

## Climate Change Politics and International Agreements

**Dr. Parmeshwari Bagra\***

Professor, Department of Political Science, Sri Sant Sundar Das Government PG Girls College, Dausa, Rajasthan, India.

\*Corresponding Author: [parmeshwari.bagra@gmail.com](mailto:parmeshwari.bagra@gmail.com)

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### ABSTRACT

*International collaboration requires international political dedication and effective climate governance systems to address climate change which has become a critical environmental crisis for the 21st century. This paper examines the political dimensions of climate change and critically analyzes the role of international agreements in addressing environmental concerns. The research shows how climate policies and international negotiation processes get shaped by global political factors and national governmental interests and economic development priorities and existing power structures. The research demonstrates how developed nations and developing nations reach different outcomes because they have different responsibilities and resource distribution rights and emission reduction obligations. The paper evaluates major international agreements such as the Paris Agreement, Kyoto Protocol, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, focusing on their objectives, implementation mechanisms, and effectiveness in mitigating climate change impacts. These agreements serve as essential environmental governance benchmarks because they establish international efforts to decrease greenhouse gas emissions while advancing sustainable development and fostering global partnerships. The implementation of the policies has faced challenges because of political conflicts between countries and the absence of solid enforcement systems and differences in how countries have dedicated themselves to the agreements. The study analyzes how domestic political factors and economic limitations and international political interests lead to the development of national climate change policies. The study demonstrates that international agreements create an operational framework but their actual implementation depends on how individual countries execute their international obligations through national policy development. The findings show that progress has occurred in creating international systems but major obstacles still exist which prevent the achievement of effective climate change solutions. The paper concludes by emphasizing the need for stronger global cooperation, enhanced accountability mechanisms, and equitable policy approaches to ensure effective implementation of climate agreements and long-term sustainability.*

**Keywords:** *Climate Change, Global Politics, International Agreements, Environmental Policy, UNFCCC, Paris Agreement.*

### Introduction

Climate change describes permanent changes to earth's temperature and precipitation distribution and atmospheric weather patterns which result from human activities including industrial development and forest destruction and city expansion and greenhouse gas emissions which exceed natural limits. The issue has transformed from being a basic environmental problem into a main international challenge which impacts all aspects of human life across various countries. The world shows clear evidence of increasing climate change effects through rising temperatures and melting ice and ocean water expansion and more frequent severe weather events. The issue has become a primary

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focus for researchers and government officials and worldwide organizations which work together to find solutions.

People view climate change as a scientific and environmental matter because its fundamental aspects exist within political and economic systems. National interests and economic objectives and geopolitical factors shape both the development and execution of climate change regulations. Different countries maintain distinct industrial capabilities and available resources and degrees of susceptibility to climate change outcomes. Developed nations, which have historically contributed the most to greenhouse gas emissions, are often expected to take greater responsibility for mitigation efforts. Developing countries need to achieve economic development while requesting equal distribution of responsibilities and financial assistance and technological support. The different views of countries create difficulties during international climate treaty negotiations and policy discussions.

International agreements which operate through United Nations frameworks have been created to solve these worldwide environmental problems. Notable agreements include the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement. The agreements establish international partnerships while defining specific emission reduction goals and promoting sustainable development methods.

The process of reaching agreement and achieving effective implementation continues to present major obstacles for international organizations. The success of international climate agreements gets restricted by political conflicts and economic limitations and the absence of enforcement systems. Therefore, understanding the political dynamics of climate change is essential for developing effective strategies and ensuring meaningful global action toward environmental sustainability.

### **Background of the Study**

The development of climate change politics has been influenced throughout history by scientific progress and economic interests and the shifts in global power distribution. Environmental issues were initially treated as local or national problems which needed international cooperation only when national boundaries restricted their impact. The scientific evidence showed that climate change affected the entire planet and produced extensive global effects which required all countries to work together in solving this problem. The realization of this truth led to climate change becoming an international political issue that needed countries to work together as a global community.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change established international climate cooperation through its creation as a critical turning point in this process. The treaty sought to establish greenhouse gas emission limits while advancing sustainable development. The Kyoto Protocol established mandatory greenhouse gas reduction obligations for industrialized nations while the Paris Agreement permitted all countries to pick their own greenhouse gas reduction commitments.

