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Climate Change Policies and Global Cooperation: Assessing the Role of International Organizations in Germany

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in Germany**



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Abstract

Purpose: The aim of the study was to analyze the climate change policies and global cooperation: assessing the role of international organizations in Germany.

Methodology: This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low cost advantage as compared to a field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

Findings: International organizations play a vital role in facilitating global cooperation on climate change policies. They serve as platforms for information exchange and coordination of initiatives, setting international standards and targets. Additionally, these organizations provide financial support and technical assistance to enhance climate resilience, particularly in developing countries. Overall, their efforts are essential for driving collective action and combating climate change on a global scale.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy: Complex interdependence theory, transnational advocacy networks (TANs) & regime theory may be used to anchor future studies on climate change policies and global cooperation: assessing the role of international organizations. International organizations provide technical expertise, capacity-building support, and financial assistance to enhance the implementation of climate change policies at the national and regional levels. International organizations play a vital role in shaping the global policy agenda on climate change through advocacy, norm promotion, and policy coordination.

Keywords: *Climate Change Policies, Global Cooperation, International Organizations*

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INTRODUCTION

Global cooperation, essential for addressing transnational challenges, has seen both advancements and setbacks. In developed economies like the USA, participation in international organizations has been substantial, with the country contributing to various initiatives such as the Paris Agreement. However, recent trends show a decline in multilateralism, as evidenced by the US withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in 2017. Despite this, there have been efforts towards collaboration, such as the US joining the COVAX initiative for equitable COVID-19 vaccine distribution, demonstrating a commitment to global health cooperation (Smith, 2016). Similarly, Japan has been a key player in global cooperation, particularly in economic development. The country has consistently been among the top contributors to international aid, with Official Development Assistance (ODA) reaching \$23.1 billion in 2019. Additionally, Japan has been active in promoting climate action, exemplified by its hosting of the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019, where environmental issues were discussed extensively. However, challenges remain, including criticism of Japan's reliance on coal for energy generation despite commitments to reducing carbon emissions (Tanaka & Takahashi, 2017).

In developing economies, such as Brazil, global cooperation efforts have been evident in areas like environmental conservation and poverty alleviation. Brazil has been a signatory to various international agreements aimed at preserving the Amazon rainforest, which plays a crucial role in global climate regulation. However, domestic challenges, such as deforestation rates, have strained Brazil's credibility in fulfilling its commitments. Nonetheless, the country's participation in initiatives like the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflects a willingness to engage in global cooperation despite internal obstacles (Schweizer & De Oliveira, 2018). In addition to the examples provided earlier, developed economies like the UK have also demonstrated commitment to global cooperation, particularly in the realm of humanitarian aid and peacekeeping efforts. The UK consistently ranks among the top contributors to international humanitarian assistance, providing vital support during crises such as natural disasters and conflicts. For instance, the UK government allocated £906 million in humanitarian aid in 2020, reflecting its dedication to addressing global challenges (Gov.uk, 2021). Furthermore, the UK plays an active role in peacekeeping missions through its involvement in international organizations like the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces, contributing troops and resources to promote stability and security in conflict-affected regions.

Similarly, developed economies such as Germany have shown leadership in global cooperation, particularly in areas such as sustainable development and refugee resettlement. Germany has been a major supporter of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), implementing policies and initiatives aimed at achieving targets related to poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, and gender equality. Moreover, Germany has been at the forefront of refugee resettlement efforts, accepting a significant number of asylum seekers and providing assistance to displaced populations globally. Despite challenges such as the refugee influx in recent years, Germany's commitment to humanitarian principles and international cooperation remains steadfast (Tölle, 2016).

In addition to the examples mentioned earlier, developed economies like the USA have made significant contributions to global cooperation in the field of scientific research and technological

innovation. The USA remains a leader in funding and participating in international research collaborations aimed at addressing pressing global issues such as climate change, public health crises, and technological advancements. For instance, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the USA has been actively involved in supporting global health research initiatives, collaborating with researchers and institutions worldwide to develop solutions for diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria, and Ebola (NIH, 2020). Furthermore, the USA has played a crucial role in promoting space exploration and cooperation through partnerships with international space agencies, fostering scientific discovery and technological advancement on a global scale.

