



Climate-Induced Impoverishment: Reviewing the SDG Goals through the Lens of Global Justice

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Abstract. The Climate change currently is perhaps the extreme challenge to which the world is exposed. The impact of climate change is multi-layered and multi-dimensional adding to the poverty and vulnerability of the underdeveloped countries. As per the Global Climate Risk Index of 2021, the economically underprivileged countries of the world are most exposed to the damage produced by climate change. According to a World Bank report it is estimated that due to the ecological crisis over a hundred million people would be pushed towards extreme impoverishment by 2030. Thus, the issues of poverty and climate change are interlinked and cannot be dealt with separately. Climate change has added to the already existing global inequalities. The global south which is already in a position of disadvantage is further subjected to economic vulnerabilities due to the damaging effects of climate change. The mitigation model - based on carbon reduction and stabilization of greenhouse gases – seems inadequate to combat the detrimental consequences of climate change. In this time of grave environmental crisis, therefore, the focus of the international community should not only be confined to mitigating the dangers of climate change but must also focus on the reduction of the risks from the detrimental effects of climate to ensure that our societal and economical infrastructure is more resilient. Enhanced irrigation projects, improvised crop varieties, enhanced health facilities, and improved access to economic and telecommunications services etc., are some of the mechanisms through which it could be done. However, in their effort to develop an efficient resilience mechanism the underdeveloped countries face huge challenges in terms of access to technology and costs. Hence, it is the responsibility of the international community to not only assist underdeveloped countries to adapt by providing financial support and developing infrastructure but also ensure that climate justice does not threaten development and stability in those countries. In addition to that, there is also an added emphasis on facilitating the inclusion of underdeveloped countries in the policymaking process. The paper attempts to the role of climate change in aggravating global poverty. The task is undertaken in the background of international law and environmental law and their effectiveness in dealing with the nuanced but highly imminent challenges of climate-induced impoverishment. Finally, the paper attempts to critically evaluate the role of the international and regional institutions in effectively addressing the challenge of climate-induced impoverishment.

Keywords: Climate Change, Global Poverty, Impoverishment, Global Justice, Sustainable Development.

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1 Introduction

The intensity at which the global climate is changing in the present times is more rapid than previous changes that the earth ever went through¹. Undoubtedly such rapid change is exaggerated by human activities including the use of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas, emission of greenhouse gases etc.² Rise of the globally averaged temperature, rise of the sea level, long-term and sustained melting of the glaciers and polar ice-caps, recurring wildfires, frequent and perpetual drought in some regions, changes in regional weather patterns, catastrophic cyclones, floods etc are some of the evident indicators of global warming and climate change.

The impact of climate change is not only limited to changes in climatic conditions but is also leading to rapid changes in the ecosystem and biological diversity. Climate change has led to the extinction of multiple species and microorganisms³. For example, the Sundarban area in the past few decades has witnessed major tropical cyclones.⁴ The rise in temperature and the sea level intensify the wind speed, which results in catastrophic cyclones. These cyclones disturb the natural habitats of many species including the Royal Bengal Tiger, migratory birds and water birds.⁵ On the other hand, climate change has led to the rapid increase of pathogens and non-native invasive species which results in the spreading of infectious and novel diseases, reduction of agricultural production, destruction of crops etc. For example, rapid change in cyclonic patterns over the Arabian Sea is said to have led to an increase in infestation of 'desert locusts' in India, Pakistan, Iran and allied territories.⁶

While climate change is a “global problem” and none of the countries are immune to the risks posed by it, the lack of economic resources, infrastructural developments

¹ Finlayson CM, “Climate Change: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC),” *The Wetland Book* (Springer Netherlands 2016)

² *ibid*

³ Cavicchioli R and others, "Scientists' Warning to Humanity: Microorganisms and Climate Change" (2019) 17 *Nature Reviews. Microbiology* 569

⁴ Ghosh S and Mistri B, “Cyclone-Induced Coastal Vulnerability, Livelihood Challenges and Mitigation Measures of Matla–Bidya Inter-Estuarine Area, Indian Sundarban” (2023) 116 *Natural hazards* (Dordrecht, Netherlands) 3857

