

Globalization and the Environment in International Relations: Towards Effective Growth with International Agreements

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Received: 11-08-2022

Revised: 30-08-2022

Accepted: 19-09-2022

ABSTRACT

In the last decade, international commitments between the countries have seen existence of more complex debate and disagreement over the cause of compliances. The growth and development of international legal institutions, and judicial bodies since the end of the Cold War, on the other hand, has provided the empirical foundation and a policy need for increased focus on the function of international law. The application of law to organise global politics appears to be expanding across a wide range of issue domains. The fundamental problem is how laws and legalisation affect state conduct, which is frequently explained in terms of compliance. The proponents of globalisation believe that these two factors—economic growth and rising per capita incomes—are crucial for creating the resources and political will needed to manage the environment globally. Other environmental advantages of globalisation are also seen by optimists. It involves fostering international collaboration and integration as well as shared environmental norms and standards, which improves a system of sovereign nations' ability to handle issues like ozone depletion and climate change. This study presents the ways of international agreements, compliance of international affairs, effect of globalization, and the benefits of environment to cope with challenges and finding new opportunities of growth for a nation.

Keywords: international relations, sustainable development goals, agreement, climate change

I. INTRODUCTION

As new countries, people, and cultures adapt to the ever-changing international community, diplomats, lawmakers, and officials must meet and cope with their needs and desires (Ganzeboom et. al., 1992; Srivastava, 2007). There are several ways to use diplomacy, including through written constitutions, field operations, and peace negotiations. The definition of the word "culture" hasn't changed over time. Globalization and international connections, however, have continuously changed culture—both favourably and unfavourably. On a number of levels, including economics, politics, social issues, and others, globalisation connects cultures and international interactions. Globalization has been employed by international relations to achieve its objective of understanding cultures. Globalization is having a significant impact on international relations, which are centred on how nations, people, and organisations interact (V. P. Bansal, 2016).

The future of governments, people, and enterprises, as well as the existence of the human race, depend on our ability to comprehend culture, globalisation, and international relations. Many of the most important news stories nowadays focus on foreign matters as a result of the world's growing interdependence and unrest. Whether it is the ongoing effects of globalisation or the ongoing process of world integration, globalisation is present and active in every region of the world (S. Bansal & Goel, 2021). Democracy and capitalism are intricately linked, with both positive and bad aspects that both empower and weaken people and organisations.

On the other hand, a variety of other non-governmental groups, businesses, and governments frequently utilise the word "globalisation" in their work. It also denotes a new paradigm in global politics and economic interactions, though. International organisations like the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization have recently taken on substantial roles in the international political and economic landscape, which was formerly dominated by national governments for a long time. National governments have maybe lost some of their influence in this "Global Village" in favour of these important international organisations (Decastri et. al., 2021).

The dominant perspective in international economic and environmental discussions and institutional decision-making is that globalisation is a fundamentally beneficial ecological factor. The issue at hand is how to effectively direct globalisation to minimise harm to the environment and enhance socioeconomic advancement (which, in the long run, must occur for effective global environmental management). Some people favour having little or no restrictions. Others believe that strong

international institutions and national environmental organisations are necessary to steer globalization (Forti et. al., 2020). However, a large number of academics and activists disagree with the fundamental tenets of these viewpoints and consider globalisation to be a major factor in the present ecological disaster.

According to a number of studies, globalisation is promoting continuous economic expansion and production with no actual concern for uneven or unsustainable consumption habits. The marginalisation of women, indigenous peoples, and the poor as well as ecological injustice within and between nations are further effects of this policy. According to opponents like Lohmann (2008), the global political economy is creating a "eco-apartheid" and "eco-violent" world. The fabric of local communities is also torn asunder by globalisation, which obliterates long-standing patterns of collaboration, trust, and knowledge that are crucial to maintaining the ecological and social balance.

II. MULTILATERISM AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Multilateralism is typically understood to be the cooperation between several countries in pursuit of a common goal, where other parties such as civil society or the private sector may also be involved. Unilateralism is when one country acts alone, and bilateralism is when two countries work in partnership.

