

Is World Doing Enough to combat the Climate Crisis

Outline

1) Introduction

The global community has not done enough to combat climate crisis due to prevailing political, economic, social and other hindrances; However, others might disagree with this notion, which does not seem much convincing.

2) Steps Taken By ~~the~~ Global Community: An Overview

3) Hindrances Faced By Global community to combat the climate crisis:

- 1) Frequent government changes leads to policy discontinuity
- 2) Global rivalries undermine the coordination of climate leadership
- 3) Dependence on fossil-fuel for exports
- 4) Prevailing climate-finance gap
- 5) Public resistance to carbon-taxes
- 6) Climate-induced poverty and inequality.

3.7) The US-China tech monopoly hinders cooperation

3.8) State's incapacity to acquire climate adaptation technologies.

3.9) Lack of legally binding agreements

3.10) widespread deforestation offsets climate action

4) World doing enough to combat climate crisis: An opposing, yet unconvincing stance:

4.1) Global climate agreements show commitment to combating climate crisis; However, temperature remained record high in 2024.

4.2) Climate finance and technology transfers are a means to cooperation, but the gap in both areas widens.

4.3) Growth of renewable energy witnesses the world is doing enough; Nevertheless, fossil fuel still dominates the exports.

5) Conclusion

Climate change has been an existential threat to humanity. Each passing year leaves drastic repercussions on the globe. While global community has formulated agreements like the Paris Agreement to combat climate crisis, still the rate of global warming increases. The agreement aimed at keeping global warming below 1.5°C ; however, United Nations Environment Programme report the rate of global warming stands at 2.5°C . This stale of affairs can be attributed to the bottlenecks global community faces these days. These include policy discontinuity due to government changes, global industries undermining coordinated leadership, fossil-fuel reliance, prevailing climate-finance gap, the US-China tech monopoly, state's incapacity to acquire climate adaptation and lack of legally binding agreement. Although, world has taken some steps to combat climate crisis yet the progress has been marred by ineffective implementation which further exacerbates the climate catastrophe. In fact,

the global community has not done enough to combat climate crisis due to prevailing political, economic, social and other hindrances; however, others might disagree with the notion, which does not seem much convincing.

Before going ahead of the main topic, it is important to explore what global community has done to combat climate crisis. The community has signed multiple agreements such as Montreal protocol, Kyoto protocol, United Nations Framework convention on climate change, Conference of Parties (COP), Green Climate fund and Paris agreement. All of these agreements and frameworks are formed to reduce emission, promote climate justice and finance, and reducing ozone layer depletion. However, these measures face adaptation challenges. These agreements are not legally binding to any state. So, effective implementation remains fragile. Therefore, global community after doing some of

the world still ~~is~~ ~~lagging~~ behind
combating climate ~~crisis~~ crisis. This became
evident from floods, heatwaves, wild fires
and ~~famine~~ across the globe.

To begin with the
hindrances faced by the global community
while combating climate crisis, the foremost
obstacle is frequent government changes
across countries. Fighting climate crisis
needs long-term policy making and
long-term policies are witnessed where
long-term government prevails. Each
short-term offices has fragmented
governance plans which dismantle's
policy continuity. For example, US president
Donald Trump ~~exit~~ from "Paris Agreement"
which spreaded a wave of non-signed
towards climate change across the
globe. In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol
was signed in the ~~presidency~~
of Bill Clinton. Subsequent government
continued the agreement but Trump
exited on the pretext of America's
first. Thus government changes is
a hindrance to combating climate
crisis.

Moreover, global dynamics undermine the coordinated leadership in combating climate crisis. Trump's exit from Paris agreement was largely aimed at "Why America first?" even China and India are not prepared to reduce the emissions. Especially, the US and China are China are skeptical whether one's compliance may lead to one's backward in the global race of influence. Currently, ~~Trade war~~ between both countries hinders the slogan of cooperation over combating climate crisis. According to International Energy Agency both the US and China account for 40% of global emissions. So, both countries are reluctant to stop their fossil-fuel embedded industries. Overall, global rivalry impedes cooperation over climate mitigation.

Furthermore, dependence on fossil-fuel for exports revenues remains a big hurdle for combating climate crisis. Fossil-fuel is considered as cornerstone for

global economy. It accounts for approximately 60-80% of carbon emission. All of the ~~petroleum~~ and LNG, and other exports comes from fossil-fuels.

According to UNEP, 40% of exports comes from ~~fossil-fuel~~ across the globe and IEA estimates 80% of global energy supply comes from fossil-fuel. So, countries like US, China, Russia and Saudi Arabia are on the top of the list which export fossil-fuel-based products. Therefore, reliance on ~~fossil-fuel~~ for exports remains a challenge for combating climate menace.

~~Besides, prevailing climate-finance gap is also impeding the global progress for combating climate crisis. Global South whose share to carbon emission is quite less, bears the brunt of climate catastrophe.~~

As per ~~green~~ climate fund under COP27 - COP28, every year climate-vulnerable states are to receive \$100 billion, but funds remain stagnant. ~~Inequality in financing need~~

Lack of resilient infrastructure in underdeveloped and developing countries. These countries also remain vulnerable to flash flood, ~~hurricane~~ and other disasters. As per world Bank, developing economies need \$1 trillion for revamping their infrastructure. Thus, financing gap poses obstacles to climate mitigation.

Additionally, public resistance to carbon pricing is also an obstruction to coping up climate crisis. Climate pricing is an additional charges or fines on the emissions more than allowed. Multinational corporations compensate the fines by adding more prices. This brings discomfort into the mind of people. The neo-colonial behavior of industries is largely criticized.