⁵ UNESCO World Heritage Centre, “The Sundarbans” (UNESCO World Heritage Centre) <<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/798/>> accessed January 4, 2024

⁶ Warning E and Emerging Issues, “Desert Locusts’ Upsurges: A Harbinger of Emerging Climate Change Induced Crises?” (Unep.org) <<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/35058/FB022.pdf?sequence=3>> accessed January 4, 2024

and adequate policies to strengthen the adaptation and resilience mechanisms puts the developing and the least developed countries at a greater risk.⁷

The globalised world that we live in today is committed to strengthening human rights and achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) including no poverty, zero hunger, good health, clean water and sanitation, reduced equality etc. But the question remains, whether international institutions have been able to rightly represent and consider the vulnerability of the global south concerning climate change. Indeed, it needs to be seen whether and to what extent the global community is willing to share the responsibility of not only mitigating but also adapting and strengthening the resilience mechanism for climate change. The present paper is an attempt to deal with the aforesaid questions. The first part of the paper attempts to study poverty as a challenge to global justice and the nexus between climate change and poverty. The second part evaluates the role of the existing framework of international law and environmental law and their effectiveness in dealing with imminent challenges of climate-induced impoverishment. Finally, the paper attempts to critically evaluate role of the international and regional institutions in effectively addressing the challenge of climate-induced impoverishment where poverty alleviation and climate change can go hand in hand.

2 Disproportionate impact of climate change

The impacts of climate change disproportionately affect marginalized groups, intensify the inequalities and adversely affect the sustainable development across all regions.⁸ According to a World Bank report it is estimated that due to the ecological crisis over a hundred million people would be pushed towards extreme impoverishment by 2030.⁹

The immediate and the most severe consequences of climate change are faced by the marginalised groups. In most cases, these groups consist of economically weaker people who are dependent on natural resources for their livelihood. The devastation

⁷ Abbass K and others, “A Review of the Global Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation, and Sustainable Mitigation Measures” (2022) 29 *Environmental science and pollution research international* 42539

⁸ “Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), *Climate Change 2022 – Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability: Working Group II Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*” (Cambridge University Press 2023)

⁹ Hallegatte S and others, “COVID, Climate Change and Poverty: Avoiding the Worst Impacts” (World Bank Blogs, October 7, 2020) <<https://blogs.worldbank.org/climatechange/covid-climate-change-and-poverty-avoiding-worst-impacts>> accessed February 4, 2024

resulting from climatic modification and catastrophes exposes them to a greater risk of socioeconomic vulnerabilities and poverty.¹⁰ The vulnerability of these groups is not only limited to loss of life and property but also includes appalling living conditions like the lack of basic amenities of life such as access to safe drinking water, sanitation, food, health, housing, clothing etc. In many cases, these groups are compelled to migrate to other places as survival becomes extremely difficult in their native lands.¹¹ According to UNHCR, in the last decade, millions of people were forcefully displaced from the places of their habitual residence due to climate-related events like floods, storms, wildfires and extreme temperatures¹². The reports also indicate that climate change and ecological disasters may lead to the dislocation of more than a billion people by 2050.¹³

Mozambique, for example, is one among the countries which is prone to climate risk and it is also one of the countries that is least prepared for climate disaster because of the economic and infrastructural weakness¹⁴. Mozambique which is located on the eastern coast of southern Africa and has the third longest coastline on the Indian Ocean in Africa. The country's economy which is massively dependent on agriculture, fishery and forestry and is characterized by poverty and lack of development. The country is also prone to climate disasters including tropical cyclones, floods and droughts. In the last two decades, Mozambique has witnessed multiple tropical cyclones and draughts resulting in significant crop failure leading to the decline in overall food security in the country¹⁵. Not surprisingly this has pushed the country towards added poverty. Moreover, Mozambique is also susceptible to several climate-sensitive diseases like malaria, cholera, measles, etc. which have hugely affected its rural population, especially women, and children¹⁶. One major problem with countries like Mozambique is the lack of resilience and adaptation policies to deal with the risks of climate change¹⁷. This has, in turn, significantly

¹⁰ Jayawardhan S, "Vulnerability and Climate Change Induced Human Displacement" [2017] Consilience 103

