



SHORT VIEWS ON THE GLOBAL EFFORTS ABOUT PROTECTION OF HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (1960S – 2012)

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ABSTRACT

The need for the protection of human environment can be legitimately described as the international objective of primary importance. The protection of environment through global and collective efforts constitutes one of the major areas of activity in contemporary times. The deterioration of environment due to unprincipled use of natural resources has given rise to the need for regulation of behavior of nations at international level, both for prevention of future deterioration as well as the adoption of eco-friendly technologies of daily use. This concept of protection, involves an attempt to prevent global environment degradation. One of the accepted rule of international law that, no state should act in a manner or permit the use of its territory which can be injurious to other states. Hence, it is well within the scope of international law to enact rules for the protection of environment by all the states individually as well as collectively. In fact, it was in 1960s that the humankind began becoming conscious of the need to adopt a convention of human environment. On 3rd December, 1968, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution favoring an international conference on the human environment.

KEYWORDS

Definition, Objectives, Reasons, Efforts about Protection of Human Environment

I. INTRODUCTION

The need for the protection of human environment can be legitimately described as the national and international objective of primary importance. The protection of environment has today gained recognition by the common concern of all the civilized states. Consequently, the protection of environment through global and collective efforts constitutes one of the major areas of activity in contemporary times.

The deterioration of environment due to unprincipled use of natural resources, industrialization, use of pesticides and because of the existence of problems like poverty, poor housing, bad public health, malnutrition and inadequate employment which characterize life in almost all the underdeveloped and developing countries, have together compelled the humankind to devise ways and means not only for checking the deteriorating environment but also for recouping of the environment through conscious efforts and planning.

All these events have given rise to the need for regulating of nation's behavior at national and international level, to prevent the future deterioration of environment as well as for the adoption of eco-friendly technologies. This has also given rise to the need to ban certain chemicals and technologies of daily use which have been the main culprits guilty of deteriorating the environment.

The environment protection concept involves an attempt to prevent global pollution or environmental degradation. The accepted rule of international law has been that no state should act in a manner or permit the use of its boundary in a way which can be injurious to other states. This rule is taken to mean in contemporary times as the rule which compels every nation not to act in a way as can cause environmental pollution or degradation. Hence, it is well within the scope of international law to enact rules for the protection of environment by all the states individually as well as collectively.

In fact, it was in the 1960s that the humankind began becoming conscious of the need to adopt a convention on human environment. On 3rd December, 1968, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution favoring an international conference on human environment.

Objectives

Readers will be able to:

- 1- Know Human Environment.
- 2- The readers will fully understand Definition, reasons, and importance of human environment.
- 3- The readers will be able to understand global efforts about environment.
- 4- The readers will know the struggle how to protect their environment.

Research Methodology

While the research is a library, then the completion of this study will be

benefited from the following terms and interests of human ability:

- A- First use of original Reference during the study.
- B- Comparison of individual and collective efforts in completing the Research.
- C- During the Research, references are used according to the (Green Book) system, which is Useable in legal writing.

1. Definition of Environment

Environment studies deals with every issue that affects a living organism. It is essentially a multidisciplinary approach that brings about an appreciation of our natural world and human impacts on its integrity. It is an applied science, as it seeks practical answers to the increasingly important question of how to make human civilization sustainable on the Earth's finite resources.

Its components include biology, geology, chemistry, physics, engineering, sociology, health, anthropology, economics, statistics, computers and philosophy.

2. Reasons for Environment

There are many reasons for environment but we can mention some of them:

- 1- Need for public awareness.
- 2- For the sustainable development of the future of mankind.
- 3- It is the duty and responsibility of us to protect nature and the degradation of environment.
- 4- The degradation of our environment is linked to continuing problems, so we have to research, how to protect our mother land.

3. As we mentioned above that in 1960s the humankind began becoming conscious of the need to adopt a convention on human environment and still now we have lots of conventions like bellow:

3.1. Stockholm Conference On Human Enviroment (1972)

Consequently, the UN Convention on Human Environment was held at Stockholm from June 5 to June 16, 1972, and it adopted a Declaration on Human Environment. Seven areas were delimited for securing action directed to protect Human Environment:

- 1.1. The Declaration on the Human Environment.
- 1.2. The Action Plan for the Human Environment.
- 1.3. The Resolution on Institutional and Financial Arrangements.
- 1.4. Resolution on Designation of World Environment Day
- 1.5. Resolution on nuclear Weapon Tests.
- 1.6. Resolution on holding of a second conference on Environment.
- 1.7. Decision refers to governments recommendations for action at the national level.