Similarly, developed economies such as Japan have leveraged their expertise and resources to promote global cooperation in disaster risk reduction and resilience building. Japan, being prone to natural disasters, has developed advanced technologies and methodologies for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. The country actively shares its knowledge and experiences with other nations through initiatives like the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the International Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (IFDRR). Moreover, Japan provides financial and technical assistance to vulnerable countries to enhance their capacities in disaster management and infrastructure development, contributing to global efforts to mitigate the impact of natural hazards (IFDRR, 2019).

In addition to the previous examples, developed economies like the United Kingdom have been actively engaged in promoting global cooperation through efforts in climate change mitigation and environmental conservation. The UK has committed to ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to renewable energy sources, setting an example for other nations to follow. For instance, the UK government has pledged to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, enacting policies and investing in clean energy technologies to reach this goal (UK Government, 2019). Furthermore, the UK has been a key participant in international climate agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, demonstrating its commitment to collective action in addressing the global climate crisis.

Similarly, developed economies such as Germany have prioritized global cooperation in promoting trade and economic development through initiatives like the European Union (EU) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Germany, as one of the leading economies in the EU, has played a significant role in shaping trade policies and agreements that facilitate economic integration and cooperation among member states. Moreover, Germany has been a proponent of multilateralism in trade negotiations, advocating for fair and open trade practices that benefit both developed and developing countries alike. By promoting trade liberalization and economic cooperation, Germany contributes to fostering global prosperity and stability (WTO, 2020). In developed economies like Canada, global cooperation manifests through diplomatic initiatives and peacekeeping missions aimed at promoting stability and security in conflict-affected regions. Canada has a long-standing commitment to peacekeeping operations under the United Nations, deploying troops and contributing to peacebuilding efforts in various parts of the world. For instance, Canada has participated in peacekeeping missions in places like Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, demonstrating its dedication to international peace and security (Global Affairs Canada). Additionally, Canada has been actively engaged in humanitarian assistance and

development projects, providing aid to countries facing crises such as natural disasters, conflicts, and health emergencies.

In sub-Saharan economies like South Africa, global cooperation efforts revolve around regional integration and development partnerships. South Africa plays a central role in regional organizations like the African Union and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), working towards economic integration, peace, and stability in the region. Moreover, South Africa has been actively engaged in global health initiatives, particularly in combating HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. The country's participation in programs like the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has contributed to significant progress in HIV prevention, treatment, and care across sub-Saharan Africa (South African Government). Despite facing domestic challenges such as inequality and unemployment, South Africa remains committed to collaborative efforts for sustainable development and poverty alleviation in the region. In sub-Saharan economies like Nigeria, global cooperation efforts have focused on areas such as healthcare and economic development. Nigeria has been involved in initiatives like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, receiving significant support for disease prevention and treatment programs. However, challenges such as corruption and inadequate healthcare infrastructure have hindered progress. Despite these obstacles, Nigeria's participation in regional organizations like the African Union demonstrates a commitment to collective action for addressing common challenges (Adepoju, 2016).

Climate change policies encompass a range of strategies aimed at mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. These policies typically include measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote renewable energy adoption, enhance energy efficiency, and protect ecosystems. One prominent policy approach is carbon pricing, which involves placing a price on carbon emissions through mechanisms such as carbon taxes or cap-and-trade systems. By internalizing the social cost of carbon, carbon pricing provides economic incentives for businesses and individuals to reduce their carbon footprint (Stiglitz, 2019). Another key policy involves investing in renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power. Through subsidies, tax incentives, and research funding, governments can stimulate the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy, thereby reducing emissions and fostering sustainable development (IPCC, 2018).

Global cooperation is essential for effective climate change policies due to the transboundary nature of climate impacts and emissions. One form of cooperation is international climate agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. These agreements provide a framework for countries to set emission reduction targets and regularly report their progress, fostering transparency and accountability (United Nations, 2015). Additionally, collaborative initiatives such as technology transfer and capacity-building support developing countries in implementing climate policies and transitioning to low-carbon economies. By sharing knowledge, expertise, and resources, countries can accelerate the global transition to a sustainable and resilient future (Sachs, 2019).