Today, multilateralism is more important than ever. "We require a networked multilateralism, based on active contact with civil society, industry, and other stakeholders, where coordination between global organisations is reinforced and regional organisations are able to contribute critically."



Figure 1: Objectives of Multilateralism

Source: <https://www.iberdrola.com/social-commitment/what-is-multilateralism>

Although there is a great deal of interest in international environmental accords from the public, the legal system, and the social sciences, there is still little evidence to support these assertions. There are several listings of international environmental legislation available online and in most law libraries. The definitions of these phrases in each list, however, differ significantly when compared. Many only list specific, significant, or major agreements, as well as those that are relevant

to a certain area or problem. Some combine nonbinding statements of principles, declarations, and resolutions with binding (or hard law) treaties and conventions. On most secretariats, including the websites of the UN International Maritime Organization (UNIMO), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO), and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), only agreements made under their auspices or those they manage are included (IMO). Governments frequently limit their lists to accords to which they are parties (Stafford-Smith et al., 2017). The countless conventions, revisions, and other adjustments necessary to reconstruct the historical evolution of international environmental law or its status at a certain moment are almost never identified in any list, even one that claims to be thorough. Commonly, well-known environmental accords are left off of such lists. A lot of the listings online are outdated. Most, or worse, do not utilise these definitions and standards themselves, do not provide users with systematic and clear definitions and related guidelines to include or omit agreements. And many of those that do, including a particularly extensive list, include agreements that are not immediately apparent as being environmentally friendly because their impacts are masked by the agreement's text.

Without a doubt, the goals and intended audiences of those who produce these lists are reflected in the coverage of international environmental law listings. The seemingly simple issue of adequately portraying the history evolution and current situation of the IEA people is difficult to tackle. Even the outstanding database (ECOLOEX) of environmental law created by the World Conservation Union, UNEP, and FAO and the Environmental Treaties and by Columbia's Center for International Earth Science Information Network, the international societies have failed to produce comprehensive or conclusive lists of international environmental agreements (Kaur, 2021).

III. MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT

It alludes to a group of international agreements that are used by nations to formally commit to pursuing a set of environmental goals. Conventions, treaties, declarations, agreements, and protocols are only a few examples. Multilateral treaties, according to the rule of international agreements, only bind governments that have consented to be bound by them. They are useful instruments for putting policy into practise and achieving sustainable development objectives.

The graph below shows the number of environmental treaties, protocols, and amendments by decade from 1850 to 1950 and a gap of five-year period after 1950.