3.2. The Declaration of the Human Environment

The U.N. Conference on the Human Environment 1972, in its Section 1, contained the Declaration on the Human Environment. Starke, while comparing this declaration with the Universal Declaration of Human

rights, 1948, has rightly said, that it "was essentially a manifesto expressed in the form of an ethical code intended to govern and influence future action and program, both at the national and international levels. The declaration on human environment stands divided in two parts:

The first part contains general observations like man is both creator and a molder of his environment, the protection of and improvement of the human environment affects the economic development of the world and the natural growth of population continuously presents problems on the preservation of the environment.

The second part of the Declaration contains 26 principles. These principles reflect the fundamental international responsibility of states regarding environmental preservation and pollution control.

3.3. The Action Plan for the Human Environment

The Action Plan for the protection and enhancement of the environment "was in effect a grouping, in a more or less logical fashion, of all recommendations for international action adopted by the Conference. The Action Plan for the Human Environment was divided into, three parts:

- (a) An Earth Watch Program to identify problems of international significance so as to warn against impending environmental crises.
- (b) Recommendations concerning environmental management or in other words the application in practice of what was shown to be desirable or necessary in regard to the environment.
- (c) Supporting measures' such as education, training, public information and others.

3.4. The Resolution on Institutional and Fundamental Arrangements

This resolution recommended the establishment of a 54-member Governing Council for Environmental Programs. The members of this council were to be elected for a three year term on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. However, the U.N. General Assembly in December 1972 established a 58-member Governing Council (instead of 54 members) for the Environmental programs.

This Governing Council was directed to keep under review, the world environmental situation, in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems should receive appropriate and adequate consideration by the governments. In order to assist the Governing Council, its Executive Director prepares each year a report on the state of the environment. This resolution also recommended the establishment of a small secretariat in the United Nations to ensure a high degree of effective management within the United Nations. The resolution recommended the establishment of a voluntary fund for addition to the finances for the environmental programs. To provide for the minimum efficient co-ordination of UN environmental programs, the Resolution recommended the establishment of an Environmental Coordinating Board.

3.5. Resolution on Designation of World Environment Day

In order to create consciousness among the people for the environmental problems, the resolution on World Environment Day unanimously recommended that a World Environment Day be observed on 5th June each year.

3.6. Resolution on Nuclear Weapon Tests

A resolution in the plenary session condemned nuclear tests; especially those carried out in the atmosphere, and called upon states to refrain from conducting such tests as contaminated the environment.

3.7. Resolution on Holding of a Second Conference on Environment.

The Resolution recommended that U.N. General Assembly should take initiative to convene a second UN conference on the Human environment at an appropriate time.

3.8. Decision refer to governments recommendations for action at the National Level

The Stockholm Conference on Human Environment also referred to the state governments the recommendations for action at the national level.

Besides these measures, the conference recommended that the draft

articles of a convention on Ocean dumping be referred for adoption to a conference to be convened by the United Kingdom towards the end of 1972.

Some of the decisions and recommendations of the Stockholm Conference were implemented by the resolutions of the UN General Assembly in its 27th session in 1972. Through one of these resolution, Resolution 2997 (XXVII), a 58-members governing council for the UN Environmental Programs (UNEP), was established.

After the Stockholm Conference and the subsequent establishment of UNEP, a global environmental protection movement began taking shape. The Habitat-- the NU conference on Human Settlement, provided a great help in this direction.

4.1975 Ratification of Global Conventions concerning Environmental Protection

The year 1975 witnessed a big push forward for the environmental protection movement, when seven important global conventions were ratified by a number of states. They were:

- 4.1 The convention on international convention on international trade in endangered species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973).
- 4.2 The convention of wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl Habitat (1971).
- 4.3 The Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972).
- 4.4 The international Convention relating to the intervention on the High Seas in cases of Oil Pollution Casualties (1969).
- 4.5 The International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage. 1969.
- 4.6 The Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircrafts (1973).
- 4.7 The Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter (1972).

In 1982, the tenth anniversary of the Stockholm Conference was celebrated and the Nairobi Declaration was adopted. The commitment to observe and implement the decisions taken at the Stockholm Conference was reaffirmed.

5- The UN Convention on the Law of the Seas in 1982: also contained provisions for the protection of marine environment.

6- The Earth Summit held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992: did a good job in strengthening global awareness and efforts towards the preservation of global environment and the protection of our planet mother Earth.

7- Global Climate Change Meet, 1997: In January 1997, a three-day meet on global Climate Change was organized by the Development Alternatives, an NGO, under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change for the developing countries at New Delhi. It explored the possibilities of business collaboration between the developed and the developing countries for solving the problems of poverty, environment and resource management. The ways and means needed for checking the emission of Green House Gases (GHG) were discussed. It was agreed that a reduction in fuel consumption was the immediate need.

8- Earlier, the first issue of the biennial Global Environment Outlook (GEO) was released in Nairobi, in January 1997: It identified seven major environmental trends in seven regions of the world and called upon the people to give immediate and crucial attention to effective global environmental governance.

