

IS multilateralism only solution to climate change

1. Introduction

2. Multilateralism is ~~the~~ only practical solution

- (i) Global Problems require global solutions
- (ii) Responsibilities of climate change are distributed
- (iii) Causes are Non-local
- (iv) No universal solution for all demographics
- (v) Individual effort is inconsequential in long term

3. Efforts towards a multilateral approach

- (i) 2015 Paris agreement
- (ii) Kyoto Protocol
 - Goals
 - Execution
- (iii) EU Green peace agreement
 - Roadmap and objectives

4. Challenges to Multilateral solutions

- (i) Political discord
 - China^o and American confrontation
- (ii) Lack of incentives for underdeveloped economies
- (iii) Regional instability and warfare
 - Afghan war and terrorism

5. Efficacy of Regional approach.

- (i) Easy to manage and monitor
- (ii) Solutions can be well suited to the economy
- (iii) Tangible and quicker results

6. Will multilateralism be Successful?

- (i) History of reduction in carbon Emissions
- (ii) Collective approach is the only way

7. Steps to achieve multilateralism

- (i) Treat climate change as a humanitarian crisis instead of a political ~~issue~~
- (ii) Stringent regulations for powerful corporations
- (iii) Improve incentives for poor economies

8. Conclusion

Human kind has gone through numerous annihilating catastrophes in its struggle for survival. Ranging from the bubonic plague to world war II, we have always emerged victorious. Well, climate change is the impending issue mankind must solve ^{today} in its struggle for survival. However the path to success is tortuous and riddled with challenges. It will take a collective effort to tackle this problem. Moreover, every nation will have to contribute uniquely because the responsibilities for climate change among various nations ^{are} ~~is~~ not equal. Poor countries do not ^{have} the ~~the~~ pre-requisite resources and technological acumen for battling this issue. Hence, they share a lesser burden in this fight. However, if the issue for climate change is not taken with the seriousness it deserves then we as a species

will be moving towards an irreversible disaster. Because climate change impacts every aspect of our life. Food growth, water availability and a stable weather are all contingent upon a climate that is not volatile. But modern researches and reviews are increasingly ratifying the fact that if we do not drastically change ^{our} economic model, we will be moving ^{towards} damaging our only home. Thus, this cardinal issue requires a multilateral approach in which we can properly monitor and regulate our progress towards a more stable climate. Furthermore, every nation must act immediately to distance itself from the fossil fuel driven energy model, which is one of the greatest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions are the main driving force behind climate change. Only then can we hope for victory in our battle against climate change.

One of the first challenges we must face is to understand what kind of approach climate change requires to be tackled successfully. Can all nations work on their own to reduce the effects of climate in their regions. It becomes clear immediately that climate change will require a strong multilateral approach. There are various reasons that support this approach.

Firstly, the most pressing reason for a multilateral approach is that climate change is a global issue. Hence, every nation is affected by it. Global warming is one example of climate change that reveals this fact. This shows how nations are closely linked with one-another when it comes to the positive or negative consequences of climate change. History also presents this fact in the form of Montreal protocol 1987 when overuse of chloroflouro carbons depleted the ozone (O_3) layer to such dangerous degrees that unfiltered ultra violet waves started reaching the Earth. Holes ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ ^{the} ozone layer were recorded in the Arctic and Netherlands. Further ^{more} rising sea levels is another global consequence of climate change. According to the United nations global ~~survey~~ ^{survey} 70.1% of the ^{world} population lives at a distance of 30 miles from the coastal region. With these coastal regions going underwater due to rising sea levels, a global immigration is an imminent consequence. Moreover, countries like Indonesia, Maldives and Bangladesh who are a mere collection of islands with no more in the next five decades; if the the current trend is not hampared. Such facts show the immensity of challenge which cannot be tackled

equal responsibilities ^{across various nations} has to do with poor economical conditions and a lack of political maturity. If unreasonable burden was placed on ^{cash strapped} countries then they would simply be unable to deliver, and a world that is becoming hotter and more unstable by the decade cannot afford a sluggish and lagging pace. Finally an international framework which will justly decide the responsibilities for each nation towards a zero-emission world is the most viable one.

Thirdly, causes for climate changes are of global nature. Hence a solution which ensures ~~Cooperation~~ ^{Cooperation} beyond borders is essential. We can look at the deforestation of Amazon ^{forest} by the far right Bolsonaro government as a prime example of this fact. Moreover, countries such as United States which is the second largest emitter of green house gases in the world. Such factors play an integral part in polluting the Earth's atmosphere. Furthermore, the consequences of these actions are far reaching as well. Like the rise in global temperature for upto 2°C as opposed to pre-industrial era. This heating ~~of~~ up of the planet has led to receding snow and short time span of winters in the Antarctica. Hence

polar bears whose survival is dependent upon the fragile ecosystem is in threat. Another cause for these circumstances is the destruction of rain forests in Bangladesh for the plantation of palm trees. This blatant action has led to the halving of indigenous monkey population in that region and contributing factor in world heating. Consequently, only multilateralism will enable the world to deal with numerous causes of climate change.