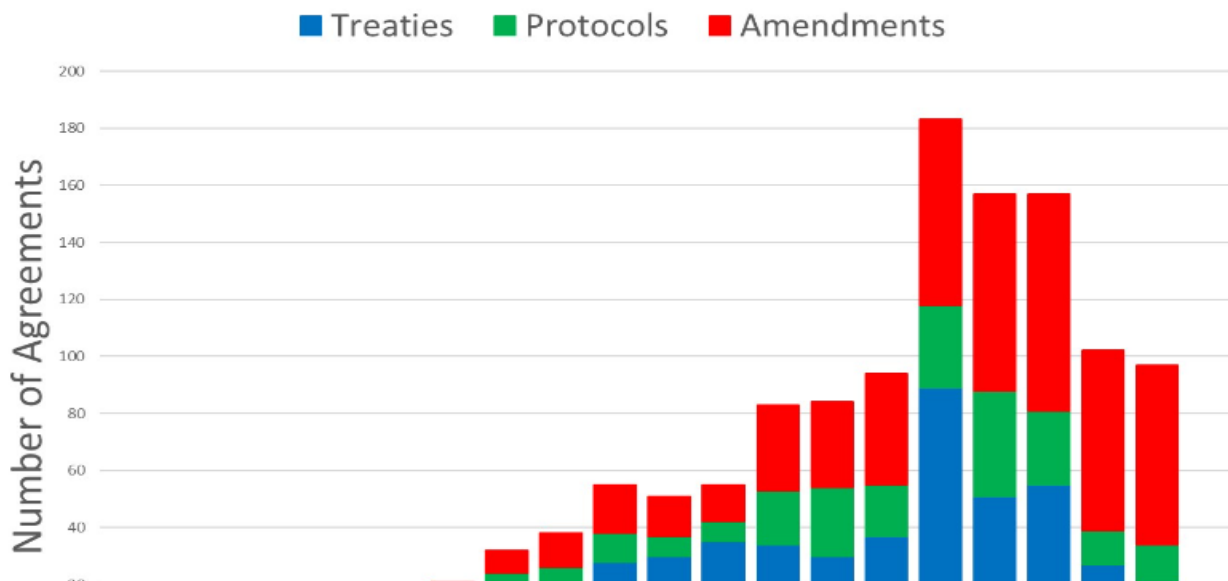


Figure 2: Multilateral Environmental Agreements 1850-2016
 Source: International environmental agreement database

3.1 Sustainable Development Goal

Natural resource depletion may be stopped in large part by the idea of sustainable development. It refers to the notion of a development addressing the cultural and physical demands of the current generation without compromising the capacity of the next generation to address their own needs. Promoting growth that has the least detrimental impact on the environment is the goal of sustainable development. It can be done by limiting human activity and improving the efficiency of technological advancement. Renewable resource consumption and production rates must balance each other out. Wind energy, solar energy,

and environmentally friendly building practises are a few examples of sustainable development(Pickett, Cadenasso, & Grove, 2004).

All nations agreed to a set of goals to eradicate poverty, protect the environment, and ensure prosperity in September 2015 as part of a new sustainable development plan. It is acknowledged as one of the crucial tools for achieving the objectives of sustainable development. They offer the basis for putting national-level initiatives into action. Additionally, new rules will be created to boost efficacy and efficiency.

IV. INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW GOVERNANCE

The highest-level UN body to address the environment, the UN Environment Assembly, began on June 23, 2014, in Nairobi, where it is housed. The United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA), which has 193 universal members from all UN member states and other stakeholder organisations, reports directly to the General Assembly. With the assistance of these individuals, this new organisation offers a revolutionary platform for leadership in terms of international environmental policy(Wiek et. al., 2011).

Declaration and Treaties

1. The United Nations Conference on Human Environment's Declaration was the first significant attempt to take into account both the global human effect on the environment and the international effort to address the issues of environmental conservation and enhancement.
2. The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) issued a succinct document known as the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, sometimes referred to as the Rio Earth Summit. It consists of 27 ideas that are meant to serve as a roadmap for future sustainable development on a global scale.
3. Customary environmental regulations and broad concepts like precautionary principles and sustainable development are evolving. Customary law has tended to fall behind treaty law in the formation of legal norms as a result of how quickly knowledge of the global environment has entered the international political agenda.
4. The international community has responded to the necessity to regulate activities that endanger the environment by signing treaties.
5. State rights and duties are being established by several bilateral and multilateral environmental accords.

The environment's preservation is continuously hampered by the natural population expansion, thus appropriate regulations and actions must be taken.

Reasons for Environmental Crisis

- Population explosion: The rapid population expansion has a negative impact on the environment. Although there is a finite amount of environmental resources, demand is rising.
- Increased economic activity - This results in wealthy production and consumption of products and services. It generates wastes that are more than the environment can handle.
- Insecticides, pesticides, and chemical industries are being used more often, which is bad for their health as well as that of the farmers and workers who use them.
- Rapid industrialisation has resulted in resource depletion and deforestation. Due to the growing buildup of hazardous materials and industrial waste in the water bodies, it causes water pollution.
- Urbanization – People moving from rural to urban regions is what is behind the fast growth of slum communities. It causes an excessive strain on already-existing infrastructure-related tasks.

V. INDIA AND ITS IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

One of the nations most at risk from climate change is India. India's population is primarily dependent on agriculture. India now ranks after China and the US as the third-largest emitter of greenhouse emissions. Between 2008 and 2035, India's yearly carbon dioxide emissions are expected to virtually double. The net carbon dioxide emission is made up of the energy sector, which accounts for 8% of it, the industry sector, which accounts for 22% of it, the agricultural sector, which accounts for 17% of it, and the waste sector, which accounts for 3% of it.

Around the world, municipal, state, and national attention is focused primarily on climate change and energy. India previously played a minor role in international negotiations and did not contribute to greenhouse gas emissions due to its low per capita emission rate. However, today, India is a major player and needs to implement a diversified strategy to develop clean energy sources, increase energy efficiency, and get ready for the effects of climate change.