9- March 1997 Meet of AEC of ELCI: The Alternative Environment Congress (AEC) of Nairobi-based Environment Liaison Center International (ELC) was held at Tilonia/Tilapia (Rajasthan) in March 1997. It was attended by 100 environmentalists from 38 countries, who gave a call for the delineation of a sustainable and practical approach towards environment protection involving people at the grassroots level.

10- The Kyoto Meet on Climate Change: The Third Conference of the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was held in Kyoto, Japan, from December 1 to December 11, 1997. One hundred and fifty countries participated in this meet and attempted to draft a treaty that would initiate definitive, tangible and time bound steps to limit the emission of six green houses' gases like CFC that

cause global warming.

However, at the 11 day Kyoto meet also, serious differences nay dissensions appeared between the developed countries on the one hand and the developing countries on the other. The European Union agreed for a 15 per cent reduction and Japan called for a 2.5 to 5 per cent reduction in the emission level of GHGs (Carbon Dioxide, Nitrous Oxide, Methane, HFCS, PFC and sulfur Hexafluoride). After initial hiccups, the USA offered to make a 5 percent reduction in the emission level provided the developing countries also accepted such a norm. The developing countries wanted that the polluters, i.e. the developed countries should foot the costs. After much debate and bargaining, the Kyoto protocol was adopted.

10.1. KYOTO PROTOCOL (1997): MAIN FEATURES

After much bargaining and many compromises, the final Kyoto Protocol was adopted on December 11, 1997. The main features of the Protocol were as under.

- 10.1.1 Annex 1' countries to reduce emission levels by an average of 5.2 per cent relative to levels prevailing in 1990. (The Annex 1 countries include the 24 original members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development members of the EU and the 11 Eastern European countries.) Broadly, the US was to cut emission levels by 7 per cent by the year 2012, the 15-member EU by 8 per cent, Canada by 6 per cent and Japan by 6 per cent.
- 10.1.2. Russia was to stabilize emissions at its 1990 levels: Australia was to be allowed to increase its emission levels by 8 per cent over the same period. But were to measure their emissions.
- 10.1.3. Cuts were to apply to all the six green house gases.
- 10.1.4. The commitment period was to be 2008 to 2012.
- 10.1.5. Inclusion among the cuts of sources and removals of defined 'sinks' or carbon absorbent material was limited to a forestation, reforestation and deforestation since 1990 (US proposal).
- 10.1.6. Acceptance of emissions trading, joint projects implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) toward fulfilling emission cuts were undertaken. These three aspects called for 'voluntary' participation from non-Annex 1 or the developing countries. The CDM, along with emission trading and joint implementation, was defined in the protocol for funding of project activities in the developing countries for mitigating climate changes, that would allow the developed countries to gain credit for investing in the developing countries, it was however, not clear whether the CDM would be operated by the World Bank or the Global Environment Facility.
- 10.1.7. There was a complete absence of any mechanism to ensure compliance with commitments or punitive measures. These were to be considered at the next meeting (COP4) in Buenos Aires in 1998. The Protocol became open for signature by parties between March 1998 and March 1999. It was to be ratified by at least 60 countries and was to be binding on all Annex 1 countries.

11. Buenos Aires Convention on Climate 1998: The fourth session of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP4) was held from November 2-14, 1998, at Buenos Argentina. The conference was convened primarily to discuss the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol of 1997.

COP4 considered communications from various parties detailing national positions on various parameters related to the emission of GHGs, and discussed all issues relating to the transfer of technologies, particularly those related to the energy sector. However, the politics and economics of global warming, which played a crucial role at Kyoto, continued to dominate the proceedings at Buenos Aires. Issues raised by the US at Kyoto also burdened the agenda at Buenos Aires.

At the Buenos Aires Conference, the US adopted a hard-line market-friendly approach, rebuffing the demands of the developing countries led by the G-77 and China that the technology transfers be made easier so that objectives of the condition may be achieved. China, and later India, demanded that a distinction be maintained between the 'luxury emissions' of the developed nations and the 'survival emissions' of the developing nations.

The question of voluntary commitments for the developing countries was raised again at Buenos Aires. Although Argentina introduced this

in the agenda, the developing countries led by the G-77 and China strongly opposed this. The announcement by Argentina and Kazakhstan to assume commitments unilaterally, threatened to split the cause of the developing countries. As such, the Kyoto Protocol remained virtually ungratified till 2004.

12. The Copenhagen Conference And Copenhagen Accord, December 2009:

The Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change ended on December 19, 2009. It achieved an interim agreement-the Copenhagen Accord. It was Successful in making the participating countries accept a frame work for reducing global warming pollution.

