

①

## NOA - English Essay Mock

### "Our World is in a Surplus of Multilateral Challenges and a Deficit of Solutions."

#### Outline

##### I. Introduction

- Hook: Despite forming numerous international coalitions, the world's response to the COVID-19 pandemic revealed critical gaps in global cooperation.
- Background Information: Overview of the current state of multilateral challenges.
- Thesis Statement: The world faces a critical surplus of complex, interconnected challenges that lack sufficient, effective multilateral solutions.

##### II. Climate Change Crisis

- Global impact of climate change and the inadequacy of current multilateral agreements.
- Limited effectiveness of Paris Agreement and eventual failure after the U.S. withdrawal.
- Contrast between quick, decisive action in the Montreal protocol with slower response to climate change.
- Global responses to climate change are

and ambitious commitments.

### III. International Security and Peacekeeping

- Analysing the ongoing regional conflicts and shortcomings of international peacekeeping in the Middle East and Africa.
- Reference to prolonged conflict in Syria and limited impact of UN interventions.
- Comparing the successful peacekeeping in East Timor with the struggles in Syria and Sudan.
- Current multilateral security arrangements fail to prevent or end conflicts effectively, increasing the need for reformed approach.

### IV. Global Health Disparities

- Unequal global health infrastructure and the disparity in responses to health emergencies like pandemics.
- Disparity in COVID-19 vaccine distribution between wealthy and low-income nations.
- Evaluating the eradication of smallpox as an example of successful global health cooperation versus fragmented COVID-19 response.
- The lack of a well coordinated approach towards global health responses undermines the effectiveness of tackling health crisis.

②

## V. Economic Inequalities

- Rapid increase in global economic inequalities by current economic policies and the insufficient global economic cooperation.
- Growing wealth gap and increasing wealth concentration post-financial crisis.
- Comparing economic stability achieved by the European Union through cooperative policies with the instability in less integrated regions like parts of Sub-Saharan Africa.

## VI. Conclusion

- Summary of Main Points: Emphasizing shortfalls in effective global solutions across issues like climate change, international security, global health, and economic inequalities.
- Global community faces a significant challenge in bridging the gap between the multitude of issues and available solutions.
- The world needs a unified global strategy that promotes innovative, inclusive, and effective solutions to these multilateral challenges.

③

## Our World is in a Surplus of Multilateral Challenges and a Deficit of Solutions

In the maze of contemporary global challenges, from the escalating climate change crisis to pervasive inequalities, the world stands at a critical juncture.

As nations struggle with complex, interconnected problems that transcend national borders, the requirement for cooperative global responses becomes increasingly crucial. Yet, despite the formation of numerous international institutions and the regular convening of global summits, global collective efforts often resemble less a symphony of strong action and more a depiction of individual efforts.

The concept of multilateralism is the principle of participation by three or more parties. Multilateralism was once believed to be the beacon of international cooperation, now faces unprecedented challenges such as climate change, pandemics, and geopolitical conflicts which demand a unified approach. However, the

Current approach is defeated by rationalistic interests and lack of enforceable commitments.

Therefore, the world faces a critical surplus of complex, interconnected challenges that lack sufficient, effective multilateral solutions.

To illustrate this, the essay delves into various domains: environmental, security, health, and economic. Each domain reflects that our current mechanism for addressing these challenges is not only inadequate but often counterproductive, leading to fragmented and contradictory responses at multiple instances.

The existential threat of climate change serves as a strong example of the world's surplus of challenges contrasted against a deficit of effective solutions. Climate change is a global phenomenon, classified by rising temperatures, unusual weather patterns and severe economic degradation.

Tackling climate change requires a unified response from the international community especially considering the unequal adverse impact on low-income countries like Pakistan which do not have the financial

4

Capability nor the expertise to successfully control impact of climate change. However, the multilateral efforts initiated thus far have often fallen short of the necessary commitments and actions essential to mitigate its impacts effectively.