5.1 India's Role in International Climate Affairs

India's strategy to tackling climate change has coupled its earnest concern for the issue with a resolute refusal to consider reducing its own emissions. The Indian government has, on the one hand, long voiced concern about the effects of climate change. When the National Climate Change Action Plan was released in 2008, the government began creating policies to promote renewable energy. The current prime minister of India, Narendra Modi, has been vociferous in his efforts to increase public awareness of the issue of climate change. While Gujarat's chief minister, he backed initiatives to boost the production of renewable energy and help the state deal with the effects of climate change. However, despite the fact that India's per-capita emissions, at 1.7 metric tonnes in 2010, are still less than the global average of about 5 metric tonnes, Modi's personal progressive stance on climate change contrasts sharply with New Delhi's long-standing resistance to accepting India's emission reductions (Sarkar & Dash, 2011). India's successive governments have claimed that, rather than reducing emissions, the country's primary priorities should be alleviating poverty and expanding access to power. At the UN Climate Summit in September, India's environment minister maintained this stance and said that the country might not set an emissions cap for at least 30 years.

India has to concentrate and make unwavering commitments to the world that it would cut emissions and eventually reach a peak as part of an all-encompassing post-Kyoto agreement. The outside world cannot, however, ignore India's development objectives or the fact that external pressure is not always well welcomed in New Delhi. The best course of action is to swiftly and considerably expand cooperation in the field of renewable energy, much as how the US, the EU, and other industrialised countries have done in China (Mittal, 2020a, 2020b). The Indian government has made it apparent that it aims to considerably enhance the production of nuclear, solar, and hydroelectric energy. Furthermore, developed countries must make every effort to persuade India to convert from its current reliance on coal to these cleaner energy sources. As with the U.S.-China Clean Energy Research Center, which has assisted in building research partnerships and provided access to a joint CCS demonstration project, the emphasis should be on fostering more cooperative R&D connections (Moya Clemente et. al., 2020). A recent example is India's proposal to create an alliance of 120 nations at the 2015 Paris conference to pursue increased use of solar power. India is a prominent proponent of the Paris Agreement, which emphasises the need of international cooperation in the development of environmentally friendly technology and the need to increase the 2009 Green Climate Fund to assist developing nations in achieving their objectives. Despite being discouraging, the Trump administration's decision to leave the Paris Agreement would only make Indian officials more determined to go above and beyond the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) set forth at the 2015 Paris conference. With its new "Make in India" goals, India might become even more assured at upcoming climate change discussions.

VI. CONCLUSION

The goal of the study was to increase understanding of the variety of logical and fair arguments on the effects of the current changes in the global political economy on the environment. It is hoped that those who choose to act on their convictions in the future will do so with the humility of understanding the complexities and uncertainties of the relationship between globalisation and the environment, whether that action is joining the World Bank's environment team or participating in an anti-globalization rally.

What then, in the age of globalisation, is the nature of global environmental change? Is globalisation driving environmental disaster or progress? Can globalisation be properly channelled to assure a sustainable future via global environmental laws and the standard of sustainable development? The results are mixed. Global collaboration has in fact proved successful in solving some issues, such as ozone depletion. But the global community doesn't seem to be making any progress at all with issues like tropical deforestation. Climate change is arguably the biggest environmental issue we face today. It also seems like the international efforts are failing here. Can deforestation and climate change be "solved" by sustainable development and regimes alone? The solution is apparent. No. These could be beneficial. However, such significant issues will necessitate new national policies, business ethics, more financial transfers from the North to the South, creative marketplaces, technology advancements, and new kinds of collaboration.

Currently, countries are working hard to restructure their economies, which has shifted the focus of issues to sustainable development. Additionally, it depends on advancing the application of its environmental laws and the integration of the environment in order to achieve its economic and environmental goals. To better integrate into governmental activity, it is always advised to increase the human and financial resources and analyse the organization's structure. To make it simpler to enforce present laws and regulations and to enhance the system of responsibility for all tiers of government and business, simplification must be encouraged.

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