The Copenhagen Accord was prepared by 28 countries and accepted by 188 countries. Only five countries Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Sudan refused to accept it.

Under this Accord, all the nations were to prepare action plans for reductions in carbon emission. The Accord stated the goal of limiting the global temperature increasing from Carbon pollution to less than 2 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels. The countries who attended the Copenhagen Summit committed themselves to strengthening the accord and to take the next step and turn it into a binding agreement by the 2010 UN Climate Summit scheduled to be held in Mexico City. The nations agreed to take all necessary steps for limiting greenhouse gas pollution.

The Copenhagen accord was a step ahead of the Kyoto Protocol insofar as it involved an agreement of developing countries like, Brazil, China, India and South Africa to undertake emission reductions. (The Kyoto Protocol had covered only the developed countries.)

The Copenhagen Conference was also successful in putting into place a compromise agreement for measuring reporting and verifying pollution reductions claimed by all the countries. It also successfully built a consensus behind serious emission reduction targets for developing countries. Further, at Copenhagen some major financial commitments were made by the Developed Countries towards such developing countries who were to work for forest conservation, Carbon reductions and use of eco-friendly technologies.

The Copenhagen Accord created a 'fast start' fund for providing \$30 billion 2010-2012 for assistance to developing countries. It was also agreed to mobilize \$100 billion a year to address the needs of developing countries by the year 2020. The developed countries agreed to contribute to the 'fast start' (2010- 2020) - Japan pledged \$15 billion by 2012 and the European Union 10.5 billion in the next three years. The USA committed \$1 billion for checking deforestation and other countries agreed to contribute \$3.5 billion for this purpose. Thus, the Copenhagen Conference was successful in strengthening the drive aimed at meeting the challenge of climate change.

II. RESULT

Protection of Environment continues to be a priority item on the agenda of the 21st century. The most healthy and positive development in the drive towards primary objective, the concept of sustainable development (Social sustainability, economic sustainability and environment sustainability) which has found a universal support, also reflects the human commitment to check environmental pollution and to develop and adopt environment-healthy technologies. Several active NGOs have been doing a commendable job for making the environment of planet Earth green, clean and enduringly healthy. There has come into existence a strong and active international movement for the protection of environment.

The current global agenda for environmental protection:

- (1) Limiting of Carbon emissions.
- (2) Development of Eco-friendly technologies.
- (3) Comprehensive, meaningful and effective efforts for meeting the problems resulting from climate change.
- (4) Prevention of any further environmental pollution.
- (5) Ensuring compliance with carbon emission norms.
- (6) Maintaining and increasing areas under forest, particularly in respect of rain forests and wild life habitats.
- (7) To enact and implement all Laws made for preventing the air, water, soil and sound pollutions.
- (8) Spreading of environmental education and public awareness.
- (9) The current objective is Go Green and Keep the Environment

Healthy.

- (10) To pursue sustainable development as an objective.
- (11) To encourage the states to develop and adopt eco-friendly technologies and programs.
- (12) To promote international cooperation, research and efforts for meeting the challenge posed by climate change.

This 12-point agenda must guide our efforts towards the protection of our environment, in fact, our Planet Earth.

III. DISCUSSION

In this research the national and international efforts have been presented for the human environment protection. However human beings have been interested in ecology since the beginning of civilization. Even our ancient scriptures have included practices and values related to environmental conservation. It is now even more critical than ever before for mankind as a whole to have a clear understanding of environmental concerns and to follow sustainable development practices.

World is in biodiversity, which provides various resources for people; it is also the basis for biotechnological development. Thus for only about millions living organisms have been described and named globally; still many more remain to be identified and described. Attempts are being made to conserve them, both in ex situ and in situ conditions. The destruction of habitats, overuse of energy resources and environmental pollution has been responsible for the loss of a large number of life-forms. It is feared that a large proportion of life on earth may get wiped out in the near future.

Despite the deteriorating status of the environment, the formal study of environment has so far not received adequate attention in our academic domain. There are several internationally-known environmental thinkers, among those who have made landmark contributions, the names that are usually mentioned are Charles Darwin, Ralph Emerson, Henry Thoreau, John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson and EO Wilson. Each of these thinkers looked at the environment from a completely different perspective, but still we need to search in the environmental issues.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS/OFFERS

- 1- Public awareness in schools, universities, and public areas is essential for prevention of human environment.
2. Educational research over human environment in each society.
3. Holding academic seminars and workshops for recognitions of the orders and rules of global warming system in order to stimulate and wake the emotions of youths in society.
- 4- The ministry of information and culture is obliged to broadcast the importance of environment.
- 5- Take part in events organized on world Environment Day, Wildlife Week, etc.
- 6- Visit a National Park or Sanctuary, or spend time in whatever natural habitat you have near your home.

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