



Sustainable Development Goals in International Politics

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ABSTRACT

After World War II, the world was significantly decolonized and newly independent states prioritized national development. The adverse effects of this blind competition for rapid development gradually began to reflect on the environment. Northern nations, which were ahead of the South on the development ladder, began blaming developing and underdeveloped states for global environmental degradation. Consequently, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) became increasingly antagonistic in international politics. Nations across the world mobilized globally to address environmental issues in the context of national interests, and politics was manifested. The term "sustainable development" was first used in a report published by the World Commission on Environment and Development. In September 2015, the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly agreed on 17 universal goals, along with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SDGs cover issues that provide a blueprint for peace and lasting prosperity on Earth. Such as economic development, improving health and education, alleviating poverty and famine, climate change, and adopting robust strategies for land and ocean conservation. Environmental issues cannot be confined to the geographical boundaries of various countries. The Earth's water, mountains, and land are "common global assets" that must be exploited judiciously, otherwise, humanity could one day be endangered. Today, nations must consider global interests beyond national interests. This research paper attempts to highlight the Sustainable Development Goals in international politics. An attempt has been made to clarify the politics prevalent between developed and developing countries in the context of achieving sustainable development goals.

Key words: colonialism, international politics, mobilization, sustainable development, climate change, shared global assets.

1. INTRODUCTION

Internationally, in the 1960s, it became clear that the rapid spread of industrialization and nationalization was proving extremely detrimental to environmental health. The book *Silent Spring* revealed that birdsong could no longer be heard in rural England because their nests had been

destroyed by toxic insectivores. The short-sighted use of chemicals like DDT for increased production was responsible for this. Many such factors began to surface globally, leading to the environment becoming a major issue in international politics. Later, it was realized that civil society could play a crucial role in sustainable development. Clarifying the concept of sustainable development, the Bratt Commission stated that development that meets the needs of the present does not diminish the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainable development is also known as sustainable development, sustainable development, and sustainable development.

Gradually, environmental issues have become important in global politics. The blind race for development after World War II has resulted in the concept of development being largely focused on the betterment or progress of human society, but the pattern of development is characterized by inequality. For example, all countries in the world aspire to high income, social equality, and a livable environment. Unfortunately, there is an inverse relationship between development levels and environmental development.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Broadly speaking, we refer to the politics observed between different nations as international politics. Professor Wiseman has explained politics as the process of dividing limited resources, while Inston has explained it as the authorized allocation of values. According to Lascelles, "In politics, we study the nature of political power and who are its stakeholders." Defining politics, Quincy Wright wrote, "Politics is the art by which each group continuously strives to advance its interests by exercising some form of control over other groups." Environmental issues are becoming increasingly prominent in international politics today. Within this system, the rich nations of the North controlled and protected the resources of poorer nations for their own benefit, continuing from the colonial period to the neo-colonial period.

THE MEANING OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

International politics involves states and nations, each with its own needs, desires, and aspirations. Within international politics, various states strive to achieve

national interests through diplomatic efforts. Therefore, international politics is a process in which each nation, through power, organizes global relations in a way that enhances its national interests. According to James Rosenow, "international politics is a very important development of international relations." According to Rapprou, international politics is the study of the interactions and relationships arising from the mutual opposition, resistance, or conflict between states in pursuit of their respective objectives or interests. This means that the subject matter of international politics is the study of the conflict between various nations in the international arena in order to achieve their own interests.

SCOPE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

1. The state is the mainstay of international politics.
 2. International politics emphasizes the study of power.
 3. International politics studies various organizations and institutions.
 4. International politics emphasizes the study of war and peace.
 5. International politics studies the foreign policy-making process.
 6. International politics emphasizes the study of international law.
 7. International politics deals with global relations.
- Today, we see that environmental studies have gained significant importance in international politics, with the world divided into North and South, each supporting its own right to address environmental issues.

HISTORY OF THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Although environmental concerns have a long history, concern about the impact of economic development on the environment took on a political character in the 1900s. The Forum of Rome, a group of scholars concerned with global affairs, published a book titled "Limits to Growth" in 1972, which eloquently described the devastating destruction of natural resources in light of population growth.

The Rio Earth Summit, which placed climate change and global warming at the top of the global crisis list, had numerous achievements, including the Rio Declaration on Climate Change, the Convention on Biodiversity, the Equatorial Principles, the Commission on Sustainable

Development, assistance to the Third World, and Agenda 21. It was realized that our attitude toward the environment and all human beings needed to change. If we were destroying nature, it meant destroying ourselves. We must recognize that every citizen has the right to an acceptable standard of living, but not at the expense of the environment.

The Rio Conference revealed the fact that the world's wealthy, developed nations and poor, developing nations held different environmental agendas. Southern states argued that Northern nations had polluted the world by exploiting natural resources in an unbalanced way for their rapid development, and they should bear the cost of restoring the environment. Per capita carbon emissions in developed countries are higher than those in developing countries, and today, by inventing environmentally friendly technologies themselves, they are restricting those countries and forcing them to purchase their expensive technologies. The publicly debated issue of technology transfer also remains a topic of debate between North and South. The debate on environmental protection has been seen as part of a conspiracy to hamper the potential of developing countries in international trade. Sometimes in the name of pollution and sometimes in the name of violation of labour standards, Western capitalist countries have been preventing the products of developing countries from reaching their markets by imposing arbitrary restrictions. In June 1972, the first International Conference on the Human Environment was held in Stockholm, which adopted the United Nations Environment Programme. Scientists expressed concern that river water was becoming polluted, forests were being deforested, and not only land water was becoming increasingly polluted. Polluted urban smoke was hindering clean breathing, and biological diversity was being destroyed. This was the first step. Environmental issues subsequently became a major topic of discussion at subsequent international conferences. Exactly 10 years later, in 1982, the 10th anniversary of this conference was celebrated in Nairobi. In 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) published the Burtland Report, titled *Our Common Future*. This report alerted the world that the current form of development was unsustainable. The demands of industrial development in the Southern Hemisphere could have devastating consequences. The

term sustainable development was first used in this report. In June 1992, a United Nations conference focused on environment and development was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Known as the Earth Summit, this event was attended by over 150 countries, multinational corporations, and voluntary organizations. The Rio Declaration recognized the interdependence of environment and development, and theoretically articulated the common rights and duties of all nations to protect the environment of Earth, the home of mankind.

