Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Examine the structural reasons behind persistent disagreements in international climate negotiations over fossil-fuel transition and climate finance. How can the principle of climate justice strengthen global cooperation?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Historical emissions, common but differentiated responsibilities, climate finance, fossil-fuel dependence, energy security, adaptation needs, climate justice

Model Answer

Introduction

The UN climate negotiations under the UNFCCC seek collective action against climate change. However, disagreements over fossil-fuel transition and financial assistance reflect differences in historical responsibility, economic capacity and development priorities. The controversy surrounding COP29 in Baku illustrates these persistent divisions.

Structural Reasons Behind Negotiating Deadlocks

1. **Unequal historical responsibility:** Developed countries have contributed a larger share of cumulative greenhouse gas emissions, while many developing countries face severe climate impacts despite lower historical emissions.

2. **Disagreement over climate finance:** Developing countries argue that financial commitments must be adequate, predictable and accessible to support mitigation, adaptation and loss-and-damage responses.

3. **Fossil-fuel dependence:** Oil-producing economies and countries dependent on coal, oil and gas revenues face economic and employment challenges during the energy transition.

4. **Development and energy security:** Developing nations seek affordable and reliable energy to meet growing demand, industrialise and reduce poverty.

5. **Implementation deficit:** Differences between negotiated commitments and actual delivery of finance, technology and emission reductions weaken mutual trust.

Role of Climate Justice in Strengthening Cooperation

1. **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities:** Climate obligations should reflect countries' historical contributions and differing capacities.

2. **Predictable climate finance:** Developed countries should fulfil agreed financial responsibilities, while improving transparency and accessibility of funding.

3. **Just energy transition:** Financial and technological support should help developing economies diversify energy sources without undermining livelihoods.

4. **Adaptation and resilience:** Vulnerable countries require greater support for climate-resilient infrastructure, disaster preparedness and loss-and-damage responses.

5. **Inclusive negotiations:** Small island states, least developed countries and other vulnerable nations should have meaningful participation in decision-making.

Conclusion

Climate negotiations cannot succeed through emission targets alone. A fair distribution of responsibilities, credible finance and support for just

transitions are essential to build trust and achieve effective global climate cooperation.

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