¹¹ Pegu K and Dutta M, "'Disappearing Earth': The Impact of Environment-Induced Migration on India and the World" (2019) 49 Environmental Policy and Law 63

¹² "Climate Change and Disaster Displacement" (UNHCR India) <<https://www.unhcr.org/in/what-we-do/how-we-work/environment-disasters-and-climate-change/climate-change-and-disaster>> accessed January 4, 2024

¹³ *ibid*

¹⁴ Mavume AF and others, "Analysis of Climate Change Projections for Mozambique under the Representative Concentration Pathways" (2021) 12 Atmosphere 588 <<https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4433/12/5/588>> accessed January 4, 2024

¹⁵ *ibid*

¹⁶ *ibid*

¹⁷ Risks M, "Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change In" (Imf.org) <<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/downloadpdf/journals/002/2018/066/article-A005->

infrastructural development, are pushed further towards impoverishment by climate calamities.

4 Efforts undertaken by the international community to combat climate change

Climate is a common concern of the whole world. In the last few decades extensive scientific research has provided undisputable evidence of climate change in terms of changes in average temperature, change in rainfall etc. Indeed, given the growing concern surrounding the impact of climate change, the global community have often come together to adopt international conventions and other instruments to facilitate cooperation between the states in their efforts to fight climate change. The first international convention adopted to address the dangerous consequences of climate change was the “United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change” (UNFCCC)²³. It was signed by 165 states at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992²⁴. The primary objective of UNFCCC was to stabilise the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to prevent their dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate. The core principle of the UNFCCC was “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities” (CBDRRC)²⁵. The UNFCCC acknowledged that the responsibility of mitigating the impacts of climate change is a universal responsibility, depending on two factors. The first is the share of past and present emissions of GHG by the respective countries, which in practice meant imposing larger responsibility on the developed countries. The second factor insisted that the allocation of responsibility be determined by the economic capabilities of the respective countries. The mandate of the UNFCCC was further expanded with the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997²⁶. It focused on the role of individual states in reducing the emission of greenhouse gases. It imposed heavy obligations on developed countries as they were hugely responsible for the high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere. The protocol grouped the countries into two categories Annex I and non-Annex I²⁷.

The “first commitment period of the Protocol” began in 2008 and continued till 2012 when almost all the countries complied with their respective targets of reduction

²³ UN General Assembly, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: resolution / adopted by the General Assembly, 20 January 1994, A/RES/48/189, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f2770.html> [accessed January 2024]

²⁴ *ibid*

²⁵ *ibid*

²⁶ Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC, Dec. 10, 1997, 2303 U.N.T.S. 162.

²⁷ *ibid*

of emissions, however, few countries resorted to the flexibility mechanisms²⁸. Despite the commitment under the Protocol, global emissions increased by 32% from 1990 to 2010.²⁹

The second commitment of the protocol was adopted in 2012 through the Doha Amendment starting from 2013 to 2020.³⁰ The Doha amendment provided for a revised list of commitments which included a GHG reduction by at least 18 percent as compared to 5 percent as provided under the first commitment³¹. The composition of the state parties also differed in the second round. Few countries which participated in the first round did not take on new targets in the second commitment period. There was also withdrawal from Canada, and the United States did not ratify the Protocol.³²

Another significant landmark in the global effort to mitigate climate change was the Paris Agreement³³. The Agreement was adopted at the UNFCCC Conference in 2015 within the framework of UNFCCC and was independent of the Kyoto Protocol. It came into force in 2016. As of now 195 state parties of the UNFCCC are members of the Agreement. One of the major focuses of the Paris Agreement is to encourage the countries to actively commit towards the reduction of the rise of the temperature of the earth³⁴. The Agreement has the ambitious goals to limit the rise in global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius and restrict the rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius³⁵. Under the goal, the Agreement requires the contracting parties to fulfil their commitment towards combating climate change through various financial, technological, and capacity-building measures.