In 2023-2024, protests erupted in France, Germany and Ecuador against inflation induced by carbon pricing. This basically leads to public pressure for governments to reduce the prices.

Hence, public resistance to carbon pricing remains an Achilles heel for climate change resistance.

Likewise, climate change-induced poverty and inequality remain an impediment to coping climate crisis. The already fragmented world over climate mitigation undermine countries facing poverty and inequality because of floods and chronic heatwaves. For instance, 2022 floods in Pakistan washed away more than 20 million households. Another report of world bank says; by 2030, 170 million people will turn into poverty. So, climate-induced floods bring people below poverty and exaggerate the inequality. Therefore, existing climate crisis is ~~hard~~ at ground level when poverty increases.

~~Another hindrance in the way of climate mitigation is technology monopoly of the US and China.~~

rivalry still can be seen in Artificial Intelligence and semi conductor. Both countries have imposed restrictions on their respective exports. This leads to shortage of renewable substitutes for developing economies. Photovoltaic and Lithium batteries are too costly for developing states to acquire climate resilience through technology. According to IEA, 70% - 80% of Lithium battery generation comes from the East and possess monopoly over their products. Thus, global technology monopoly jeopardizes the climate change efforts.

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Not only global tech monopoly but (also) state's incapacity to acquire climate adaptation technologies also obliterates thombsting climate crisis. These states which are highly vulnerable to climate crisis possess negligible climate adaptation technology. The promised technology transfer and tech-based funds are hardly received by

climate-affected states. State's lack "Early warning systems, climate resilient agriculture and infrastructure because of incapacity as a whole". According to UNEP hardly 40% of promised funds are received, yet COP remain a spectator.

Hence, incapacity of states to combat climate crisis undermine global commitment.

Last but not the least, there is lack of legally binding agreements which leads climate mitigation mere a slogan. Kyoto and Montreal agreement were made to reduce emissions. (However, their non-binding nature exerted no pressure on those countries which emit more carbon. countries such as US and China are top of the list. Paris agreement was also signed to control the pace of global warming below 1.5°C , but the pace remains increasing and have reached 2.5°C . So, legally non-binding nature of global agreement

exposed the way global community is combating climate crisis.

The last obstacle in the way of combating climate crisis is widespread deforestation which offsets climate actions. Deforestation increases green house gases which warm the globe. Many countries in the world remove trees for the purpose of oil exploration and other fossil fuel, yet on the cost of environmental degradation.

According to UNEP annually 10 million hectares of trees are removed. This depletes carbon sinks and increases heat across the world. developing countries witness flash flood due to deforestation because trees are the biggest source of urbanisation. Therefore, massive deforestation impedes actions against climate crisis.

While global community has not done enough to combat climate crisis, some believe the opposite. They

opine that global community has signed some agreements which shows a commitment to combating climate catastrophe. According to them,

~~the Paris agreement and Kyoto~~

~~Protocol~~ are landmarks agreement to mitigate the menace. In

Paris agreement, it was committed to control the pace of global warming below 1.5°C . While in Kyoto Protocol, it was voluntarily agreed upon to help developing economic to withstand the climate crisis. However, even such agreement are signed, proper implementation in terms of actions exposes the notion of doing enough to combat climate change. This is evident from the

report of United Nations Environment

Programme, which says the pace of global warming has increased upto 2.5°C . There is widespread manifestation of wild fires, heat waves and floods across the globe. Thus, even if the

global community has established agreements on combating climate change, ground realities witness that the world has not done enough, overcoming climate issue.

They are also of the view that climate finance and technology transfers are means to cooperation which justifies that the world has done enough work for climate change.

As per them, Green Climate Fund under Cooperation of Parties (COP) is a solid measure to promote climate finance. The fund declares that \$100 billion should be given to climate affected nation. Moreover, they argue that Montreal and Kyoto Protocol oblige developed nation to provide technology to developing nation.

Nevertheless, neither the fund nor tech-transfer from various protocols has caused a drastic change. The agreements possess no legally binding provision by which countries remain accountable. The ongoing US-China war on technology has led to monopolization of technology which undermines the notion of tech-transfer. World bank reports that hardly 40% of climate funds are disbursed leaving countries on the brink of major catastrophe. Hence, the global community is lagging behind proper mechanism to combat climate crisis.

They further claim that the growth of renewable energy makes it evident that global community has done enough to fight climate crisis. According to them, energy has grown upto 80% of new power generation from solar and wind - A report of World Energy Outlook 2035. It also expresses that investments in renewable energy have reached approximately \$2 Trillion mainly led by the US, China, and European Union. But the growth of renewable energy has led to inequality between the global north and south. As per International Energy Agency countries in African and South Asia receive less than 15% of global energy investment. Another report of the same agency shows that while renewable energy has grown, still 80% of global exports account for fossil-fuel trade such oil, gas and other products. Hence, despite some efforts by global community, climate change remains a flagrant phenomenon.

To conclude, the global

community has failed to do enough for combating climate change. There are hindrances in political, economic, social and other domains. These include frequent government changes, global rivalry undermining coordination, dependence on fossil fuel export, prevailing climate finance gap, public resistance to carbon pricing, the US-china tech monopoly, lack of legally binding agreements and more. However, as others believe that global community has done enough in terms of agreements, reality remains different. The horror of climate catastrophe still is affecting human kind. Thus, world has not done enough to const. climate change.

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