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Resilient nations.*

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Agenda: Climate Change Adaptation.

Introduction to the committee

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is an organization formed in 1965 to help countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable human development, an approach to economic growth that emphasizes improving the quality of life of all citizens while conserving the environment and natural resources for future generations. The United Nations Development Programme is a United Nations agency tasked with helping countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development.

UNDP plays a pivotal role in international development as a knowledge broker, capacity builder, innovator, and facilitator of exchanges in the global development debate. The UNDP administers aid through five-year Country Programmes, which fund projects aimed at attracting investment capital, training skilled employees, and implementing modern technologies. The UNDP also makes experts available to help developing countries increase their capacity for good governance—by building political and legal institutions that are equitable, responsive, and open to public participation—and to expand the private sector of their economies in order to provide more jobs.

Recent UNDP programs have focused on reducing poverty, developing strategies to treat and combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, promoting environmentally sound energy and economic policies, and expanding communications and technology infrastructure. UNDP resident representatives in more than 125 developing countries help to coordinate the local activities of other UN agencies and programs, as well as those of nongovernmental organizations.

Introduction to the agenda

Humans have been adapting to their environments throughout history by developing practices, cultures and livelihoods suited to local conditions. However, climate change raises the possibility that existing societies will experience climatic shifts (in temperature, storm frequency, flooding and other factors) that previous experience has not prepared them for. As average global temperatures rise, the impacts of climate change and their associated losses and damage are likely to increase more rapidly and more unpredictably.

Climate change adaptation refers to actions that reduce the negative impact of climate change, while taking advantage of potential new opportunities. Adaptation refers to adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts. It refers to changes in processes, practices, and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change. In simple terms, countries and communities need to develop adaptation solution and implement action to respond to the impacts of climate change that are already happening, as well as prepare for future impacts.

Adaptation (responding to climate impacts) and mitigation (reducing GHG emissions) are necessary complements in addressing climate change. The fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that while neither adaptation nor mitigation actions alone can prevent significant climate change impacts, taken together they can significantly reduce risks. Mitigation is necessary to reduce the rate and magnitude of climate change, while adaptation is essential to reduce the damages from climate change that cannot be avoided.

In other cases, there may be conflicts between adaptation and mitigation goals that can only be addressed in a broader context of community priorities and risk tolerance. For example, increased use of air conditioning can be considered an adaptive measure because it reduces human health problems during heat waves, which are projected to become more frequent in future. However, air conditioning is energy intensive and, depending on the source of the electricity, is likely to increase carbon dioxide emissions. Therefore, in deciding which adaptation action is most appropriate for a particular situation, attention must be paid to its implications for adaptation and mitigation, as well as its cost, efficacy and acceptance by the public.

Given the scale of climate change, and the fact that it will affect many areas of life, adaptation also needs to take place on a greater scale. Our economies and societies as a whole need to become more resilient to climate impacts. This will require large-scale efforts, many of which will be orchestrated by governments.

FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS IMPORTANCE

Foreign policy is a substantial need in today's age. The importance of foreign policy is accepted worldwide because it helps countries to maintain diplomatic relations with each other. The foreign policy helps a state to interact with other states by having set objectives and activities. The foreign policy helps a nation maintain good relations with other states through bilateral as well as multilateral platforms. However, there are a number of factors that can affect the foreign policy of a state. These include the domestic deliberations, policies of other states and strategies to advance geopolitical designs, etc.

Leopold von Ranke, a leading German historian of the nineteenth century, stated that the geography of a state and the external threats imposed on it plays a substantial role in formulating foreign policy. However, later on, experts emphasized that it actually depends upon domestic factors. The tool of foreign policy is considered to be diplomacy. Furthermore, war, international trade, and alliances are all manifestations of it. Its relevance with concepts as hard as war further highlights the importance of foreign policy. Before delving into the intricacies of any agenda/agendum, it is essential for the delegates to have a very clear understanding of their countries' stances on that particular issue and the international relation that they maintain with the other countries in consideration.

The main purpose of foreign policy is to protect the national interest of a state which further highlights the importance of foreign policy. It helps in clearly reflecting the national policies as well as traditional values of a country. Therefore, the importance of foreign policy is that it helps national governments to devise strategies, guidelines, methods, and agreements and assist them in dealing in the international arena. Sovereign states interact with other nations while keeping in view their foreign policy. Therefore, it would not be wrong to say that foreign policy acts as a charter.