A major facet of the Agreement is the mechanism of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) set out in Article 4 of the Agreement³⁶. The NDC mandates all state parties to report regularly on their emissions and implementation initiatives. At the same time, it seeks to assess the collective progress towards meeting the goals of

²⁸ “Kyoto 1st Commitment Period (2008–12)” (Climate Action) <https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/international-action-climate-change/kyoto-1st-commitment-period-2008-12_en> accessed February 4, 2024

²⁹ Napoli C, “Understanding Kyoto’s Failure” (2012) 32 SAIS Review of International Affairs 183

³⁰ Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol 2012 (adopted on 8 December 2012) UNFCCC Doc. FC/KP/CMP/2012/13/Add.1, Decision 1/CMP.8 <<https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/MTDSG/Volume%20II/Chapter%20XXVII/XXVII-7-c.en.pdf>>

³¹ *ibid*

³² Harrison K, “The Road Not Taken: Climate Change Policy in Canada and the United States” (2007) 7 *Global environmental politics* 92

³³ Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Dec. 12, 2015, T.I.A.S. No. 16-1104.

³⁴ *ibid*

³⁵ *ibid*

³⁶ Art 4, Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC, Dec. 12, 2015, T.I.A.S. No. 16-1104

the agreement while also seeking information from the state parties about the future course of action. This system follows a “bottom-up model” where there is no imposition of standards on the state parties³⁷. The states are rather free to set their NDCs. The NDCs are determined keeping in mind the national circumstances, but they reflect the ‘highest possible ambition.’³⁸ The agreement mandates the state parties to ensure implementation within the domestic framework maintain transparency and regularly report regarding the status of their emissions and on their implementation efforts. At the same time, the NDCs must be updated every five-year reflecting a continuous progression from the current NDC. In addition to reducing the emission of GHG, the agreement also aims towards resilience and capacity building to mitigate the effects of climate change³⁹. The agreement also recognizes the necessity to provide support to the developing and least developed countries for adopting sustainable and climate-friendly initiatives in the form of technology transfer financial assistance and capacity building⁴⁰. In a nutshell, the agreement seeks to foster international cooperation to address climate change and for effective outcomes obligates all the nations to contribute to the cause, regardless of their economic capacity and level of development.

The Agreement also identifies the commitment of the developed countries to provide financial support to the less developed and vulnerable countries in facilitating their mitigating efforts to climate change⁴¹. This includes, among other things, enabling the less developed countries to adapt to the climate policies and work towards further reduction of carbon emissions. In furtherance to that the developed countries committed to the goal of mobilizing USD 100 billion per year conjointly by 2020 to provide support to developing countries. According to OECD figures, climate finance provided and mobilized touched \$83.3bn in 2020 and \$89.6bn in 2021⁴².

³⁷ Analytics C, “Understanding the Paris Agreement’s Long Term Temperature Goal” (Climate Analytics, May 13, 2022) <<https://climateanalytics.org/comment/understanding-the-paris-agreements-long-term-temperature-goal>> accessed January 4, 2024

³⁸ Art 3, Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC, Dec. 12, 2015, T.I.A.S. No. 16-1104. Arora N and Mishra I, “COP26: More Challenges than Achievements” (2021) 4 *Environmental Sustainability* 585 <<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/all-about-ndcs>> accessed January 4, 2024

³⁹ Arora N and Mishra I, “COP26: More Challenges than Achievements” (2021) 4 *Environmental Sustainability* 585

⁴⁰ Art 7, Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC, Dec. 12, 2015, T.I.A.S. No. 16-1104.

⁴¹ Art 9, Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Dec. 12, 2015, T.I.A.S. No. 16-1104

⁴² “Climate Finance Provided and Mobilised by Developed Countries in 2013-2021: Aggregate Trends and Opportunities for Scaling up Adaptation and Mobilised Private Finance” <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/climate-finance-provided-and-mobilised-by-developed-countries-in-2013-2021_e20d2bc7-en> accessed January 4, 2024

However, a report by Oxfam estimates that in 2020 the actual value of financial support for climate action was much less than officially reported figures suggest.⁴³

5 Balancing global climate policies with the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for the SDGs identifies climate change as “one of the greatest challenges of our time”⁴⁴. It also reflects the commitment of the member states towards protecting the planet from further degradation and taking “urgent action on climate change”⁴⁵. SDG13 emphasizes integrating climate change measures with the national policies of the member states to ensure the incorporation of climate education, raising of climate awareness, strengthening institutional capacity building for climate change mitigation, adaptation impact reduction and early warnings⁴⁶. It also reiterates the execution of the commitment undertaken at the UNFCCC for capacity building in the least developed and developing States⁴⁷.

