Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Examine the major obstacles to achieving consensus in global climate negotiations, with particular reference to fossil fuel transition and climate finance.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 24/11/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

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Answer Hint

Climate justice, CBDR-RC, fossil fuel dependence, climate finance, energy security, carbon capture, international consensus

Model Answer

Introduction

Global climate negotiations seek collective action against climate change while balancing developmental priorities, energy security and historical responsibility. Differences over fossil fuel transition and financial commitments frequently complicate consensus.

Major Obstacles

1. **Differing national interests:** Fossil fuel-exporting economies and countries dependent on coal, oil and gas may resist rapid phase-out commitments due to economic and energy-security concerns.
2. **Climate justice:** Developing countries emphasise the historical contribution of industrialised nations to greenhouse gas emissions and demand equitable burden-sharing.
3. **Climate finance:** Disagreements persist over the adequacy, accessibility, predictability and distribution of financial support for mitigation and adaptation.

4. **Technology choices:** Countries differ over the role of carbon capture and storage, renewable energy and other transition technologies.
5. **Consensus-based negotiations:** The need to accommodate diverse national positions can dilute the ambition and specificity of final agreements.

Way Forward

1. **Differentiated pathways:** Recognise national circumstances while establishing credible long-term transition strategies.
2. **Predictable finance:** Strengthen grant-based and concessional support for vulnerable developing countries.
3. **Technology cooperation:** Expand affordable access to renewable energy, storage and carbon-management technologies.
4. **Accountability:** Improve transparency in reporting emissions, financial commitments and implementation progress.

Conclusion

Effective climate diplomacy requires reconciling environmental urgency with developmental equity. A just transition supported by credible finance and technology cooperation is essential for durable international consensus.

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