Another important factor that must be attended is to ask whether a solo fight against climate is viable or not. Different nations across the world have varying energy need, economic circumstances and political factors. So it would be hopeless to figure out a singular solution for climate change which is implementable and acceptable for all. If we look at Saudi Arabia, majority of its exports are fossil fuels and the prosperity of Saudi people is heavily dependent upon the revenue generated through fossil fuel. It would be impossible for them to transition their economic model towards green energy in a short span of time. Even China is using coal production plants for more than 30% of its energy needs. Hence a comprehensive global effort must be undertaken which takes into accounts circumstances of each

nation and produces a viable approach that can be accepted by all nations unilaterally. However, if such effort is not undertaken then the world will bear the consequences of our failures.

Finally, it must be understood why individual effort is not a possibility in climate change. This can be shown in the form of the EU Green Deal that was reached among European nations to moving towards a greener and more sustainable future. This deal was undertaken in November 2019. Its major points were to move away from fossil fuel usage, through investing in solar ~~power plan~~, hydro and wind power generation units. Another point was transitioning towards electrical vehicles over the next 5 decades. But Europe alone accounts for only 10% of global carbon emissions according to a Reuters report on carbon emissions in 2019. This proves that EU by itself is will be unable to stop the advance of climate change and rise in global temperatures by itself. Consequently, we need a more unified and coordinated approach in tackling this grave issue.

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with a lack of foresight and studies planning.

Another factor that weighs-in heavily in favour of multilateral approach is a factor distributed responsibilities across the globe in battle against climate change. Take the example of China which in the early 2000s was still considered among the league of developing countries. Hence it had no legally binding responsibilities under the Kyoto protocol. Even though it is the largest contributor to emission of green house gases, which are at the forefront of climate change. Furthermore if we take into account the list of top 10 developed countries today. They contribute more towards the ~~to~~ exacerbating situation of Environment than the rest of the world combined. Consequently, these nations are morally and legally obliged to lead the charge against climate change. They must be willing to ~~we~~ take on more responsibilities. Especially, when these duties are mainly concerned with the economic and technological aspects. Such as major reduction in usage of Petroleum products and a quicker drive towards cleaner forms of energy such as Dams, wind power plant and Bio fuel reused as a replacement of Natural gas. Central reason for not spreading

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Many steps have been taken on the world to curb climate change. One of the most critical agreement reached among the majority of nations has Paris accord of 2015. It focused on reducing global emissions to reduce the rise in global temperatures by 1.5°C . The countries contributing in this accord would be setting up their own environmental goals. Currently there is no monitoring body that is tasked with monitoring the progress of various countries. Furthermore there have been major hiccups in reaching the goals of this important agreement. One instance is when USA the second largest ~~em~~ carbon emitter reneged on its involvement in the Paris accord on November 2019. It was done by President Donald Trump under the pretext that Paris agreement was a conspiracy to damage American economy. However, this decision was overturned when Joe Biden was elected President in his first month of inauguration. Whether the Paris agreement will be able to fulfill its commitment by 2050 is an important question; and it depends upon numerous factors such as adherence to determined actions and a fierce commitment to the cause by the adjoining parties. But it cannot be denied that Paris accord is a hopeful step for the future.

Kyoto Protocol was another unified effort that was undertaken to

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to battle the adverse effects of climate change. It was initiated in 1997 and was effectively put into action in 2005. The main goals of Kyoto protocols was to sway the world governments through a legal and political in reduction of green house gases. The goal was set at 5.1% reduction in green house gases every year. U.S.A which at the time was the greatest contributor towards fossil fuel emission also took part in this agreement. However, later U.S.A reneged on its promise. The reasoning being that this agreement was pernicious for the Economy of United States. Another reason that led to this predicament at the time was, non inclusion of major economies such as China and India in this agreement due to their developing status. This was one of the of major loopholes in the agreement that led to failure. Even though Kyoto protocol 2005 was unsuccessful in its efforts towards reduction in global green house emission. It did serve as a major milestone ~~for~~ globe in working together to bring a viable framework among the nations of the world. Infact, this was the agreement that served as a precursor to Paris agreement 2015. Hence providing a wealth of knowledge and experience

For future agreements. Furthermore, an important agreement that took a multi lateral approach in this problem is European Union Green peace deal. 2019. This agreement Specifies Steps to be taken by the European countries to shift towards a greener and more sustainable system in the next few decades. Furthermore, Countries in the European union who do not meet those goals can be be penalized Economical by the Union. The steps to taken include Increasing forest cover, Shifting away from fossil fuel usage. moreover, inhibiting release of chemicals that are detrimental to the environment. However, Eu only accounts for only 10-1% of global emission. Hence such agreements will be futile in the long run if the world as a whole does not apply a similar approach. But these deal do provide a hopeful scenario that industrial nations are finally Serious in their ap efforts. Conversely, It will take decades before we can observe the positive effects of these initiative. Furthermore, numerous challenges must be faced and overcome for a better future.

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There are a number of these hurdles that prevent progress in the culmination of a multi-lateral solution.