The charter of foreign policy consists of the national interests of a nation. It also clearly shows on which points a state can agree with the other state and in which domains it is not possible. However, the sole reason behind the possibility of agreement and disagreement is the national interest of a state. A nation, depending on its needs, can also introduce changes in its foreign policy. Nevertheless, the changes in foreign policy are never because of one's choice but because of need and necessity.

Each and every nation has a pre-defined set of objectives that it aims to achieve with the help of its foreign policy. These objectives are related to the national interest of the state. Some key principles for the development of foreign policy are described below:

- Maintaining geographical integrity and political independence with other states.
- Accelerating the process of social and economical development within the state.
- Increasing the individual strength of a state.
- The foreign policy goals of a state must complement international standards.

It is certainly not possible to deny the importance of foreign policy. In fact, it is such an important concept that it requires continuous analysis. The discipline of foreign policy is really complex. There are a number of actors that impact the decision-making process. These actors can be both, internal and external. It is always advisable to have a method of

analysis with the help of which it could be analyzed how the state is conducting its foreign policy, diplomatic endeavors, and international relations.

Experts, over a period of time, proposed five main models which are briefly discussed below:

- ***The Rational Actor Model:*** As per this model, the major actor in foreign policy is a rational individual. This individual could be relied upon as being well informed, able to take calculated decisions, and could enhance the perceived benefits for the country.
- ***Bureaucratic Politics Model:*** It focuses on decision-making done by various independent and competing individuals from within the state. Every individual entity brings value to the decision-making process.
- ***Organizational Process Model:*** This model for foreign policy analysis focuses on government institutions. As per this model, the decisions regarding foreign policy are examined in the bureaucracy.
- ***Inter-Branch Politics Model:*** This model is very similar to the bureaucratic process model and organizational process model discussed above. However, it does not focus on individual goals and results. Rather, it analyzes the actions and outcomes on the basis of combined efforts.
- ***Political Process Model:*** This model was developed by Roger Hilsman. He states that the decision-making process in foreign policy constitutes of various different actors. They mainly include senior and key political figures however; it has representation from all levels of the government. According to Hilsman, the ideology of each member, providing their input in the process, is important. On the other hand, critics state that it is very similar to bureaucratic politics in order to make a significant contribution to the field of foreign policy analysis.

CONCLUSION

The foreign policy of a country can be referred to as all the policies that are required in order to maintain relations with other countries as well as pursue national interests. The importance of foreign policy depends upon the fact that a state focuses on developing self-interest strategies. In recent years, due to globalization, a state has to deal with not only state actors but non-state actors as well. This interaction is monitored in order to enhance the benefits of multilateral international cooperation. Governments develop foreign policies while making use of high-level decision-making processes.

CLIMATE CHANGE: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Climate change can affect our health, ability to grow food, housing, safety, and work. Some of us are already more vulnerable to climate impacts, such as people living in small island nations and other developing countries. Conditions like sea-level rise and saltwater intrusion have advanced to the point where whole communities have had to relocate, and protracted droughts are putting people at risk of famine. In the future, the number of “climate refugees” is expected to rise. In a series of UN reports, thousands of scientists and government reviewers agreed that limiting global temperature rise to no more than 1.5°C would help us avoid the worst climate impacts and maintain a livable climate. Yet based on current national climate plans, global warming is projected to reach around 3.2°C by the end of the century.

The emissions that cause climate change come from every part of the world and affect everyone, but some countries produce much more than others. The 100 least-emitting countries generate 3 percent of total emissions. The 10 countries with the largest emissions contribute 68 percent. Everyone must take climate action, but people and countries creating more of the problem have a greater responsibility to act first.

Many climate change solutions can deliver economic benefits while improving our lives and protecting the environment. We also have global frameworks and agreements to guide progress, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. Three broad categories of action are: cutting emissions, adapting to climate impacts and financing required adjustments.

Switching energy systems from fossil fuels to renewables like solar or wind will reduce the emissions driving climate change. But we have to start right now. While a growing coalition of countries is committing to net zero emissions by 2050, about half of emissions cuts must be in place by 2030 to keep warming below 1.5°C. Fossil fuel production must decline by roughly 6 per cent per year between 2020 and 2030.

REFERENCES AND READINGS

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