A prime example is the failure of "The Paris Agreement" which was adopted by 196 parties at COP21 in Paris in 2015. The Paris Agreement portrayed global consensus to combat climate change and a commitment to limiting global warming to well below "2, preferably to 1.5 degree Celsius," compared to pre-industrial levels.

Despite this ambitious goal, the implementation has been minimal due to the inconsistencies and a lack of enforceable mechanisms. The major reason behind the shortcoming of the implementation can be traced to the announcement of withdrawal by the United States under Donald Trump's administration.

The United States stands as the "second highest carbon polluters in the world," as per 2024 data. The withdrawal by the U.S. was justified by ~~the~~ Trump's administration

is a burden to the U.S. economy. This action not only weakened the global efforts but also resulted in a troubling trend of other major stakeholders backing out of their commitments. Consequently, the collective potential to achieve the set target was undermined.

Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have shown a rising trend, reaching an "all-time high" in recent years, despite the global agreement to reduce them. As per a report by "The International Energy Agency", post-COVID-19 pandemic there has been a significant rebound in carbon emissions. The rising trend is a clear indication that the current measures in place are insufficient to counter the growth trajectory of global emissions. The projected growth trajectory is also proof that there lies a significant gap between policy intentions and actual on-ground impact. The lack of uniformity in efforts among nations results in disparities and inability to achieve a collective global impact.

5

The current shortcomings point out to a need for more enforceable commitments rather than voluntary participation and agreements. The Montreal Protocol, an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous harmful substances responsible for ozone depletion. The Protocol's success story provides an opportunity to compare it with The Paris Agreement. The Montreal Protocol was successful because it had legal binding force and specific phased targets. This success story stands as a proof that enhancements of commitment with binding enforcement mechanisms could significantly increase the effectiveness of global efforts to combat climate change.

As the climate crisis continues to pose a risk to global stability the international response largely stands fragmented. The world's nations not only need to reaffirm their commitments to taking the crisis rather they also need to ensure compliance to achieve tangible results with a reformed multilateral management approach.

(6)

In the realm of international security and peacekeeping, the disparity between the multilateral challenges faced and the effectiveness of the solutions provided is clearly evident. The ongoing conflicts and regional instability continues to reveal the limitations of existing international security arrangements. The Doll System Conflict served as a relevant example of the shortcomings of international peacekeeping. Despite the multiple United Nations resolutions calling for ceasefire, the conflict has persisted, resulting in 617,96 deaths till March 2024. The failure of current peacekeeping efforts can be traced to two main reasons: the lack of authority to effectively resolve conflicts through intervention and the requirement of consensus among major powers which frequently ends in a paralysis.

A successful intervention took place in East Timor which stands as a model example of the potential achievements, united international cooperation can result in. In 1999, after a violent independence referendum, the United Nations authorized a

Peacekeeping force, to restore order till the country's eventual independence. The success of East Timor can be traced to the decisive and unified action by the international community with a clear strong intervention by the United Nations. This signals a need for reform where all peacekeeping operations should be clear having the enforceable mandate and the necessary resources to carry out objectives successfully.

The ongoing challenges in international security and peacekeeping highlight a gap in the global governance system. It is untrue to state that no examples of successful intervention exist but the ones which do are an exception rather than a norm. The way forward requires enhanced cooperation among global and regional security organisations. The current on-going conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and Israel with Palestine all indicate global security threats and unrest. The two most recent conflicts have proven the inadequacy of existing international peace arrangements.

7

clearly indicating a significant rise in multilateral challenges and the inability of existing organizations / efforts to address the instability.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the global health disparities and the inadequacies in the international community's response to health emergencies. Despite, the advances in medicine and healthcare technology, the capacity to respond to health crisis remains unevenly distributed.

Developed nations had sufficient resources to quickly mobilize supplies, fund vaccine research and secure vaccine doses for their populations in excess of their immediate needs. On the other hand, developing countries faced a crisis due to insufficient medical supplies, substandard healthcare facilities, and delayed requisition of vaccines.

COVID-19 unveiled the broader issue of inequitable health resource distribution. COVAX initiative initiative, attempted to address these disparities by aiming to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines across the globe.

