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Climate change is a governance crisis more than an environmental issue.

Outline:

Thesis Statement:

while rising temperatures and extreme weather are real, the severity of climate change is largely determined by weak institutions governance, failure of global climate finance needs, and lack of political will to impose necessary climate reforms, making climate change primarily a governance crisis more than an environmental issue.

1) Introduction
2) Climate change as a governance problem: Understanding the concept
3) Evidence showing that climate change is a governance crisis

a) weak global climate agreements
case in point: USA withdrawal from kyoto protocol

b) failure of global climate finance needs
case in point: Inadequate funding of loss and damage fund

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c) Lack of integrated climate governance institutions

Case in point: Overlapping ministries of climate, water and environment – coordination gaps

d) Persistence of unregulated industries

Case in point: Amazon deforestation under Bolsonaro – 80% rise

e) Short-term political cycle undermine long-term climate planning

Case in point: USA withdrawal from Paris agreement (2015)

f) Lack of renewable research in Global South

g) Intensifying climate impacts in societies marked by poverty and inequality

Case in point: IPCC report

h) Poor governance in resource access amplify climate vulnerability

Case in point: UN-report

i) Excluding ~~climate~~ local communities from climate planning

Case in point: Bangladesh cyclone preparedness programme

j) Lack of political will to impose necessary climate reforms

Case in point: France Yellow Vest movement

k) Corporate pressure distorts climate policies

Case in point: Fossil fuels companies annually lobbying against climate legislation

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4) Governance aspect of matters while dealing climate change
   a) Environmental solutions alone fails without governance reform
   b) Strengthening institutions increase climate resilience
   c) Ensuring equitable climate adaptation and climate justice

5) Recommendations to strengthen governance frameworks at global and national level
   a) Formulating binding global climate commitments
   b) Phasing out fossil fuel subsidies

6) Conclusion

Introduction:

In 2022, Pakistan faced catastrophic floods that submerged millions of homes and lives. The river had been encroached upon, drainage systems ignored and early warning mechanisms were weak. While erratic climate patterns come into play, it was lack of planning that demonstrated governance faultlines. Communities suffered not because of the rain alone, but deep-down it was a ~~leaders~~ governance failure to build climate resilience. The floods

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highlighted that climate crisis is more because of governance failure than an environmental issue. At global level, the weak enforcement of climate agreements illucidates this fact that governance crisis is a driving force behind climate change. Lack of integrated climate governance institutions reflects the coordination gaps in governance structures. At national level, many developing countries are unable to formulate long-term climate change policies owing to periodic short-term political cycles. Lack of renewable research further exacerbates this situation. In social structures, marked by poverty and social inequality, climate impacts further intensified because of poor governance. Excluding local communities from climate planning and lack of political will to impose necessary climate reforms speak a lot about governance gaps. However, failure to integrate governance reforms with environmental solutions will not ~~give~~ build long-term climate resilience. It requires strengthening governance institutions coupled with ensuring equitable climate adaptative measures. Hence, it is not a denying fact that rising temperatures and extreme weathers are real, but the severity of climate change is largely

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determined by weak institutions, lack of political will and failure to implement long-term climate policies. This reflects the very nature of climate change as a governance crisis than an environmental issue.

Climate change is a governance crisis. The persistent political inertia to implement climate policies demonstrates it as a governance ~~issue~~ crisis rather than an environmental issue. Owing to the looming risk of facing public backlash and protests, elected leaders often avoid to implement tough but necessary climate reforms. These reforms include carbon taxes, fuel subsidy or industrial regulation. A case in point is the France "Yellow Vest" movement, in 2018. The rising fuel prices led to widespread protests that compelled the government to reverse its carbon tax decision. This underscores that climate policies are sometimes not be executed in true letter and spirit even in ~~the~~ advanced democracies. Here, challenge lies not in lacking technological advancements but a lack of political will and public support to effectively execute climate change policies.

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Alongwith this, Corporate lobbying significantly undermines climate actions. Major ~~ets~~ corporate influence - particularly from fossil fuel giants lobby against environmental regulations to protect their economic interests. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), fossil fuel companies collectively spend over $200 million annually on lobbying efforts. These companies aimed to delay renewable energy ~~interests~~ transitions. Resultantly, they protect their economic interests and shape legislations in their favor. This deeply rooted corporate pressure distorts policy priorities of the state and inable a state to strike a balance between public interest and private profit. It demonstrates that governance crisis is a contributing factor of climate change.

Furthermore, climate change is further amplified by the absence of strong accountability systems, another determinant of governance. Most of the countries face no legal or financial consequences for failing to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). For instance, the Paris agreement is voluntary in nature. Failure to meet emission targets

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results in no considerable penalties. It, therefore, allows political leaders to make ambitious promises internationally while failing to deliver domestically. This accountability gap creates a credibility crisis in global climate commitments. Consequently, a trust deficit is created that undermines an effective climate action. Thus, the roots of climate change lies in governance fault lines.