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English Essay

CLIMATE CHANGE IS AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO HUMANITY

(A) Introduction

Thesis Statement: Climate Change is an existential threat to humanity due to its profound and far-reaching consequences, including environmental degradation, economic instability, and geopolitical tensions, necessitating immediate and unified global action.

(B) Environmental Consequences

(B.1) Rising Global Temperatures:

The Earth's average temperature has

increased by 1.1°C since the pre-industrial era. (IPCC, 2021).

(ii) This warming trend is accelerating due to greenhouse gas emissions, leading to more frequent and severe heat waves.

(B.2) Melting Polar Ice caps and Glaciers:

(i) Arctic ice is shrinking by 13% per decade, threatening polar ecosystems and indigenous communities. (WWF Arctic)

(B.3) Sea Level Rise:

(i) It is estimated that the oceans have risen by approximately 8-9 inches since 1880. (UN)

(B.4) Loss of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Collapse:

(i) Over 1 million species face extinction due to habitat destruction, shifting climates and

human activities. (UN, IPBES Report)

- (ii) Coral reefs, which support marine biodiversity, are dying off due to ocean warming and acidification.

(C) Economic Impacts:

(C.1) Agricultural Disruption:

- (i) Erratic weather patterns, prolonged droughts, and floods reduce crop yields, threatening global food security.
- (ii) For instance, wheat and rice production in South Asia has declined due to climate variability.

(C.2) Financial Cost of Natural Disasters:

- (i) Climate related disasters like hurricanes, wild fires, and floods cost \$210 billion globally in 2020.

(Munich Re).

- (ii) Developing countries, with limited resources, bear a disproportionate

share of these costs.

(C.3) Impact on Fisheries and Livelihood:

- (i) The study reveals that the total number of fish could shrink by up to 40% in some tropical regions by 2100, due to climate impacts. (WWF)
- (ii) Ocean acidification weakens shellfish populations, affecting sea food industries globally.

(C.4) Energy Crisis:

- (i) As the climate warms, Americans are expected to use more energy, mostly electricity for cooling. This higher demand will also increase the chance of blackouts or other power disruptions.

(US EPA: Energy Protection Agency)

- (ii) Renewable energy investments struggle to keep pace with the

surging demands.

(D) Social and Health Impacts.

(D.1) Heat-Related Illnesses and Fatalities:

(i) In 2021, over 600 Canadians died due to unprecedented heatwaves. (Canadian Climate Institute)

(ii) Heatwaves are becoming more frequent and severe, causing dehydration, heat strokes, and cardio-vascular stress.

(D.2) Spread of Vector-Borne Diseases:

(i) Climate change has already made conditions more conducive to the spread of certain diseases, including Lyme disease, water-borne diseases, and mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever.

(NIH: National Institute of Health)

(ii) This places immense pressure on already fragile healthcare system.

(D.3) Water Scarcity:

(i) By 2025, half of the world's population will live in water-stressed areas. (UN)

(ii) Prolonged droughts and over-extraction of groundwater exacerbate water shortages, affecting millions.

(D.4) Climate-Induced Migration:

(i) Natural disasters displace millions annually; for example, the 2020 floods in Bangladesh displaced over 4 million people.

(Al-Jazeera)

(ii) Climate refugees strain urban infrastructure in host regions, creating social tensions.

(E) Geopolitical and Security Challenges

(E.1) Resource Conflicts

- (i) Scarcity of essential resources like water and arable land fuels inter and intra-state conflicts.
- (ii) For instance, tensions between Pakistan and India over water-sharing agreements have intensified due to climate induced water shortages.

(E.2) Threat to Global Security:

- (i) The Pentagon calls climate change a "threat multiplier", exacerbating instability in fragile states.
- (ii) Natural disasters and resource scarcity undermine governance, leading to social unrest and extremism.

(E.3) Widens North-South gap:

- (i) Climate change widens already existing global inequalities, thereby

undermining efforts of poverty reduction. (Generation Climate Europe)

(E.4) International Political Tensions:

(i) Rich nations' reluctance to fund mitigation and adaptation efforts for poorer countries creates distrust.

(ii) Case in point: Developed nations' reluctance in fulfilling demands made in Cop29.

(D) Conclusion: Therefore,

(i) Climate change is not merely an environmental issue but a multidimensional existential threat with catastrophic consequences for ecosystems, economies, societies, and global stability.

(ii) Humanity's survival depends upon a unified commitment to combat this crisis and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.
