

Mock Test # 6General Knowledge (II)(CURRENT AFFAIRS)Question: 1

COP 29 Summit ended in Baku. Critically evaluate its failures and commitments.

Answer :-" COP 29 Summit - Failures and Commitments "

(I)

INTRODUCTION

The Conference of Parties (COP) is held annually under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), where world leaders, policy makers and climate experts come together to address global climate challenges. These meetings aim to foster international collaboration on various commitments related to improving the environmental quality, dealing with climate change and assisting its victims. COP presidency rotates after every five-years in a cycle. This year Azerbaijan was selected for it.

The Conference was held in Baku from 11th to 22nd November, 2024. The recently concluded COP 29 Summit in Baku drew significant global attention as countries debate critical climate policies amidst rising environmental concerns. While the Summit made several commitments, it also faced criticism for perceived shortcomings.

(II) KEY COMMITMENTS MADE IN COP 29

Source:- Carbon Brief: Key Commitments Agreed at UN Climate talks

(i)
Climate Finance Negotiations:-
Once again, - climate finance dominated COP Agenda, with nations debating with how much developed nations would contribute. Under the New Collective Qualified Goal (NCQG) set in previous Summit, developed nations have agreed to help channel at least \$300 billion a year into developing countries by 2035 to support their efforts to deal with climate change. They also decided to

draw in contributors from private sector as well to collect this amount. On demands of the developing countries to contribute atleast a trillion funds, the developed countries launched a "Baku to Belem Roadmap" to meet that demand.

(ii)

Global Carbon Markets - Breakthrough on Article 6 of Paris Agreement:-

After almost a decade of negotiations, COP 29 saw breakthrough on Article 6 of Paris Agreement. The new rules established a framework for trading carbon credits generated by reducing or removing greenhouse gas emissions. This will be done through the "Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism."

(iii)

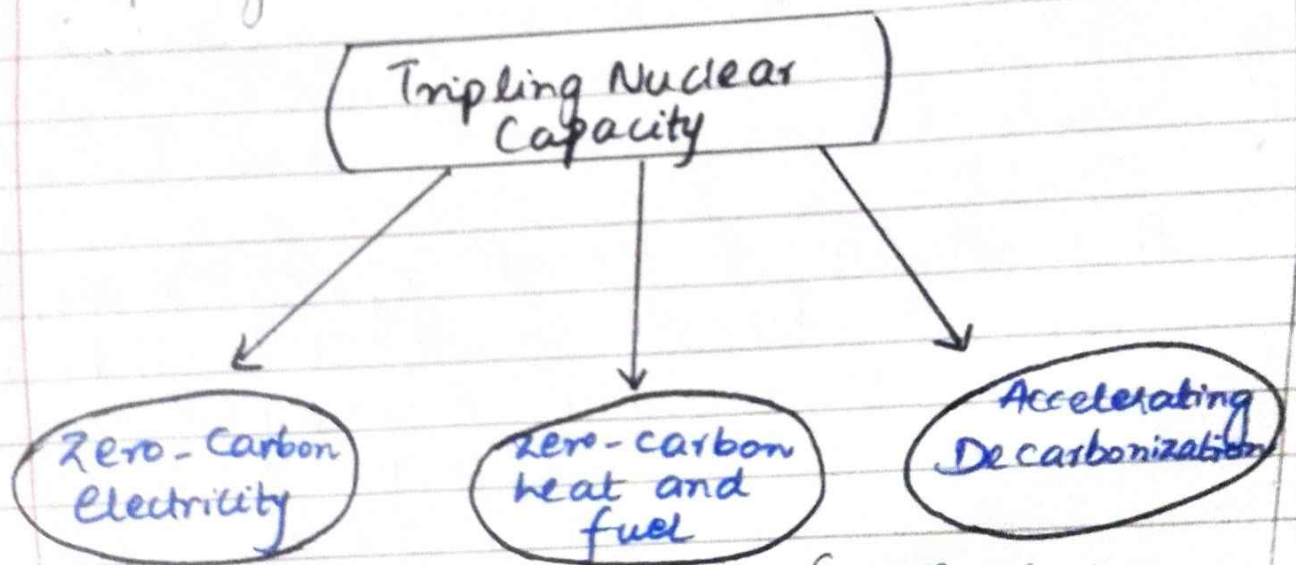
Initiatives Related to Combating Deforestation:-

The "Reducing Emissions From Deforestation and Forest Degradation" (REDD+) Initiative was strengthened, as the states made new pledges to combat deforestation.

(iv)

Nuclear Momentum Grows With 31 nations Committing to Triple Capacity:-

At COP 29, 6 additional countries signed the "Declaration to Triple Nuclear Energy", making the total 31. It signalled a growing momentum for nuclear as a clear and firm energy source by 2050. Tripling nuclear capacity would mean:



However, it is important for emerging economies that they adopt innovative approaches to deployment, safety and financing of nuclear energy.

