

FORUM: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

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Introduction

"Climate change does not respect border; it does not respect who you are - rich and poor, small and big. Therefore, this is what we call 'global challenges,' which require global solidarity."

-Ban Ki-moon

"Where globalization means, as it so often does, that the rich and powerful now have new means to further enrich and empower themselves at the cost of the poorer and weaker, we have a responsibility to protest in the name of universal freedom." -Nelson Mandela



Climate change and globalisation have come together to become one of the worst problems humankind has ever faced. The whole world knows of climate changes' dangers', and we are all victims in some way no matter how wealthy you are, how uninvolved you think you are. As Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, states in the quote, the more developed countries are more responsible, and yet it affects our entire planet.

Many individuals choose to ignore the threat of climate change, but it should not pass unnoticed because it influences all of us equally, it does not matter if you are in Egypt or in Canada. This issue is getting worse, the climate temperature keeps increasing endlessly, always surpassing past records year after year.



While climate change is what is mainly impacting sustainable development in the natural world, globalisation is the parallel process in the industrial world that either allows or stops us from doing as we should to help this sustainable development. Globalisation impacts poorer countries though, as Nelson Mandela, a famous politician, states, it is not fair for everyone even if it links people and countries closer than ever.

Definitions of Key Terms

Climate Change: Change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.

Globalisation: Process by which businesses or other organisations develop international influence or start operating on an international scale, it is international integration arising from the interchange of world news, products, ideas and other aspects of culture.

Sustainable development: development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Process: Series of actions or steps taken in order to achieve a particular end.

Greenhouse warming: Warming that results when solar radiation is trapped by the atmosphere; caused by atmospheric gases that allow sunshine to pass through but absorb heat that is radiated back from the warmed surface of the earth.

Ecosystem: System, or group of interconnected elements, formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their environment.

Background Information



Climate change has always existed on earth, but today, it is becoming a huge danger . Greenhouse gases are like a blanket around the Earth, keeping energy trapped in the atmosphere and causing it to get warmer and warmer, it is called the greenhouse effect. It is supposed to be natural and necessary to keep life on our planet but now it can have dangerous effects on our health and ecosystems. It is projected that another 7 degrees will be added to the Earth's average temperature over the next hundred years. Many places have seen changes in the weather, such as rainfalls, floods, droughts or more frequent and severe heat waves. The planet's oceans are suffering too, they are warming and becoming more acidic, ice blocks are melting at an incredible speed and sea levels are rising. Rainforest destruction is also intrinsically linked to climate change, and so are industrial processes and agricultural practices which both let out gases into the atmosphere.

Economic globalisation is only accelerating global warming.

New advances in transportation such as airplanes, cars, boats and in telecommunications (Internet, phones) have been the major factors in globalisation. Money, technology and raw materials move even more swiftly across international borders. Products, money, ideas, cultures, languages, circulate freely, which in turn forms laws, economies and social movements at the international level. Even though international companies are at their greatest, many citizens from Europe, North America and the Middle East are blaming globalisation for being unemployed, rising inequality in the world and terrorism. Because of these, integration and innovation are sometimes come across as threats rather than opportunities.

These consequences of globalisation have increased factories' emissions which in turn affect climate change even more negatively.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

- Major countries contributing to climate change are:

China (highest emitter in current CO₂ emissions and all greenhouse gas emissions), USA (second in both), India, Russia, Japan, Germany, South Korea, Canada, Indonesia and Brazil, are the 10 largest CO₂ emitters ([link](#))



- Major organisations involved in climate change:

Greenpeace is an independent global non-profit organisation which goal is to protect and conserve the environment. Greenpeace is present in more than 55 countries around the world. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is the leading international organisation for the assessment of climate change. IPCC was established by the United Nations Environment Programme.

- Major countries involved in globalisation:

Ireland, Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Singapore, Sweden, Denmark, Portugal, Switzerland, Finland ([link](#)), US being in 34th.

Timeline of Events

Climate Change:

1824 - French physicist Joseph Fourier describes the Earth's natural "greenhouse effect".

1927 - Carbon emissions from fossil fuel burning and industry reach one billion tonnes per year.

1972 - First UN environment conference, the United Nations Environment Programme is formed.

1988 - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is formed (IPCC).

