

THE ROLE OF GLOBALISATION IN CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

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**Abstract:** Globalization has had a significant impact on climate change policy through increased international cooperation, technology transfer, and increased awareness of environmental issues. However, it has also contributed to global environmental degradation through increased industrial activity, deforestation, and carbon emissions. This article examines the dual role of globalization in climate change policy, analyzing its positive and negative impacts. It examines the impact of global governance institutions, the role of transnational corporations, and the effectiveness of international agreements such as the Paris Agreement. Finally, the article discusses potential solutions for reconciling globalization with sustainable environmental policies.

**Keywords:** Globalization, Climate Change Policy, Environmental Governance, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, International Agreements, Paris Agreement, Kyoto Protocol, Sustainable Development, Economic Globalization, Renewable Energy, Climate Justice, Environmental Sustainability, International Cooperation, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Actions.

INTRODUCTION

Climate change is one of the most pressing global issues of the 21st century. Globalization, the process of increasing interdependence between countries through trade, investment, communication and cultural exchange, has had a profound impact on global environmental policy. While globalization has contributed to economic growth and technological progress, it has also exacerbated environmental problems, particularly climate change. The expansion of industrial activity, international trade and mass transportation has led to a significant increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, deforestation and resource depletion. At the same time, globalization has facilitated global cooperation and allowed countries to cooperate on climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts through international agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Climate change is a global problem that transcends national borders and requires a coordinated response from governments, business and civil society. Globalization has played a dual role in climate change policy: it has accelerated environmental degradation through industrialization and unsustainable economic activity, while at the same time it has fostered international environmental governance, technological exchange and transboundary cooperation. Multinational corporations (MNCs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international institutions such as the United Nations (UN) and the World Bank have become key actors in shaping climate policy, influencing both state and non-state approaches to climate management.

This article explores the complex relationship between globalization and climate change policy, examining how global economic systems, political structures, and technological innovations contribute to the problem and the solution. It discusses the role of international agreements in combating climate change, the challenges posed by economic globalization, and the potential for global governance to achieve sustainable development. By analyzing these factors, the study aims to provide insight into the effectiveness of globalization as a tool for combating climate change, highlighting the obstacles that need to be overcome to ensure long-term environmental sustainability.

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One of the most important ways in which globalization has affected climate change policy is through the establishment of global governance institutions. Organizations such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) provide platforms for global cooperation. The Paris Agreement, signed in 2015, is a key example of a multilateral effort to limit global emissions. Globalization has facilitated these agreements by strengthening diplomatic relations and creating an interconnected scientific community.

However, challenges remain. While international agreements set broad goals, implementation mechanisms are often weak. Countries prioritize economic growth, sometimes at the expense of environmental commitments. Furthermore, developing countries argue that industrialized countries, which have historically contributed the most to climate change, should shoulder a greater share of the responsibility for mitigation efforts.

Multinational corporations (MNCs) have become central players in climate change policy due to their enormous economic influence. Some MNCs, particularly those in the renewable energy sector, have supported technological innovation and promoted sustainable practices. For example, companies such as Tesla, Siemens, and Ørsted have accelerated the global transition to clean energy through advances in electric vehicles and wind power.

On the other hand, many corporations contribute significantly to climate change through emissions-intensive activities such as fossil fuel extraction, deforestation, and industrial production. Despite corporate sustainability promises, “greenwashing” remains a problem, in which companies exaggerate their environmental efforts to improve their public image without making any real changes.

One of the positive aspects of globalization is the transfer of climate-friendly technologies across borders. Developing countries benefit from the use of renewable energy technologies, energy-efficient infrastructure, and climate adaptation strategies. International cooperation between governments, research institutions, and private enterprises has facilitated innovation in green technology.

However, technology transfer is often hampered by economic and political barriers. Intellectual property rights, high costs, and geopolitical tensions can limit access to sustainable technologies in low-income countries, reducing their ability to transition to a greener economy.

Globalized trade has both positive and negative impacts on climate change policy. On the one hand, it enables the spread of sustainable products and services, such as electric vehicles and solar panels. International trade agreements can also include environmental provisions, which encourage countries to adopt greener policies.

On the contrary, globalization has led to an increase in carbon emissions due to the expansion of supply chains, increased demand for transportation, and deforestation for agricultural exports. The phenomenon of “carbon leakage” occurs when companies move high-emission industries to countries with weak environmental regulations, undermining global climate goals.

Despite international efforts, various challenges hinder the effectiveness of climate change policies in a globalized world:

- Economic disparities: Developing countries often lack the financial resources to effectively implement climate policies.
- National interests and global goals: Governments prioritize domestic economic growth, sometimes at odds with international climate commitments.

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- Enforcement issues: International treaties lack binding mechanisms to ensure compliance.
- Lobbying and political influence: The fossil fuel industry has significant influence on political decisions in many countries and is slowing the transition to clean energy.

Several strategies can be adopted to reconcile globalization with effective climate change policies:

1. Strengthening global governance: Increasing the authority of international climate institutions to implement agreements and hold states accountable.
2. Promote green trade policies: Encourage sustainable trade practices through carbon tariffs, green industry incentives, and environmental protection provisions in trade agreements.
3. Increase climate finance: Wealthy countries must fulfill their commitments to provide financial and technological assistance to developing countries.
4. Promote corporate responsibility: Strengthen regulations to prevent greenwashing and encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices.
5. Increasing public awareness and participation: Mobilizing citizens around the world through education, activism, and transparent policymaking.

The role of globalization in climate change policy is complex and multifaceted, acting as both a driver of environmental degradation and a catalyst for international cooperation. While economic globalization has contributed to increased carbon emissions, habitat destruction, and resource exploitation, it has also helped to shape the global climate system, fostered the transfer of green technologies, and facilitated international environmental advocacy. The emergence of agreements such as the Paris Agreement and the increasing influence of transnational corporations in sustainable business practices illustrate how globalization can be used to combat climate change.

However, despite these achievements, serious challenges remain. The uneven distribution of the impacts of climate change, the economic gap between developed and developing countries, and political resistance to strict environmental regulations continue to hinder global climate action. Furthermore, the reliance on voluntary commitments rather than legally binding enforcement mechanisms limits the effectiveness of international agreements. Going forward, a more integrated and equitable approach to climate governance is needed, one that balances economic growth with environmental sustainability and ensures that developed and developing countries contribute equitably to climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

To achieve this, policymakers need to strengthen international environmental governance, enforce strict rules on carbon emissions, promote sustainable trade policies, and invest in renewable energy solutions. The future of global climate policy depends on countries' ability to work together within the framework of globalization, prioritizing long-term environmental sustainability over short-term economic gains. By harnessing the positive aspects of globalization, the international community can effectively address climate change and create a more resilient and sustainable world.

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