The International instruments committed to the cause of climate change and the SDGs set out an ambitious goal for mitigating climate change. Also, these goals must go hand in hand with the other SDGs. One of the most important SDGs is eradicating extreme poverty (SDG 1).⁴⁸ As discussed earlier, the impact of climate change is disproportionate on the poor and the poor nations. Also, the initiatives taken at the international level for mitigating climate change disproportionately impact the poorer nations. For example, uniform carbon pricing at the international level would result in higher relative policy costs for developing nations. Thus, without any financial aid or compensating measures, the climate change mitigation policies could push developing

⁴³ “Rich Countries’ Continued Failure to Honor Their \$100 Billion Climate Finance Promise Threatens Negotiations and Undermines Climate Action” (Oxfam International, June 8, 2023) <<https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/rich-countries-continued-failure-honor-their-100-billion-climate-finance-promise>> accessed January 4, 2024

⁴⁴ Desa U, “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” <<https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>> accessed January 4, 2024

⁴⁵ *ibid*

⁴⁶ Louman B and others, “Impacts on Forests and People” (Cambridge.org) <https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/407706C117FA5DBA2773CAF3796001B7/9781108486996c13_419-444.pdf/sdg-13-climate-action-impacts-on-forests-and-people.pdf> accessed February 4, 2024

⁴⁷ *ibid*

⁴⁸ “Goal 1: End Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere” (United Nations Sustainable Development, May 17, 2018) <<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>> accessed January 4, 2024

nations away from universal access to clean energy (SDG 7)⁴⁹ and thereby preventing the further development (SDG 8 and 9)⁵⁰. Likewise, the adoption of land-based mitigation measures and the adoption of scientific farming techniques in agriculture is likely to increase food prices which consequently adds to global starvation and hunger (SDG 2)⁵¹. Besides that, the imposition of negative consequences on these nations as a result of failure to contribute to the climate change measures leading to increased temperatures widens global inequality.

Thus, there is a necessity of integrating ambitious climate policies which shall incorporate the heterogeneity between the countries and shall balance the climate policies with that of poverty eradication goals. In the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) it was observed for an effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the remaining seven years, the incremental and fragmented changes are not adequate rather it requires an active mobilization of political leadership and a science-based transformation leaving no country behind⁵². It calls for a transformation in different sectors reflecting the urgency to adapt and accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

6 Sustainable Development Goals and Ambitious Climate Policies through the Lens of Global Justice

The understanding of justice, fairness, liberalism, and distributive justice it cannot be limited only to a domestic context rather these principles should be applied in a global context. Contemporary thinkers like Thomas Pogge promote the extension of the concepts of liberalism and distributive justice in the global context⁵³. Pogge's view on global justice focuses on the interrelationship of global poverty, inequality and global economic order. He analyzes the global political and economic system and emphasizes the structural injustices rooted in it. He mentions that the global political and economic system is inclined towards preserving the interest of the developed nations which ultimately leads to the perpetuation of poverty in the underdeveloped

⁴⁹ "Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy" (The Global Goals, September 17, 2021) <<https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/7-affordable-and-clean-energy/>> accessed January 4, 2024

⁵⁰ "Sustainable Development Goals" (UNDP) <<https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals>> accessed January 4, 2024

⁵¹ "Goal 2: Zero Hunger" (United Nations Sustainable Development, January 7, 2015) <<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>> accessed February 4, 2024

⁵² "Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2023" (Sdgs.un.org) <<https://sdgs.un.org/gsdrgsd2023>> accessed February 4, 2024

⁵³ Pogge TW, "An Egalitarian Law of Peoples" (1994) 23 Philosophy & public affairs 195

and least developed nations.⁵⁴ He challenges the existing economic and political order and questions that in to secure global justice what ought to be the responsibility of the existing system towards the global poor? He suggests systematic change in the economic and political system to rightly represent the interests of the global poor and strengthen human rights and global justice⁵⁵.

