



## THE PROPOSED COP 29 – BAKU SUMMIT: ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT: PAPER III



### 1. What is climate change, and why is it a significant global issue?

**A:** Climate change refers to long-term shifts in global temperatures and weather patterns due to human activities, mainly fossil fuel combustion. This leads to global warming, sea-level rise, extreme weather, and ecosystem disruptions. Addressing it is crucial to avoid severe environmental, economic, and health impacts worldwide.

### 2. What was the main goal of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement?

**A:** The Paris Agreement aims to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C, ideally 1.5°C, above pre-industrial levels by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It requires countries to submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with regular updates, fostering global cooperation to mitigate climate impacts.

### 3. How does the Conference of the Parties (COP) contribute to climate action?

**A:** COP, established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), brings countries together annually to review progress, negotiate emission targets, and discuss adaptation and finance. It enables collaboration and accountability, making COP a key mechanism for advancing global climate goals.



## 4. What is expected to be addressed at COP29?

**A:** COP29 will likely prioritize faster emission cuts, climate finance, and support for vulnerable countries. Key topics include implementing updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), enhancing climate adaptation measures, and mobilizing resources for the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance, targeting \$100+ billion annually.

## 5. Why are current global emission rates a major concern?

**A:** Emission rates today are at record highs, causing accelerated global warming, frequent extreme weather, and biodiversity threats. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that without drastic cuts, the 1.5°C target is unattainable, endangering ecosystems, livelihoods, and food and water security.

## 6. What role does the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) play in climate finance?

**A:** The NCQG aims to exceed the current \$100 billion climate finance goal set by developed nations, supporting developing countries in their climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. It reflects growing needs for financing as climate impacts worsen and builds trust in international climate commitments.

## 7. What responsibilities do Annex II countries have under the UNFCCC?

**A:** Annex II countries, mainly developed nations, are required to provide financial, technological, and capacity-building support to developing countries for climate action. This includes assisting with emission reduction, adaptation measures, and technology transfers, fulfilling their historic responsibility in causing global warming.

## 8. How does the concept of “Common but Differentiated Responsibilities” (CBDR) influence climate policy?

**A:** CBDR recognizes that while all nations must combat climate change, developed countries, with higher historical emissions, bear greater responsibility for financial and technological support. CBDR is central to UN climate negotiations, balancing global cooperation with fairness for developing countries.

## 9. What is India’s position on global climate change action?

**A:** India advocates for equitable climate action, emphasizing CBDR. It aims to balance economic growth with climate goals, targeting 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030, though it calls for adequate climate finance from developed nations to achieve ambitious targets while supporting sustainable development.



## 10. What commitments did India make at COP26 in Glasgow?

**A:** At COP26, India pledged to reach net-zero emissions by 2070, achieve 50% renewable energy capacity by 2030, reduce emissions intensity by 45%, and lower cumulative emissions by 1 billion tons by 2030. These targets reflect India's proactive approach, despite demanding climate finance support.

## 11. How does climate finance aid developing countries?

**A:** Climate finance supports developing countries in adopting clean energy, enhancing climate resilience, and addressing losses from climate impacts. Funds from developed nations help bridge resource gaps for mitigation and adaptation, promoting equitable climate action globally, especially for vulnerable nations at risk of climate effects.

## 12. What is the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance?

**A:** The NCQG is a funding commitment from developed nations to support climate adaptation and mitigation in developing countries, aiming to mobilize larger resources beyond the current \$100 billion.

## 13. Where and when the COP 29 is to be held and who shall be the president

The 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) is scheduled to take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22, 2024. The conference will be presided over by Mukhtar Babayev, Azerbaijan's Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources.

## 14. What are Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and why are they important?

**A:** NDCs are climate action plans submitted by countries outlining emissions reduction targets, adaptation strategies, and policies. Updated every five years, they are essential for meeting the Paris Agreement goals by encouraging accountability and ambition, with countries expected to increase targets over time.

## 15. Why is the 1.5°C temperature target critical in climate discussions?

**A:** The 1.5°C target, set in the Paris Agreement, aims to minimize severe climate impacts. According to the IPCC, even a 0.5°C increase beyond this target could result in drastic environmental changes, including coral reef die-offs, extreme heatwaves, and intensified droughts, affecting millions worldwide.



## 16. How does the Green Climate Fund (GCF) support climate action?

**A:** The GCF, created under the UNFCCC, finances climate projects in developing nations, especially for adaptation and low-carbon development. Funded by developed countries, it supports renewable energy, resilience-building, and sustainable agriculture, aiming to reduce emissions and assist countries vulnerable to climate impacts.

## 17. What role does renewable energy play in India's climate strategy?

**A:** Renewable energy is central to India's climate goals, with a target of 450 GW by 2030. It reduces dependency on fossil fuels, lowers emissions, and supports economic growth. Solar and wind energy expansion aligns with India's Paris commitments and sustainable development objectives.

### Main Practice Question

**Discuss the significance of the Supreme Court's verdicts on environmental protection in India, focusing on their role in shaping sustainable development policies and balancing environmental rights with economic growth. (250 words)**

### Answer Guidelines:

1. **Introduction:** Start with a brief introduction to the role of the Supreme Court in India's environmental governance, highlighting its proactive stance in cases related to environmental protection.
2. **Significance of Verdicts:** Describe key verdicts like the Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum v. Union of India (1996), which introduced the "precautionary principle" and "polluter pays" principle, and the MC Mehta cases, which addressed pollution and conservation issues.
3. **Impact on Policies and Legislation:** Explain how these judgments have influenced policy frameworks, leading to stricter environmental laws and institutional frameworks like the National Green Tribunal (NGT).
4. **Sustainable Development and Economic Balance:** Discuss how the Supreme Court's approach has aimed to balance environmental protection with economic growth. Highlight examples where the court's verdicts underscored the importance of sustainable practices, as seen in forest conservation and industrial pollution control cases.
5. **Challenges and Future Directions:** Acknowledge challenges in enforcing these verdicts due to regulatory gaps and highlight the ongoing need for judicial intervention to ensure environmental justice, particularly amid climate change.
6. **Conclusion:** End with a note on the evolving role of the judiciary in promoting sustainable development, stressing the importance of continued judicial oversight for long-term environmental protection.

This structure addresses the question comprehensively, providing a nuanced view on the Supreme Court's impact on environmental protection in India.