International climate treaties face operational challenges because various political factors limit their effectiveness. The negotiations have encountered obstacles because developed countries and developing countries disagree on who should take responsibility for climate change and how resources should be divided while economic differences between nations remain unresolved. The execution of approved policies has been restricted because both countries failed to enforce their commitments and their national dedication was inconsistent. The improvement of climate governance requires researchers to understand political systems which govern climate change policies.

### **Objectives of the Study**

- To assess how climate change impacts political activities.
- To investigate the key elements of international climate treaties.
- To determine how well international climate regulations achieve their goals.
- To identify the obstacles that International climate negotiating processes face.
- To investigate how developed and developing nations interact in climate change discussions.
- To recommend solutions that will enhance international diplomatic relations.

### **Hypothesis of the Study**

H<sub>1</sub>: Political factors significantly impact climate change policies.

H<sub>2</sub>: International agreements serve as essential mechanisms for climate change mitigation.

**H<sub>s</sub>:** Economic interests determine how dedicated countries will be to climate agreements.

**H<sub>a</sub>:** International agreements become less effective when enforcement mechanisms are absent.

## 2. Review of Literature

**Nicholas Stern (2007)** Nicholas Stern (2007) demonstrated through his climate change economic report that climate change creates severe threats which endanger worldwide economic systems and development progress. He argued that the cost of inaction would be far greater than the cost of immediate mitigation measures. The research revealed that international collaboration together with policy actions and sustainable development permanent investment strategies needs to receive greater understanding. Stern concluded that strong global coordination and early action are essential to minimize economic losses and ensure sustainable growth in the face of climate challenges.

**Joseph Stiglitz (2019)** Joseph Stiglitz (2019) studied how public policy and governance systems function to combat climate change. He explained that market failures originate from insufficient carbon pricing systems which lead to major environmental damage. The research showed that governments need to create strong regulations together with appropriate taxation systems and effectiveness-based incentives to support clean energy development and sustainable practice implementation. Stiglitz also highlighted the need for global cooperation and institutional reforms to ensure equitable and efficient climate action across nations, particularly between developed and developing economies.

**Naomi Klein (2014)** Naomi Klein (2014) examined the economic and political obstacles which prevent successful climate change solutions from being implemented. Her research demonstrated that neoliberal economic policies together with corporate interests and political opposition create barriers which prevent successful implementation of environmental reforms. She explained that climate change represents an environmental problem which also functions as a political and economic challenge that needs complete system changes. Klein emphasized the need for strong public movements, policy changes, and global cooperation to address climate change effectively and promote environmental justice and sustainability.

**Elinor Ostrom (2010)** Elinor Ostrom (2010) studied how people work together to solve environmental problems through collective action. She explained that climate change requires multiple governance systems to solve the problem because local, national, and global institutions need to work together. Her study showed that centralized solutions fail to solve problems which require active community involvement to achieve sustainable resource management. Ostrom determined that successful climate governance needs stakeholders to work together while sharing the burden of responsibility.

**Daniel Bodansky (2016)** Daniel Bodansky (2016) examined how international climate agreements function and their effectiveness by studying the Paris Agreement. He showed that the agreement moves away from fixed legal obligations toward a system that allows countries to create their own commitments through voluntary national agreements. The new system enables more countries to join but it creates problems about how to maintain control and ensure countries fulfill their obligations. Bodansky found that international agreements establish essential collaborative structures but their effectiveness relies on countries' political commitment and their ability to execute agreements.

