

English Essay Mock - 02

2. Climate Change is the Ultimate Accountability Test for Humanity

Outline

A. Introduction

B. Climate Change - The Ultimate Accountability Test for Humanity

a) Recognition of the problem is the first step towards accountability

i) The Brundtland Commission Report
1987

ii) Establishment of UNFCCC at
the Earth Summit 1992

b) Intragenerational accountability

through Climate Justice

i) The concept of Common but shared responsibility (CBDR)

ii) Loss and damage fund

c) Inter-generational accountability
through sustainability

i) Definition of sustainability given
by Brundtland Commission Report

d) Commitments to ensure ^{mitigation} accountability
in Climate Change efforts

i) Evolution from non-binding

commitments (Kyoto Protocol, 1997)

to binding commitments (Paris

Agreement, 2015)

ii) Annual COPs

e) Tools of accountability globally

i) Carbon markets — a stick and

carrot approach to incentivise
decarbonization

ii) Green economies

f) Accountability at individual level

- i) Individual carbon footprint
- ii) Contribution in mitigating climate change

C. Challenges in Ensuring Accountability

g) Loopholes in ~~regulatory~~ ^{accountability} mechanisms

- i) Carbon leakages
- ii) Carbon prices not high enough to ensure deterrence

h) Role of developed countries in slowing down efforts

i) President Trump's recurring withdrawals from Paris Agreement

ii) China's emissions

i) Economic and infrastructural limitations of developing countries

- i) Reliance on cheap fossil fuels and energy sources

D. Steps Towards Ensuring Environmental Accountability

j) Raising awareness regarding climate change at grass-root level

i) Educational programs

ii) Workshops

iii) Community projects

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k) Strict compliance of regulations regarding carbon cuts

i) Heavy fines

ii) Closing the loopholes like carbon leakages and indirect emissions

iii) Improving measurement mechanisms for carbon emissions

l) Engaging World leaders and developed countries to take up leadership roles

(i) China - renewable energy leader

(ii) International and regional organizations

E Conclusion

Essay

6/5

It took humanity a few hundred years to disturb the Earth's natural equilibrium. However, it will take much longer than that to restore it back to its original state. Human

actions are responsible for the environmental degradation of the

Earth. Climate Change is one of the most significant manifestations of the consequences of human actions.

It is only fair that the ones who are responsible for the problem ~~are~~ should be the ones who are held accountable for it. Therefore,

Climate Change is the ultimate accountability test for humanity.

It is an issue which requires collective human effort to ensure

justice to nature as well as present and future generations. Therefore, it

is a test of humanity to not

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not to

only address issues such as disproportionate effect of Climate Change among present generations but also the problem of preserving and sustaining natural resources for future generations.

Humankind has shown commitment to address the issue by discussing the problem at global level and devising mechanisms to solve it.

However, many challenges still prevail in completely mitigating the issue.

Nonetheless, they have taken up the challenge and are committed towards tackling it.

The first step towards accountability consists of recognition of the problem and acceptance of responsibility towards it. Humans have not only accepted that the problem of climate change is a direct

consequence of their actions but also taken up the responsibility to resolve it. The Brundland Commission Report of 1987 recognized the role of human beings in environmental degradation. Later, the report triggered global action in the form of the Earth Summit of 1992. In this summit the first international body specifically aimed at mitigating Climate Change was formed. The body was named United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which has been leading efforts of mitigating Climate Change ever since.

The realization of the negative effects of human action on the environment was also accompanied by the realization and acceptance that the developed and more

industrialized world had a greater contribution in climate change which resulted in the disproportionate effects on the developing economies. This argument still stands true as the top ten most vulnerable countries to climate change are developing nations (WEF, 2024). The concept of common but shared responsibility (CBDR) proposed at the Kyoto Protocol held the developed economies accountable for their actions while preserving the status of climate change as a shared problem.

In addition to the intra-generational inequality and assurance of accountability, inter-generational inequality was also very prominently mentioned in the global agendas. The concept of sustainability

proposes fulfilling the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of the future generations (Brundtland Commission Report, 1987). Therefore, climate change is not a test for accountability to present generations, but to future generations as well. It is equally important that we take into consideration the future in addition to the present.

In order to ensure accountability, several global commitments have been made over the past few decades. The evolution of commitments from non-binding nature such as Kyoto Protocol, 1997 to that of legally binding and more strict nature such as the Paris Agreement, 2015;

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~~showcases the global will to~~
~~address the issue of Climate~~
~~Change in a promising manner.~~
Another ~~proof~~ of humanity's
commitment to hold themselves
accountable are the ~~persisting~~
efforts to ~~tackle~~ Climate Change
by organising global meetings
annually aimed specifically at
addressing Climate Change issues.
Since 1995, conference of parties
have been regularly held every year.
All these factors show humanity's
commitment to accountability.