Problem Statement

The increasing urgency of addressing climate change has underscored the critical need for effective global cooperation and coordinated policies among nations. However, the complex nature of climate change governance poses significant challenges to achieving meaningful progress. While international organizations play a crucial role in facilitating cooperation and setting agendas, their effectiveness in driving collective action on climate change remains uncertain. Despite efforts such as the Paris Agreement, there is a persistent gap between international commitments and concrete actions to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate impacts (Biermann, 2020). Furthermore, geopolitical tensions, shifting national priorities, and the rise of populist movements in some countries have complicated efforts to reach consensus and implement comprehensive climate policies (Jacquet, 2018). Therefore, there is a pressing need to assess the role of international organizations in shaping climate change policies and fostering global cooperation to address this existential threat.

Theoretical Framework

Complex Interdependence Theory

Originated by Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, complex interdependence theory posits that in the modern globalized world, states are interconnected through multiple channels, including economic, social, and environmental. This theory emphasizes that cooperation among states is not solely driven by military or strategic interests but also by shared interests in addressing common challenges such as climate change (Keohane & Nye, 2018). In the context of climate change policies and global cooperation, complex interdependence theory highlights the interconnectedness of states' interests and the need for multilateral approaches facilitated by international organizations to effectively address climate-related challenges.

Transnational Advocacy Networks (TANs)

Transnational advocacy networks theory, proposed by Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, focuses on the role of non-state actors, such as NGOs, in influencing global policymaking and promoting cooperation across borders. TANs play a crucial role in shaping international norms, mobilizing public opinion, and pressuring governments to adopt climate change policies (Keck & Sikkink, 2018). Understanding the dynamics of TANs and their interactions with international organizations is essential for assessing the effectiveness of global cooperation efforts in addressing climate change.

Regime Theory

Originating from the work of Stephen Krasner, regime theory emphasizes the role of international institutions and regimes in facilitating cooperation among states. Regimes provide frameworks for states to negotiate agreements, establish rules, and coordinate actions to address shared problems such as climate change (Krasner, 2018). Examining the role of international organizations in shaping climate change regimes and fostering cooperation among states can provide insights into the effectiveness of global governance mechanisms in addressing complex transnational challenges.

Empirical Review

Smith (2017) assessed the effectiveness of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in promoting cooperation among nations. Their research aimed to investigate the relationship between UNFCCC membership, treaty ratification, and policy implementation across a wide range of countries. By analyzing data on treaty ratification and policy outcomes over time, the study sought to identify patterns and trends in global climate governance. The findings of the study revealed a significant increase in UNFCCC membership over the years, indicating growing international recognition of the need for climate action. However, the analysis also showed variations in policy implementation across countries, suggesting that mere membership in the UNFCCC does not guarantee effective climate policies. Moreover, the study highlighted the importance of enforcement mechanisms and incentives for compliance to enhance the impact of international climate agreements. Recommendations based on the findings emphasized the need for stronger accountability mechanisms and enhanced support for capacity-building in developing countries to ensure more effective climate governance at the global level.

Brown (2018) examined the role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in informing policy decisions on climate change. Their research involved a comprehensive analysis of IPCC reports and their influence on national and international climate policies. Through qualitative case studies and quantitative assessments, the study aimed to elucidate the extent to which IPCC findings shape policy responses to climate change across different countries and regions. The findings of the study indicated that IPCC reports have a significant impact on the formulation of climate policies in many countries, highlighting the crucial role of scientific consensus in driving policy action. The analysis revealed that policymakers often rely on IPCC assessments to justify policy measures and mobilize public support for climate action. Moreover, the study identified variations in the uptake of IPCC findings among different governments, suggesting the importance of political will and leadership in translating scientific knowledge into policy action. Recommendations based on the findings emphasized the need for enhanced communication and outreach efforts to ensure broader dissemination of IPCC findings and foster greater political commitment to addressing climate change.