(v)

Methane Emissions See Critical Progress, But Swift Implementation is Needed:-

Methane is a greenhouse gas with 80 times more warming capacity than carbon dioxide. The parties made new commitments to reduce methane emissions across energy, waste and agriculture through MRVs - Measurement;

Reporting, Verification. 30 countries signed "Declaration on Reducing Methane Emissions from Organic Wastes." It is because 50 percent of emissions are from organic wastes.

(vi) Committing to Equity and Climate Justice:-

Developing nations advocated for equitable climate action, highlighting the disproportionate the impacts they face despite minimal historical contributions to greenhouse gas emissions. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries advocated the urgent need for debt relief and adaptation support as part of climate justice initiatives.

(vii)

Driving Global Collaboration for Carbon Management:-

Carbon management technologies, e.g. Carbon capture and storage, are steadily being embedded in climate action plans globally. Carbon Management Challenge (CMC) 2023 plays an important role in this. The CMC countries asserted that they

are trying to operationalize projects capable of capturing or storing 1 Gigaton of CO₂ annually by 2030.

(viii)

Co-operative Initiatives Regarding Climate Change Issues:-

Last few years have seen a rise in various co-operative initiatives launched during COPs. These initiatives provided opportunities outside formal negotiations between governments, private sectors and cities, e.g., signing of "Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Wastes" in COP 29. Also, 100+ countries agreed to increase global energy storage sixfold. It also launched "Continuity Coalitions" to bring together previous COP presidencies and other international organizations to make sectoral pledges and to build upon one another and not to duplicate efforts.

(III)

FAILURES OF COP 29

(i)

★ SOURCE:-

World
Resource
Institute

Failure to Contributed Required Climate Finance :-

The developing countries were bitterly disappointed with the new climate finance amount. They had united in calling the developed world to raise \$ 1.3 trillion a year in climate finance. However, the agreed upon amount was \$ 300 billion, which will not be sufficient for global South to transition ~~from~~^{to} cleaner energy and protect their populations from climate change.

(ii)

Failure to Build Consensus on Key Issues:-

COP 29 was unable to build consensus on some key issues such as fossil fuel phase-out. Also, they could not reach consensus on how or whether to acknowledge the outcomes from last year's Summit. In fact, it delayed the decision of these issues till the next Summit.

(iii)

No Progress on Agreement Regarding Global Stocktake:-

The parties recognized their commitment to continue the first Global Stocktake started at COP 28. In that, countries had agreed

to submit stronger Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to align with 1.5°C temperature goal. They had pledged to transition away from fossil fuels. However, at COP 29, they could not agree on how to take the Outcomes of GST of COP28 forward.

(iv)

Fear of a Second Trump Government in United States:-

Negotiations at COP 29 were overshadowed by the re-election of Donald Trump, who intends to roll back climate action and take the world's biggest emitter out of Paris Agreement once again.

"Trump in the White House will be nothing but damaging to the multilateral climate regime."

(Prof. Michael Jacobs-
ODI Global)

(v)

Resentment and Frustration of Developing Countries:-

Many developing countries left the summit deeply disappointed and frustrated that the wealthier countries did not put more money on the table. India and Nigeria accused the COP29 presidency of pushing the deal through without proper consent. India outrightly rejected the National Collective Qualified Goal.

(vi) Failure to Include Wealthy, High-emitting Countries in Climate Finance Contributions:-

Developed countries wanted to include money from relatively wealthy, high-emitting countries like China and Gulf-states also in climate finance. These states are classified as developing by UN climate system. Still, they are contributing significant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions.

"Once again, the countries most responsible for climate crisis have failed us." (LDC Group)

Trust Deficit for Carbon Markets and Crediting:-

Despite the agreement on Article 6 of Paris Agreement, there is a trust deficit in developing states for carbon markets.

The Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM) does not provide any framework to bridge the deficit, restore confidence and prevent fraudulent credits.

(viii) Controversial Hosting of Azerbaijan and Human Rights Concerns:-

Azerbaijan's role as a host drew criticism due to its human rights record and status as a major fossil fuel producer.

Two-thirds of its government revenue comes from fossil fuels. It faced criticism for conflict of interest, double standards and malpractices. There are reports that COP 29 Chief Executive promoted fossil fuel deals during conference, which undermined the event's credibility.

CONCLUSION

Conference of Parties (COP) 29 was overall successful in making influential climate safety commitments. Undoubtedly, the previous conferences yielded prominent outcomes to deal with the needs of the hour. Reaching an Agreement on Article 6 was definitely a milestone. Tripling the nuclear capacity can also make a huge

difference. However, Cop 29 faces challenges to bridge the gaps between ambition and implementation. It could not build consensus on some key issues due to conflict of interest of parties. The contributions of developed countries still remain insufficient for global South's assistance as they demand trillions. However, hope still exists as they announced Baku to Belem Roadmap.

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