### Methodology

#### Research Design

- Descriptive and analytical research design
- Helps in understanding political dimensions of climate change and effectiveness of agreements

#### Nature of Study

- The study is theoretical and policy-based
- Focuses on analysis of international climate frameworks

#### Data Type

- Secondary data is used for the study

#### Sources of Data

- Research journals and articles

- Government reports
- Publications of United Nations
- Policy documents and international agreements

**Key Agreements Analyzed:**

- Paris Agreement
- Kyoto Protocol

**Method of Analysis**

- Content analysis method
- Systematic review of agreements and policies

**Parameters of Analysis**

- Effectiveness of agreements
- Level of participation
- Implementation status
- Political challenges

**Data Presentation Technique**

- Tabulation method
- Use of simple percentage analysis

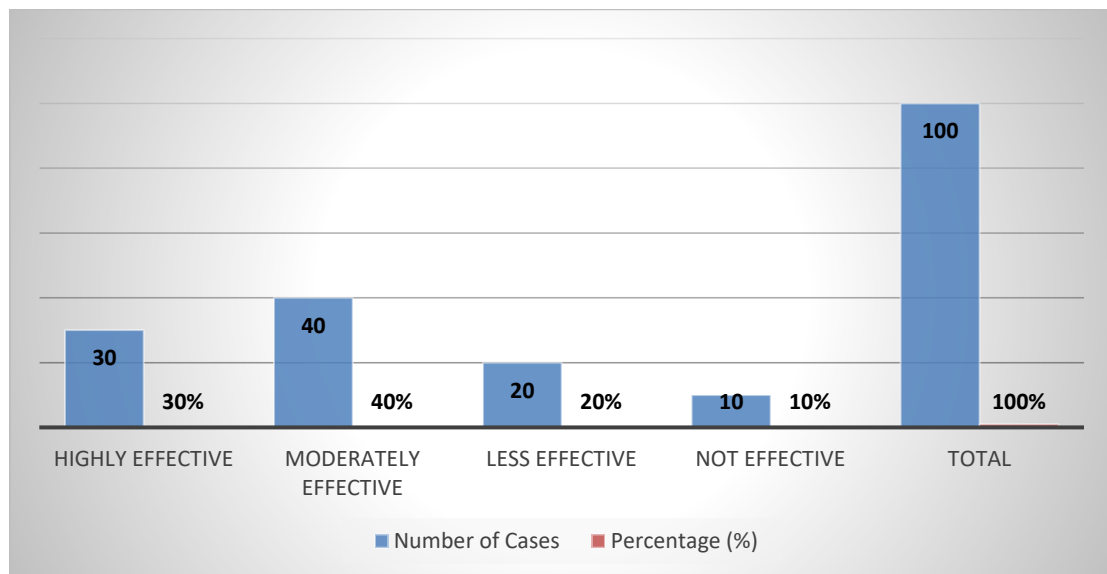
**Purpose of Analysis**

To present findings in a clear, simple, and understandable manner

**Data Analysis and Interpretation**

**Table 1: Level of Effectiveness of International Climate Agreements**

Response Category	Number of Cases	Percentage (%)
Highly Effective	30	30%
Moderately Effective	40	40%
Less Effective	20	20%
Not Effective	10	10%
Total	100	100%