The first and most glaring hurdle in case is political discord. There are various examples of this; but the most prominent would be the China, America confrontation. Since both of them are one of the biggest economies in the world. They hold significance influence over smaller and weaker nations. This conflict has already resulted in America leaving the Paris agreement. Furthermore if we taking into account all such matters at a regional level such India and Pakistan, Russia and Europe issues. We can observe that political discord is at the forefront in the failure of multi lateral approach. Another major factor that has led to a decrease in cooperation at international level is lack of incentives for the weaker economies. Hence these countries use methods that are damaging for the global climate. Burning and destruction of the Amazon rainforests by the Bolsonaro government is a consequence of this factor. Strong measures must be taken by influential nations to curb destruction of the environment. Like, Europe ^{which} is a major trade partner with Brazil and benefits from the extracted resources of Amazon. ~~the~~ European could pressure the

to formula and put into strategies, that will not be harmful to the eco system. If the action is lacking on this crucial matter then sanctions could be applied on the Brazilian administration for better compliance.

Furthermore, the final ~~and~~ most damaging problem for ^{the} unified approach is without a doubt "Regional warfare ~~and~~ instability". Warfare hinders any efforts towards cooperations because of hostility and intent of destruction. Afghanistan which has served as a battling ground between America and Taliban for the past 20 years is still on the verge of poverty and devastated infrastructure. Rebuilding efforts of NATO allies have had almost no effect on the country. Furthermore, this kind of large scale wars worsen the effects of climate change because of mass usage of bombs, ammunitions and ballistic missiles. Moreover, they also result in decimation of forests, faunas and local ecosystems due to continued battles. Another issue in this matter large pertains to involvement of regional powers in a struggle for influence and supremacy. The fate of Syria and Iraq after ISIS speaks of this principle. Hence, a global diplomatic effort is required to ameliorate tense situations between rivaling powers.

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Looking at the contrasting individualist approach against climate change, it is evident that they have certain advantages over the multilateral ones.

The first one would be that individual effort in this regard is easily manageable. Moreover, the results of the efforts can be ~~be~~ monitored and modified for maximum efficacy. Billion tree tsunami project was a success in this matter, carried out the PTI government in Jpkr province. Furthermore the solutions for climate change ~~can~~ are selected on the basis of their suitability to the economy. This helps in creation of millions of jobs for the local residents and become instrumental in bolstering economy. Another factor that is advantageous in singular approach is the possibility of quicker results. Often global agreements on climate are lengthy and stricken with limiting restrictions on certain industrial practices. Even if these practices are beneficial to one's economy. This can lead to withdrawal of nations from such agreements. Contrastingly, a local approach has no such strings attached and they could be modified to various economic requirements. Consequently, this begs the question which a multilateral approach will even be successful?

Historically, the formation of UN after the end of world war II was the first significant global effort towards cooperation on political, economical and humanitarian grounds. Moreover, the example of montreal agreement stands as a successful episode on the international level in which countries cooperated with the defined rules. This led ~~to~~ an end of usage of certain ozone damaging chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons. Furthermore, this success set an encouraging precedent for future multilateral agreements. However, it must be noted that there have certain failure in this regard as well. ~~montreal~~ Kyoto protocol 2005 has shown a long whole at global level; when it comes to certain economic factors. Hence, it is incumbent upon the various nations to produce such a framework that acceptable for majority of nations, on the grounds of only then can we hope to reached our intended target in our fight against climate change.

Moreover, certain critical steps must be taken to reach a stable multilateral solution. Due to the gravity of the problem of climate change, it becomes necessary that it is handled as a top priority for all nations. Furthermore, our very way of life depends on the stability of our environment.

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Hence it must be treated as a global humanitarian crisis instead of a political tool that can be used to push around weaker contemporaries. Among the influences of multi-billion dollar companies in policies is another crucial matter that must be handled. Because these corporations have enormous influence in the political sector through funding campaigns and political lobbying, they are able to influence policies that are detrimental for the environment. Coca-Cola and Nestle Corporation are prime suspects in proliferation of global plastic waste dumping. But since no regulations bind them to treat this waste in an emission free manner. They simply export the huge waste to poorer nations especially the African ones. Nigeria, for example has served as the prime location for plastic dumping. Furthermore, since poorer countries are desperate for foreign capital, they allow almost negligible restrictions for operations. Then corporations like Nestle to which operate on the principle of "Profits first" take whatever measure necessary to maximize profits irrespective of the damage caused to local population or the environment. Incentivizing positive efforts towards the environment is another crucial effort that must be undertaken by the global community.

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to reach a stable solution that sustainable in the long term. However, the poorer nations must also come up with the regulations that stops exploitation from the external elements. Only then can we hope to succeed in our global ambitions.

Conclusively, It is evident that climate change is the foremost calamity which must be faced and resolved, in our battle for survival. Hence, unity at the global level is a necessity rather than choice, because individual approach is divisive, insignificant only the global scale and unsustainable with the changing climate. Even though there are and will be numerous challenges, we have no choice but to prevail. Because the destruction of our world will soon herald our own. Hence, ^{therefore} a unified and multilateral path is the only ^{one} available for us.