

# Should Developing Countries Prioritise Growth Over Climate Commitments?

## Outline

### A. Introduction

1. "We are the first generation to feel..." Barack Obama
2. What is climate change?
3. Thesis statement

### B. What are Climate Commitments?

### C. Developing Countries Should Prioritise Climate Commitments?

1. Ignoring climate commitments in industrial sector can exacerbate climate change;
  - a. An increased concentration of green house gas: Green House Effect and global warming
2. Reliance on non-renewable energy resources: results in increasing carbon emission and energy insecurity;
  - a. Fossil fuels emit carbon dioxide and Carbon monoxide: Carbon blanket around atmosphere
  - b. Energy insecurity due to reliance on imported coal: Case study of Pakistan

3. Neglecting climate commitments in agriculture sector can adversely impact crop production: food insecurity and reduction in export;

a. Case study of Pakistan: reduction in rice and cotton yield

b. Agri sector contribution in economy:

Economic Survey of Pakistan 2024-25

4. Prioritisation of climate resilient infrastructure can reduce the devastating consequences of extreme-weather events;

a. Floods in Bangladesh: <sup>mass</sup> displacement and infrastructure loss

5. Emission of ChloroFluoroCarbons from electrical technology can lead to ozone depletion and global warming;

a. Ozone depletion: harmful impacts on skin due to Ultraviolet rays  
: burden on health sector

b. High heat-trapping capabilities of ozone molecules

6. Unplanned Urbanisation in developing countries can lead to Urban flooding: disruption of economic activities;

a. An increase in cemented area results in reduction of carbon sinks and seepage of water

b. Urban deluge and supply chain disruption

7. Applying for debt-to-climate swap can reduce external debt and ensure growth;

a. Case study of Pakistan's vicious cycle of circular debt

b. Allocation of funds used for debt servicing to developmental sectors;

8. Transition to green technology can reduce the impact of climate change on health sector;

a. Case study of smog in Lahore: Vehicular emission

b. Incidence of lungs diseases

9. Integration of green technology can ensure both growth and climate sustainability;

a. Drip irrigation system in agri sector can reduce impacts of droughts

b. Transition to electric vehicles can reduce carbon emission

C. Developing Countries should Prioritise Growth over Climate Commitments:

A counter argument;

1. Poor socio-economic indicators of developing countries

2. Minimum green house gases emission

on by developing world economies

## D. Conclusion

### Essay

"We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and we are the last one who can do something about it," said Barack Obama while emphasizing the significance of climate commitments.

Climate change, according to the United Nations, is an overall increase in the temperature of the earth which has resulted in a long term shift in weather patterns, across the globe. There are multiple factors which include both natural activities such as volcanic eruption and human activities such as utilisation of non-renewable energy resources, industrialisation, deforestation and burning of organic waste which result in exacerbating climate change. Climate Change results in extreme weather events such as droughts, heatwaves, floods and cyclones, and these weather events have impacted both developed and developing economies. Developing world

and despite having minimum contribution in green house gases emission, bear the major brunt of climate change. Thus, they should prioritise climate commitments as ignoring climate commitments in industrial sector can enhance climate change. Further, reliance on non-renewable energy resources can contribute to both climate change by emission of carbon and can result in energy insecurity. Moreover, neglecting climate adaptation in agri sector can adversely affect crop production. Similarly, unplanned urbanisation can reduce carbon sinks, and it results in urban flooding. Lastly, transition to green technology can ensure both climate sustainability and growth. However, some argue that developing world should prioritise climate growth over climate commitments because of their poor socio-economic contribution and low carbon emission, but ignoring climate adaptation and mitigation can would result in infrastructure loss and massive devastation, which would reduce economic growth and development. This discourse would shed light on the view that developing countries should not prioritise growth

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over climate commitments and on the  
counter view of it.

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