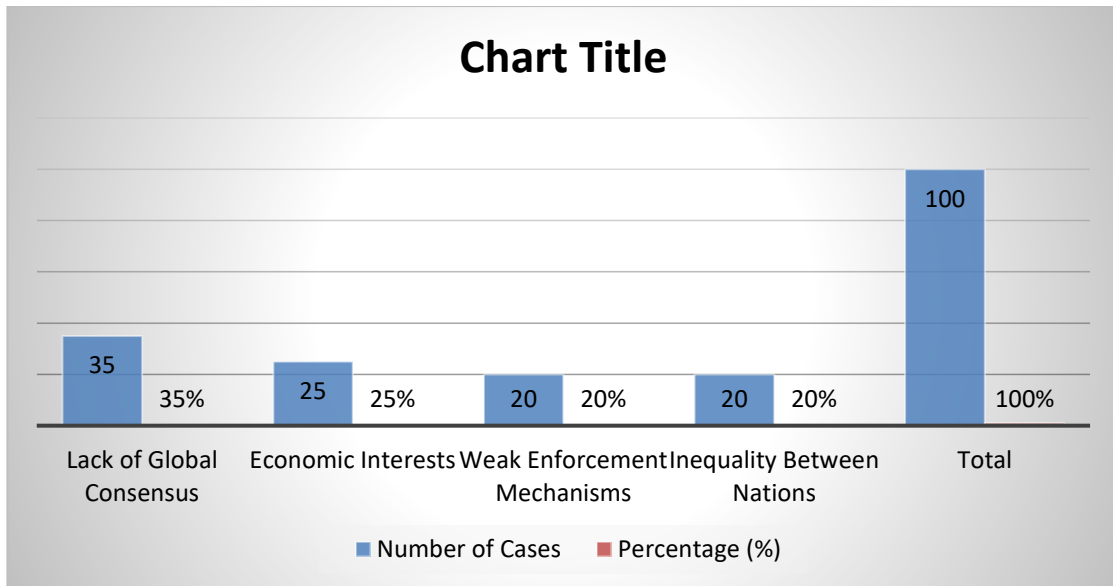


**Interpretation**

The table shows that 40% of the cases consider international agreements moderately effective, while 30% view them as highly effective. The Paris Agreement and other treaties have achieved their goals but make further progress potential. About 30% of respondents think that the system functions less than expected or completely fails to work which creates doubts about how authorities will carry out their duties and control operations.

**Table 2: Major Political Challenges in Climate Agreements**

Challenges	Number of Cases	Percentage (%)
Lack of Global Consensus	35	35%
Economic Interests	25	25%
Weak Enforcement Mechanisms	20	20%
Inequality Between Nations	20	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Interpretation**

The table shows that 35% of the cases assess worldwide agreement shortages as the primary obstacle while economic interests create problems for 25% of cases. Political conflicts and national interests create major obstacles that block climate agreements from achieving their goals. Global climate policies become less effective because of weak enforcement and inequality problems which both have a 20% impact.

**Overall Findings**

- International agreements achieve moderate effectiveness because their implementation faces various obstacles
- The negotiation process for climate agreements receives strong influence from both political and economic elements
- Climate agreements require better cooperative efforts which need better enforcement systems.

**Discussion**

The study shows that climate change politics face strong impact from national interests and economic matters and geopolitical factors. The parties involved in international negotiations face multiple challenges because countries have different levels of development and historical greenhouse gas emissions and their ability to handle climate change effects. Developed nations, which have produced the

highest greenhouse gas emissions, must assume greater responsibility, while developing countries require economic growth together with financial and technological assistance. The policy implementation process experiences delays because of imbalances between parties which leads to conflicts.

The Paris Agreement together with the Kyoto Protocol establishes international frameworks that enhance worldwide collaboration. The enforcement mechanisms face limitations because they lack strength and because some commitments exist in a voluntary framework. The domestic political environment together with economic limitations and government priorities that shift creates obstacles for many countries to reach their established targets.

The monitoring system for progress suffers from two main problems which include insufficient accountability and transparency. The existing reporting systems do not provide adequate mechanisms to ensure complete compliance with the rules. The differences in global resource distribution and technological progress restrict multiple countries from implementing climate regulations.

The study shows that political willpower serves as the essential element which decides whether climate treaties will succeed or fail. International efforts become powerless when national governments do not show their dedication to climate change. The global climate system needs institutional systems to be strong and their cooperation needs to improve while all parties must participate to reach their climate objectives.

### **Conclusion**

Climate change represents an urgent global problem which requires immediate collaborative efforts from both national governments and international organizations. The study shows that international agreements like the Paris Agreement have achieved substantial progress, yet they still face major problems with their implementation and operational efficiency. The political nature of climate change finds itself blocked from achieving substantial progress because national interests and economic priorities and global inequalities shape its development.

The findings demonstrate that international agreements establish a core foundation for cooperation, but their effectiveness depends on whether individual countries will implement their obligations. The lack of binding enforcement mechanisms together with insufficient accountability measures prevents these agreements from achieving their full potential. The different financial resources of developed and developing nations together with their different access to technology and climate change obligations create further challenges for international climate governance.

The solution to these challenges requires countries to demonstrate stronger commitment, while international institutions need to develop better governance mechanisms and tracking systems that assess their effectiveness. Achieving climate objectives over the long term requires nations to establish transparent systems that enable accountability and fair participation. Developing countries need more financial resources to invest in sustainable technologies and climate finance so they can fulfill their international obligations.

The global community needs to work together through international partnerships to develop fair environmental economic policies which will combat climate change.

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