Zhang and Chen (2019) assessed their effectiveness in addressing the impacts of climate change. Their research involved qualitative case studies of adaptation planning and implementation in diverse socio-economic and environmental contexts. Through in-depth analysis of adaptation strategies and outcomes, the study aimed to identify best practices and lessons learned for climate resilience building. The findings of the study highlighted the importance of local context in shaping adaptation strategies and the need for tailored approaches to address specific vulnerabilities and challenges. The analysis revealed that successful adaptation planning often involves multi-stakeholder engagement, participatory decision-making processes, and integration of traditional knowledge with scientific expertise. Moreover, the study identified key barriers to effective adaptation, including limited financial resources, institutional constraints, and inadequate coordination among stakeholders. Recommendations based on the findings emphasized the importance of mainstreaming adaptation into broader development planning processes and enhancing capacity-building efforts at the local level to strengthen resilience to climate change impacts.

Jones (2020) conducted a longitudinal study to assess the impact of international climate agreements on greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Their research aimed to analyze trends in emissions levels among countries participating in global climate agreements compared to non-participants. Through quantitative analysis of emissions data and policy interventions over time, the study sought to evaluate the effectiveness of international cooperation in addressing climate change. The findings of the study indicated that countries participating in global climate agreements experienced greater reductions in greenhouse gas emissions compared to non-participants, suggesting the positive impact of international cooperation on mitigation efforts. The analysis revealed that binding agreements with clear targets and timelines, coupled with supportive policy measures and incentives, were associated with more significant emissions reductions. Moreover, the study identified variations in emission reduction outcomes among different countries, highlighting the importance of national circumstances and policy contexts in shaping effectiveness. Recommendations based on the findings emphasized the need for continued international collaboration and stronger commitments to ambitious emission reduction targets to mitigate the impacts of climate change effectively.

Nguyen (2018) explored public perceptions of climate change policies and the role of international organizations in fostering public support for climate action. Their research aimed to assess public awareness, attitudes, and behaviors related to climate change and evaluate the influence of international organizations on public opinion and engagement. Through quantitative analysis of survey data collected from a diverse sample of respondents, the study sought to identify factors driving public support for climate policies and initiatives. The findings of the study revealed widespread awareness of climate change issues among the public, but varying levels of trust in international institutions and skepticism about the effectiveness of climate policies. The analysis showed that factors such as perceived fairness, transparency, and accountability of climate policies influenced public attitudes and willingness to support mitigation and adaptation efforts. Moreover, the study identified communication strategies and public outreach initiatives as key drivers of engagement and mobilization for climate action. Recommendations based on the findings emphasized the importance of building public trust in international organizations, enhancing communication strategies, and fostering community-level engagement to promote effective climate governance.

Liu (2021) examined patterns of collaboration among international organizations involved in climate governance. Their research aimed to map the landscape of international organizations, identify key actors and partnerships, and analyze the flow of information and resources within the climate governance network. Through quantitative analysis of network data and qualitative insights from organizational interactions, the study sought to elucidate the dynamics of collaboration and knowledge exchange among international actors. The findings of the study highlighted the importance of cross-sectoral partnerships and knowledge sharing in enhancing global cooperation on climate issues. The analysis revealed distinct clusters of organizations working on different aspects of climate governance, with varying degrees of centrality and influence within the network. Moreover, the study identified gaps and overlaps in organizational mandates and activities, suggesting opportunities for streamlining and coordination to improve overall effectiveness. Recommendations based on the findings emphasized the need for enhanced

collaboration, data sharing, and synergies among international organizations to address the complex and interconnected challenges of climate change effectively.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low-cost advantage as compared to field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

FINDINGS

The results were analyzed into various research gap categories that is conceptual, contextual and methodological gaps

Conceptual Research Gap: Smith (2017) have explored the effectiveness of international climate agreements and the role of organizations such as the UNFCCC and IPCC in addressing climate change, there is a need for research that critically examines the conceptual underpinnings of climate governance mechanisms. Specifically, there is limited understanding of how concepts such as legitimacy, accountability, and justice shape the design and implementation of climate policies at the international level. Future research could explore the normative foundations of climate governance and their implications for ensuring equitable and effective responses to climate change across different socio-economic and political contexts.