The commitments to hold
themselves accountable for Climate
Change are realized through
devising tools to ensure accountability.
The proposal of 'cap and Trade'
to ~~ensure~~ form carbon markets

that link carbon emissions to economy incentivises the carbon emitting entities to be more watchful and accountable. It is a carrot and stick approach that not only awards decarbonization in the form of increased carbon credits that can be sold but also fines in case of violations of regulations. In addition to that, the promotion of green economies through governmental intervention is also a useful accountability tool to mitigate climate change by promoting more environment-friendly policies.

Accountability is not only important at organisational and corporate level but equally, if not more, important at domestic and individual level. Every individual

~~must be held~~ responsible for
their carbon footprint in the
form of burning fossil fuels,
using firewood, transport and other
~~mean~~ sources of carbon emissions
at individual level. Mechanisms of
measuring individual carbon footprints
and their effect on global
emissions is ~~an~~ a important
subject of discussion nowadays.
Holding individuals accountable
is another major component of
accountability.

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short
sentences
please as it
conveys
strong
meanings

The efforts ~~made~~ that have
been made to mitigate Climate
Change are commendable, but
~~nearly not enough~~. There are
multiple loopholes in the existing
accountability mechanisms. ~~The~~
~~some~~ One of the examples is

carbon leakage, which is a loophole exploited by Multi-National Corporations to set up their production sites in countries where the law are more relaxed.

This is a result of lack of Uniformity of carbon market mechanisms.

Moreover, carbon prices are so low that they do not deter these

companies. For instance in Europe only 100 euros are fined per excess carbon tonne emission. These

loopholes restrict accountability.

Developed countries such as the USA and China hinder accountability by setting negative precedents for other countries.

Trump has pulled out of the Paris Agreement consecutively in his two tenures. China, on the

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other hand, despite being a ~~part~~ of Paris Agreement remains the ~~biggest~~ global emitter of carbon due to its heavy reliance on coal. The global leading economies play a major role in the success or failure of ~~any~~ initiative. Therefore, unless they hold themselves accountable, the international accountability would be in vain.

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another one

The ~~developing~~ countries face extreme economic and infrastructural challenges. They are heavily reliant on cheap energy sources such as ^{coal,} crude oil and other non-renewable energy sources. Moreover, they are unable to set up expensive carbon absorbing infrastructure such

as Direct Air Capture (DAC) due to their limited resources. These challenges are exacerbated due to the negative effects of Climate Change that they are subject to such as floods. Therefore, the disproportionately developing economies lag behind in climate change efforts and accountability.

In order to ensure that the accountability for Climate Change is propagated in its true sense, we must ensure that awareness of the issue is raised at grassroots levels to encourage individual accountability. This can be done by focusing on climate change in school curriculum, organizing educational

do not write in pronoun please

programs and workshops. Moreover,
a more effective approach such
as community projects at the
local levels like plantation
drives ~~should be used~~ to
~~inculcate a sense of~~
responsibility and accountability.

At the organisational and
global level, carbon cuts must
be ensured by using strict
compliance of regulations.
~~This can be ensured by~~
~~closing loopholes such as~~
~~carbon leakages and indirect~~
~~emission tracking. This is only~~
~~possible if~~ measurement
mechanisms for carbon emissions
are improved. Heavy fines
~~can also be used as~~
a ~~deterrent mechanism~~ to

it is more

regulate carbon emissions.

These mechanisms will not only ensure improved accountability but also a sense of responsibility among the stakeholders.

The most important role in ensuring accountability of actions ~~can~~ can be played by international and regional organizations, as done by United Nations in the past with UNFCCC and IPCC. Moreover, the developed economies and major emitters like China must be active in ensuring compliance.

China is also the largest producer and exporter of renewable energy technology so it must play an active

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and leading role in making
sure that this test is successful.

Humanity is responsible
for the Climate Change so
they should be held accountable

of their actions and ~~they~~
~~actively work towards~~
~~addressing the climate~~
~~crises. Humankind We are~~

All the arguments show the
effort and commitment of
humankind in doing so. However,
the efforts are not enough
and immediate and appropriate
action must be taken to
combat this challenge. It

is an undebatable fact
that we are the first generation
to feel the effects of Climate
Change and the last generation
that can do something
about it.