

Political Trends in Global Warming and Carbon Credit --- Climate Change and View Point of the Super Powers

Abstract

This paper focuses on the growing importance of the issue of climate change which has displaced terrorism from the agenda of international politics. The United Nations have held a number of conferences, summits, and meetings, to deal with the menace of climate change which has resulted in the politicization of the issue of climate change. This paper concentrates on the meaning of climate change and the view point of the Great World powers (United States, Great Britain, France, China, Russia) towards it. First of all we must know what climate change actually stands for. Only then we can assess the potential danger caused by it to the humanity and Mother Earth. Climate change can be defined as a long term change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns over periods of time that range from decades to millions of years. It may be a change in average weather conditions or a change in the distribution of weather events. Climate change may be limited to a specific region or it may occur across the whole earth.

Keywords: Concentrates, Statistical, Suggests, Existence, Repercussions
Introduction

Hence the climate change, as its definition suggests is a natural geographic process which takes place in the climatic conditions of the earth. But untrammelled expansion of industries and excessive use of fossil fuels have not only disturbed this process but also speeded it up. This has raised the average temperature of the earth and has threatened the very existence of the planet. As the process is not according to the laws of nature but is according to the human laws, it has caused pernicious repercussions. Let us briefly consider the cause physical evidences of climate change. Causes of climate change are as follows

1. Plate Tectonics, Solar Output, Orbital Variations, Volcanism, Ocean Variability, Human influences. Physical evidences for climate change can be studied as follows :
2. Historical and archaeological evidences
3. Glaciers
4. Ice Cores
5. Dendroclimatology
6. Pollen Analysis
7. Insects
8. Sea level change.

When climate change emerged as an important environmental issue in the late 1980's the world governments' first response was to establish an international body to produce summaries of scientific knowledge of climate change. That body is the intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was established in 1988 by World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) to evaluate the risk of climate change brought by humans based on the paper reviewed and published by Scientific and Technical Literature. The IPCC fourth Assessment Report gives physical evidence of climate changes as is highlighted from its research work .

1. Warming of Climate system is unequivocal
2. Constant increase in anthropogenic (human) green house gas concentrations.
3. Hotter temperatures and rise in temperature to continue for centuries (temp. rise from anywhere between (1.1 C to 6.4 C) and sea level rise by 15 CM. to 59 CM.

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4. Increase in droughts, tropical cyclone with frequent ward spells and heavy rainfall.
5. Greenhouse gases will continue to contribute to global warming.

Thus it is inevitable that the world is heading towards a catastrophe. Keeping in mind such disastrous consequences of climate change Herculean efforts are the need of time and in this respect some efforts have been made at the International level by the United Nations, the Great power and the developing world. The second part of this paper will concentrate on the approach of the World Power towards Climate Change.

We shall first discuss some important landmark conferences and their outcome and then draw the conclusions on how the super powers have so far dealt with the issue of climate change. Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit 1992 was the first major break through in this regard. The outcome popularly known as Kyoto Protocol, provided the framework. Needed to bring under control the ever-growing menace. Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is an arrangement under Kyoto Protocol allowing the industrialized countries with a green house reduction commitment (called Annex I countries) to invest in projects that reduce emissions in developing countries as an alternative to more expensive reduction in their own countries. Carbon Emissions Trading involving the trading of permits to emit carbon-di-oxide and other green house gases, calculated in tones of Carbon-di-oxide equivalent, t Co2e. it is one of the ways the countries can meet their obligations under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce carbon emissions and thereby mitigate global warming. In Copenhagen Climate Summit (2009) some kind of compromise was reached between the US-BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India and China). Negotiators assembled in Bonn to examine which elements of the Copenhagen Accord could be salvaged and turned into a binding global deal in Mexico. The world is expecting some frame work to be conceptualized at Cancun (Mexico) Dec. 2010. as the Kyoto Protocol ends.