In June 1977, a five-day United Nations Earth Summit was held in New York to review the progress of the Rio Summit, where concerns were expressed about depleting forests, fauna, and fisheries. Developing states emphasized the lack of financial support from developed nations to promote environmentally friendly technologies. In December 1997, a conference on global warming was held in Kyoto, Japan. However, it was decided that industrialized countries would commit to controlling greenhouse gas emissions and reduce their emissions by five percent over the next ten years. 141 countries agreed to the Kyoto Treaty.

In August 2002, the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The host president criticized the concept of Western-sponsored development, stating that it was the ultimate creator of a long shadow of poverty. The agenda of this conference, held ten years after the Rio Summit, was to review Agenda 21. In December 2005, the United Nations Climate Pact was reached in Montreal, Canada, to mitigate global warming, which addressed the disagreements at the Szeged Summit.

In December 2009, the United Nations Conference on Climate Change was held in Copenhagen (Denmark), where an unsuccessful attempt was made to reach a consensus on curbing polluting gas emissions. Divisions emerged between the United States and the BASIC countries on the issue of sustainable development, and a non-binding agreement was adopted.

In December 2012, the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-18) was held in Doha (Qatar), where the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the Bali Action

Plan, and the Urvan Platform were finalized. At the December 2014 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Lima (Peru), the long-standing impasse between developed and developing countries was broken, and a new agreement was reached. Agreement was reached on the framework of the Paris Conference and the classification of nations bearing the economic burden of climate change. In December 2015, the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-21) was held in Paris, where a historic agreement was reached, signed by 196 member countries. The goal was set to reduce global warming by 2 degrees Celsius, and developed countries agreed to provide \$150 billion in economic assistance annually to developing countries. At the 2017 conference, the establishment of a climate change adaptation fund was agreed upon.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Development is a multidimensional phenomenon, resulting from the interaction between humans and the environment. Development goals revolve around the improvement of social, economic, and environmental aspects. The meaning of development varies depending on the needs of different groups. For example, some people aim for higher incomes, while others prefer a clean environment. Natural resources are the foundation for any state's development; high technological skills have been essential for their exploitation.

The post-World War II world considered high incomes the basis for economic progress, leading to social inequality and a degraded environment. Gradually, human development was added to the definition of development, highlighting the importance of environmental factors that hinder the quality of human life. It was recognized that the blind race for development needed to be reviewed and new methods needed to be found, and that the need of the hour was to prioritize development without adverse effects.

In September 2000, the United Nations Millennium Summit was held, with the aim of improving the future world. The Millennium Development Goals, signed by 189 countries, included the goals of improving the lives of the world's poorest people.

KEY FEATURES OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. Per capita income and economic growth should continue to grow over time.
2. Natural resources should be exploited judiciously, not restricted.
3. The ability to meet the needs of future generations should not be diminished.
4. Finding ways to manage the adverse effects of climate change, as well as gender equality and better health.
5. Pollution is not necessarily linked to sustainable development.

17 Development Goals

1. Poverty Eradication
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-Being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Equality
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
10. Reducing Inequality
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate
14. Life in Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals

STUDY OBJECTIVES

1. To present a brief introduction to international politics.
2. To highlight the relevance of international politics and international relations.
3. To highlight the achievements achieved as a result of the Sustainable Development Goals of international politics and the obstacles that stand in the way of sustainability. Hypothesis
4. Politics is essential for social welfare, economic development, and economic advancement.
5. The objective of international politics is to establish political stability, civil security, prosperity, equality, and other social benefits in all countries globally. It is

essential to work with the goal of sustainability in international politics.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present research is a qualitative study based on the authors' personal opinions, prior knowledge, and material obtained from published research papers. The main idea and conclusions have been presented by strictly following the research process.

CONCLUSION

Today, the growing population in the world is not a social or economic problem, but a global crisis, ultimately bearing the brunt of which is the environment and institutions. Today, there is a need to abandon religious and cultural beliefs that justify their arguments by considering the growing population as a divine gift. Earth's resources are limited. A child comes into the world with many demands upon birth, such as food, water, education, health, housing, employment, and transportation. Environmentalists estimate that if every citizen in the world consumed the same amount of resources as an American citizen, we would need approximately seventeen Earths. Modern materialistic consumerist culture is also a significant cause of environmental pollution. Mahatma Gandhi said, "Even today, nature has enough resources to satisfy every person's needs, but not the greed of one person."

Today, the world has entered the age of artificial intelligence, but on the other hand, it is failing on key parameters essential for human life, such as food, clothing, and shelter.

The world is divided in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations General Assembly. The North-South divide in international politics is proving to be a hindrance to achieving these goals. We need today's environmental issues affecting the entire world, so comprehensive global cooperation is the need of the hour. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres remarked that climate change is affecting us all; no country, community, or individual is unaffected by it.

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