Contextual Research Gap: Despite the growing body of literature on adaptation planning and resilience-building measures, there remains a lack of comprehensive studies that systematically assess the contextual factors influencing adaptation outcomes. While studies such as Zhang and Chen (2019) provide valuable insights into local adaptation strategies, there is a need for research that examines the interplay between socio-economic, political, and environmental factors in shaping adaptation trajectories. Furthermore, there is limited research on the differential impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations, such as indigenous communities and marginalized groups, and the effectiveness of adaptation interventions in addressing their specific needs and challenges.

Geographical Research Gap: the existing literature on climate governance predominantly focuses on global and regional perspectives, with limited attention to the experiences and perspectives of countries in the Global South. While studies such as Smith (2017) and Brown (2018) provide insights into global climate governance mechanisms, there is a need for research that examines the unique challenges and opportunities faced by countries in the Global South in addressing climate change. Furthermore, there is limited research on South-South cooperation and knowledge exchange mechanisms in climate governance, despite the growing importance of these partnerships in advancing climate resilience and sustainable development goals.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

In conclusion, the discourse surrounding climate change policies and global cooperation underscores the pivotal role of international organizations in fostering collective action and addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change. Throughout this assessment, it becomes evident that international organizations play a central role in facilitating cooperation among nations, coordinating efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate impacts, and mobilize financial resources for climate-related initiatives. By providing platforms for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and norm-setting, international organizations such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) have catalyzed global efforts to combat climate change.

However, the effectiveness of international organizations in driving climate action hinges on several factors, including political will, financial commitments, and institutional capacity. Challenges such as geopolitical tensions, resource constraints, and divergent national interests have impeded progress in global climate negotiations and hindered the implementation of ambitious climate policies. Moreover, the voluntary nature of international agreements and the lack of enforcement mechanisms pose significant barriers to achieving meaningful climate outcomes. Nonetheless, the growing recognition of the existential threat posed by climate change has spurred renewed momentum for global cooperation, evidenced by initiatives such as the Paris Agreement and the increasing engagement of non-state actors in climate action.

Moving forward, enhancing the role of international organizations in climate governance will require concerted efforts to strengthen institutional frameworks, mobilize financial resources, and promote inclusive and equitable participation among nations. This necessitates fostering a culture of collaboration, trust-building, and shared responsibility, where nations work together to overcome collective action dilemmas and advance common objectives. By harnessing the collective expertise, resources, and political will of the international community, international organizations can play a pivotal role in catalyzing transformative climate action and safeguarding the planet for future generations.

Recommendations

Theory

International organizations play a crucial role in facilitating global cooperation on climate change policies by serving as platforms for dialogue, coordination, and negotiation among member states. Future research should focus on developing theoretical frameworks that elucidate the mechanisms through which international organizations influence the effectiveness of climate change policies at the global level. This includes examining how institutional design, decision-making processes, and normative frameworks within international organizations shape collective action on climate change mitigation and adaptation. By advancing theoretical understanding of the role of international organizations in addressing climate change, researchers can contribute to scholarship on global governance, environmental politics, and international relations theory.

Practice

International organizations provide technical expertise, capacity-building support, and financial assistance to enhance the implementation of climate change policies at the national and regional levels. To strengthen their practical contributions, international organizations should prioritize initiatives that promote technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and best practices dissemination among member states. This includes facilitating peer learning networks, providing training programs for policymakers and practitioners, and establishing funding mechanisms to support climate-resilient development projects. By leveraging their convening power and resources, international organizations can enhance the effectiveness and inclusivity of climate change action on the ground, particularly in developing countries and vulnerable regions.

Policy

International organizations play a vital role in shaping the global policy agenda on climate change through advocacy, norm promotion, and policy coordination. To enhance their policy contributions, international organizations should prioritize efforts to foster consensus-building, promote ambitious climate targets, and mobilize collective action among member states. This includes advocating for stronger commitments under international agreements such as the Paris Agreement, facilitating multilateral negotiations on contentious issues such as climate finance and carbon pricing, and providing policy recommendations based on scientific evidence and expert analysis. By serving as trusted intermediaries and catalysts for policy innovation, international organizations can drive forward the implementation of transformative climate change policies that are grounded in equity, sustainability, and resilience.

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