United State in Nov. 2009, pledged support for the creation of a global climate fund to help developing countries. The U.S.A. in June 2009, passed the historic climate change bill for the first time and the lawmakers used it to limit heat trapping carbon emissions and shift the UU economy to cleaner energy. The EU in Oct. 2009 reached a "conditional" deal on funding efforts by developing countries to tackle global warming. China for the first time, announced a target to limit the growth of its greenhouse gas emissions in Nov. 2009, by pledging to reduce its "carbon intensity" (Co2 emissions per unit of GDP) to 40% - 45% of 2005 levels by 2020. India in Jan. 2010, declared to strive for reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 20% - 25% by 2020 in. comparison to 2005 levels What the world sees is the rhetoric of the super powers and emerging economies to deal with climate change but the reality is something else.

It came as a rude shock when US Senate declared not to be included in the Kyoto Protocol. It disrupted the process of climate change negotiations. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton demanded in the run up to Copenhagen that any agreement there should be commitment of all nations to a fir share of their responsibility to combat global warming. This statement highlights the approach of USA towards climate change. It does not want to take the responsibility itself, yet it maneuvers hard to burden the shoulders of the developing countries with severe restrictions on their growth. The critics called the deal of EU on funding developing countries a white wash as it did not specify its contribution. China on the other hand, has spent twice as much as USA on clean energy investments in 2009 and it is expected to be world's premier green energy power according to a report. But on cannot forget that China has recently signed a massive deal with the Australian coal giant for the supply of coal four its newly established coal based plants. Thus it is contradicting.

The underlying problem is that the super power, rich countries led by the USA which rejected the Kyoto Protocol, want rapidly developing nations such as China and India to Join in the efforts to cut pollution but the poor countries say they will agree to a deal only if it includes significant financial aid to help their economies be more green. Thus the issue of climate change is politicized and the super powers are trying their best to escape their responsibility and to exploit emerging economies and developing countries. It cannot be denied that the rich industrialized countries are following the age old forms of exploitation, although the area of interest has shifted from the supply of raw materials to that of veiled effort to stunt the economic growth of developing countries should be dependent on them and they are trying not to transfer green technology to the developing world on the one hand and not to allow traditional industries to grow their economies in the name of climate change. Thus what Carlos Fur Ado termed underdevelopment in the cold war era has acquired a new form A new underdevelopment is envisaged in the future if these super powers continue their efforts to politicize the climate change and run away from their responsibility with a apparent intension to exploit the developing countries. The solution lies carrying forward the Copenhagen Accord by converting it into a legally binding treaty which would replace the Kyoto Protocol in 2012.

The need of the hour is to identify the elements that can be made acceptable to all the nations whether they are the super powers or the developing nations or the poor nations. Presently the deal does not commit any nation to emission cuts beyond a general acknowledgement that global temperatures should be held along with the lines agreed upon by the leading nations in July 2009. There are no overall emissions targets for rich countries. The already agreed upon emission cuts fall far short of action needed to avoid

potentially dangerous efforts of climate change (US-17%, China 40%-45%, India 20%-25%, EU-20%, Japan 25%, cut from 2005 levels.). These levels that are agreed to in this accord must be strictly reached and super powers must strive to attain the required levels. Countries are to list actions taken to cut global warming pollution by specific amounts and must be strictly verified and the super powers must help in the verification process owing to their superior technology. Sanctions must be strictly enforced on the violators of verification process. Wealthy nations are required to raise \$ 30 billions over three years beginning in 2010 to help developing countries. This is the major responsibility of the super powers towards the other nations of the world to revert or lessen the destructive efforts of climate change. Thus if Copenhagen Accord is converted into a legally binding treaty and if in Cancun (Mexico) green fund is treated then the super powers will not only mould their conservative viewpoint towards climate change but also provide a constructive framework to deal with climate change thereby protecting the mother earth and the humanity and giving ample opportunities to poor countries to develop but with cleaner energy resources.

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