Amartya Sen in his capabilities approach identifies poverty as deprivation of essential capabilities and the assessment of developments should be not only based on economic indicators but also individual's capabilities.⁵⁶ Capabilities according to Sen are the freedom of choices to pursue ends and poverty is seen as a deprivation of essential capabilities.⁵⁷ Thus, Sen observes that considerations of justice must recognise the diversity of needs of human beings in contextual circumstances. Martha Nussbaum further develops the idea of the capabilities approach in the context of global justice. She advocates for the inclusion of capabilities approach for development and enabling human beings to live dignified lives by providing them with means⁵⁸.

Peter Singer in his work "Famine, Affluence, and Morality," maintains that they have a moral duty to alleviate global impoverishment through substantial charitable aids⁵⁹. David Held emphasises the relationship between global governance and global justice. He emphasised on the necessity of democratic global governance and increased responsibility of the international institutions towards alleviating global poverty and inequality.⁶⁰ Paul Farmer emphasises the relationship between health poverty and social justice.⁶¹

All these thinkers emphasise creating an equitable global and global justice order by focusing on social, economic and political dimensions of global poverty. Thus, climate-induced impoverishment is a challenge to global justice and thus adequate response is required through the development of policy to address the same.

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⁵⁴ *ibid*

⁵⁵ *ibid*

⁵⁶ Sen A. "Development as Capability Expansion" In Fukuda-Parr S, (eds) *Readings in Human Development* (Oxford University Press 2003)

⁵⁷ *ibid*

⁵⁸ Nussbaum Martha C, "Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach" (Harvard University Press 2011)

⁵⁹ See Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality" (1972) 3 *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 229-243

⁶⁰ Held D, "Democracy and the Global Order: From the Modern State to Cosmopolitan Governance" (Stanford University Press 1995)

⁶¹ Schuftan C (2003) 21 *Journal of Health, population, and Nutrition* 308
<<http://www.jstor.org/stable/23499228>>

The notion of Environmental Justice calls for an international socio-economic-political movement which advocates for an approach to the enforcement of environmental laws reflecting fair treatment and involvement of the people in the decision-making process irrespective of their race, ethnicity, income, status or development. It aims towards eliminating the imposition of a disproportionate burden on communities through the enforcement of environmental laws. Indeed, one of the core values of environmental justice relies on ensuring equity, participation, intersectionality and advocacy⁶².

The equity principle aims towards addressing environmental and climate inequalities, in particular concerning the environmental impact on the vulnerable and marginalised sections⁶³. Further, the participation principle focuses on making the decision-making process more inclusive particularly guaranteeing empowerment and representation of the marginalised groups who are more susceptible to environment-induced vulnerability. Furthermore, the intersectionality principle focuses on addressing the intersection of socio-economic discrimination associated with the application of environmental policies. And lastly, the Advocacy principle seeks to promote awareness and advocate policies for environmental equity and sustainability.⁶⁴

7 Conclusion

Climate change and poverty are among the major challenges to the idea of global justice and human rights. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aim towards the promotion of all-rounded development can be instrumental in promoting climate justice by not only promoting sustainable consumption and production but also by promoting inclusive decision-making (IDM) and by addressing the inequalities. IDM means a process that involves all the stakeholders including the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to ensure that the environmental laws and policies are not disproportionately affecting those who are at a socio-economic disadvantage. Also, the policies shall be responsive to the requirements of those groups and communities. Moreover, the SDGs should address the inequalities and reduce the disproportions of climate change by promoting equitable access to basic needs including food security, health care, education, economic opportunities etc. Nevertheless, there are multiple challenges concerning the attainment of the SDGs which include the existing imbalance of power. Achieving environmental justice through the SDGs seems difficult in the existing political and economic system of governance.

⁶² Menton M and others, "Environmental Justice and the SDGs: From Synergies to Gaps and Contradictions" (2020) 15 Sustainability science 1621 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11625-020-00789-8>>

⁶³ *ibid*

⁶⁴ *ibid*

Initiatives of climate justice shall be incomplete if the lesser developed countries do not receive assistance in terms of financial aid, technical aid and capacity building. Thus, there is a requirement for a more intersectional decolonial approach to address the underlying disparities. There is a necessity to acknowledge the climate-induced vulnerabilities of the underdeveloped and marginalized communities, especially in the global south and challenge the dominance of the Western powers in framing the policies concerning environment and climate.

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