach for collaborating with poor countries by making them to upgrade their resources and shift towards the clean-energy projects. Moreover, he

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has emphasized on the technological inclusion in dealing with climate crisis - with the advent of Artificial Intelligence, many countries like Sweden are changing their strategy for Agricultural production. Also, the global policies and governance for climate action will play a huge role. Moving from fossil fuels towards the renewable methods like shifting to hydroelectric power, wind turbines, and solar energy. Photo-voltaic methods (Solar panels) will bring positive change in the world. But, this cannot be done individually, A joint call for collective action is required.

In a nutshell, this essay has explained that climate change is an existential threat not only for human beings but also for other species as well. There are many obstacles in the way while calling for a joint climate action. However, with the help of a multi-faceted approach, countries can meet the target of net-zero emissions by 2050. Moreover, addressing the root causes of climate change and the contribution of scientists, & societal movements, and joint global conferences played a pivotal role while dealing with the climate crisis. Most countries are contributing with each other with the foundations of UN-based

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organizations like COP conferences and the regional or bilateral institutions. Like SCO, EU and G7. Similarly, some countries like Sweden and Bhutan already meet the target of net-zero carbon emission by their innovation approach which acted as an exemplary model for other countries to do the same. To conclude, addressing the climate change, a more collaborative and inclusive approach should be adopted because unity is the strength as we have realized in the essay. As **Barack Obama, President of U.S.** truly said, we are the first generation to be able to end poverty and the last generation that can steps to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Future generation will judge us harshly if we failed to perform our responsibilities. Hence, the concept of "we" must be adopted because it is the question of our mother planet, the Earth.

Interesting end good

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