1989 - Carbon emissions from fossil fuel burning and industry reach six billion tonnes per year.

1995 - IPCC Second Assessment Report, humans are responsible for climate change.

2001 - IPCC Third Assessment Report find "new and stronger evidence" that humanity's emissions of greenhouse gases are the main cause of warming of the 20th Century.

2007 - IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report explains that it is likely that emissions of greenhouse gases are responsible for climate change.

2009 - China overtakes the US as the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitter

2013 - IPCC's Fifth Assessment report says that scientists are almost certain that humans are the "dominant cause" of global warming since the 50s.

Globalisation:

325 BCE - Trading of spices and knowledge (Silk Road), first interaction with other people.



1430's - Invention of printing press, made easily and cheaply.

1492 - Columbus's first voyage to the new world from Spain, he started the Grand Exchange.

1948 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights drafted.

1958 - UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, discussing resource exploitation.

1975 - Advances in computers, satellites and electronics and distribution of goods and services and patterns of global investment.

1988 - Free Trade Agreement signed between Canada and US.

1990s - UN World Conferences on global political, economic, and environmental debates and equality for women.

1992 - Maastricht Treaty creates the EU solidifying economic and political ties.

1997 - \$1.5 trillion of foreign exchange is traded worldwide per day.

2000 - UN Millennium Summit, its goals is to eradicate extreme poverty and other global social goals by 2015.

2009 - US government bails out the Bank of America

Previous Attempts with regard to the issue

Previous attempts to slow down climate change have been insignificant. In 2014, the UN Climate Panel presented the final report, which did not include many positive informations. We know that reducing the use of fossil fuels could immensely help in slowing down climate change but global warming is not going anywhere anytime soon. The world heavily relies on fossil fuels and it will be close to impossible to change this, provided that they are cheap and provide enough energy to contribute to economic growth.

It was also stated that climate change is a problem but not the biggest the UN and the world are facing. In 30 years, WHO (World Health Organisation) estimates 250,000 annual deaths from global warming, as explained in the official [website](#), but today, 4.3 million die each year from indoor air pollution, 800 million starve, 2.5 billion live in poverty and lack clean water. The German solar adventure has tried to help climate change, but with spending \$130 billion, it will only postpone global warming by 37 hours (information comes from a [Telegraph article](#)).



Most governments view globalization positively, insofar as it links different countries in unprecedented ways, providing us with different insights on new cultures and internationalising business.

To some extent, it has been beneficial in certain countries and for some companies, but nothing has been done yet to largely prevent globalisation. Businesses would do anything to keep evolving, such as producing more and more technology and advancing in science researches.

Possible Solutions

“Greenpeace is pushing for some big, visionary measures to turn around the global trend towards runaway climate change.” -Greenpeace

to reduce climate change, many different actions are necessary. One of these would be making sure that the emissions high change in 2015 decrease as soon and as quick as possible back to zero since emissions have only been increasing lately. All over the world, the global average temperature increased by more than 0.75 degrees celsius over the last century alone. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),the 21rst century has so far been the warmest century on record, 2010 and 2005 are tied for being the warmest years.

Developed countries could make cuts of 40 percent on their 1990 carbon emissions by 2020, for example, the United States of America had 6,500 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions, and to this day, this figure hasn't changed. This solution therefore does not seem to be working, seeing as 25 years have already passed out of the 30 years, and no progress is observed.

Developing countries, on the other hand, only have to slow their growth of emission by 15-30 percent by 2020 with support from other developed countries or organisations. One very common solution known by most everyone is to replace fossil fuel energy with renewable energy and it has been done by quite a few countries, such as Denmark, the UK, Germany, Scotland and Ireland.



“Globalization is exposing new fault lines - between urban and rural communities, for example.”

-Ban Ki-moon

Once again, one common solution to slowing down climate change and globalisation is sharing responsibilities between countries, whether powerful like the US or China or less developed like Iraq or Egypt. No country is able to address challenges on its own without interfering with another country's government. We need a global response, what we can do is support each other in case of medical crisis, bring our knowledge together and do our best to solve any problems (an example could be Ebola).

For a developed country, a solution could be including the cost of pollution and reducing the quantity of natural resources so that the country is still able to export as much and start being more environmental. All countries should also identify target groups which need help such as people below the poverty line, children, women and people of old ages.

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