However, the initiative failed because of funding shortfalls and hoarding of vaccines by richer countries. By July 2021, COVAX had proven to be a victim of the limitations of current multilateral health initiatives as it fell short of its distribution goals. In contrast, the global eradication of smallpox in the 1970s stands as a benchmark for what can be achieved with concentrated international cooperation and effort. The smallpox eradication campaign, spearheaded by the World Health Organisation succeeded due to strong global governance and universal commitment to a common goal.

The increasing multilateral challenges faced by the health domain can be addressed only if structural changes and promoting health equity is made a priority. International and policies with a bias approach can contribute towards improving global health equity. The challenges presented by COVID-19 has served as a wake-up call for the international community to reevaluate

6

its approach to global health. Although these are successful historical precedents such as the smallpox eradication program, the current landscape demands a focused and innovative approach towards addressing the root causes of the disparities.

The global economic landscape is marked by profound inequality, with wealth concentration in the hands of a few elites. While 22% of the global population live below the poverty line. These economic inequalities are worsened by the policies and practices of globalisation that are benefitting the developed world while the developing nations battle the persistent challenges with limited resources. The 2008 financial crisis serves as a reminder of how interconnected yet unevenly resilient the global economy is. The developed countries deployed massive bailouts e.g \$700 billion signed by President Bush in the U.S. under the Emergency Economic Stabilisation Act of 2008. However, majority developing nations lacked the financial infrastructure and capacity to implement similar measures.

to bring economic relief. Consequently, due to the uneven recovery process the economic gap between developed and developing nations further widened.

### International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

Like the World Bank and the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) play a critical role in

shaping global economic policies. However, in

recent times these institutions have come under

public criticism for prioritising debt repayment

over social welfare. As per multiple credible

reports the "structural adjustment programs" have been

linked to increased poverty in multiple developing

countries. Oxfam has reported that the

concentration of wealth has increased

in recent years as the "world's richest

1% have more than twice as much wealth

as 6.9 billion people combined." The primary

drivers behind the rising concentration

of wealth is the global capital flows

that favour wealthy investors and multi-

national corporations (MNCs) at the

expense of local economies.

The EU provides an example of

an alternative approach towards managing

9

economic inequalities by promoting policies which are focused on economic integration.

This entails mechanisms for fiscal transfers and structural funds, focused on promoting equitable growth across member states. The

EU model of economic cooperation is a great model for global economic governance

which could address multilateral challenges that exist in the contemporary economic

world. It is important to identify and address the root causes of economic inequality

to bring a shift in global economic governance. Key steps such as reforming

international financial institutions, increasing support for sustainable development, promoting

social welfare, ensuring fairness in global trade, controlling adverse impacts of

globalisation and adopting investment <sup>trade</sup> policies beneficial is the way forward.

As economic inequality continues to rise globally the need for concerted efforts and policies become vital. The

challenges at the global level relevant to the economic domain have in every

sense surpassed the existing arrangements

intended to solve the inequality crisis. To address the problem sufficiently for the long-term the deficit in solutions needs to be made more balanced so that the global economy benefits all, not just the few elite.

As we navigate through the myriad of multilateral challenges that haunt the contemporary global landscape across the discussed domains, the recurring theme is clear. There exists an extreme deficit in effective, sustainable solutions which are capable of addressing the issues at the global level. The discussed challenges like the Paris Agreement, COVID-19, 2008 Financial Crisis and The 2011 Syria conflict all indicate towards the need of a unified global cooperation that transcends nationalistic perspectives and focuses on achieving maximum common good. When a unified approach was undertaken at an international level there were several examples of success stories such as the eradication of smallpox, the Montreal Protocol, and the successful peace agreement in East Timor.

2)

The surplus of multilateral challenges and the deficits of solutions calls for an urgent reevaluation of how global affairs are managed. The stability in the future is dependent on the global community's ability to come together and implement strategies to achieve common good as the world and the problems are interconnected. It is only through a renewed commitment to collaborative and equitable action that we can hope to meet the complexities of this century and ensure a sustainable future for all.