UNIT 12: ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

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12.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- know about the Meaning and Concept of Environment Ethics
- understand History of the initiatives of different Agencies to tackle contemporary environmental issues

- explain the formation and workings of different Global and United Nations Agencies on Climate Change and global warming.
- discuss the different forms of agreements, protocols and measures adopted during every major meet to tackle contemporary environmental issues

12.2 INTRODUCTION

With the rising turn down of natural systems on which human beings rely and the annoyance of the ecological crisis, human beings have realized that we cannot rely on financial and legal methods alone to resolve the trouble of environmental pollution and ecological imbalances; we must also request to human beings' boundless inner moral resources. We will be able to love and respect nature only after we have adopted an appropriate attitude towards nature and with the proper guidance of love and respect, we can diligently deal with the issues of environmental pollution and ecological imbalances. Environmental Ethics becomes very important in this regard and in this unit, we shall learn about the concept of Environmental Ethics. Further, we shall also learn about the initiatives, agreements, protocols at the global level, which are adopted to protect and preserve the environment. In this unit we shall learn about

12.3 MEANING AND CONCEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

One of the major sub -the discipline of philosophy that deals with the ethical problems surrounding environmental protection are environmental ethics. Its main reason is to offer moral reason and moral inspiration for the cause of worldwide ecological protection. There are several unique features of ecological morals that earn our attention.

From the very early phase, environmental ethics has been an area in which diverse information and perspectives struggle with each other. Anthropocentrism, animal liberation/rights theory, biocentrism all present unique and, in some sense, sensible moral justifications for ecological protection. Their approach is different, but their goals are by and large the

same, and they have reached this consensus: it is everyone's duty to look after the environment. The basic ideas of ecological ethics also sustain from and are personified in, various ingrained cultural traditions. The pluralism of theories and multicultural perspectives is crucial for ecological ethics to preserve its vitality. In short, as the theoretical symbol of a newly emerging moral idea and value orientation, environmental ethics is the fullest extension of human ethics. It calls on us to think and act locally as well as globally

12.3.1 Factors and Events which paved the way for Environment Ethics and Laws

The 1960s and 1970s witnessed an environmental disaster brought about by manufacturing civilization. This crisis was composed of environmental pollution (such as air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, toxic chemical pollution, solid waste pollution), resource shortages (such as shortages of energy, cultivated land, minerals and fresh water) and ecological imbalances (such as the rapid decrease of forest and biodiversity, the rapid growth of population and the desertification of land the world over). The ecological problems of for the most part of urban countries had been well dealt with by the beginning of the 1980s. However, ecological pollution and ecological crisis were disseminating rapidly across the world. The environmental situations in developing countries have become poorer and worse, and the darkness of resource scarcity and nuclear waste hangs over the world. The population explosion is intimidating earth's carrying capacity. The rapid vanishing of species and forests is declining life, both human and non-human. The ozone crack and worldwide warming are fetching a nightmare.

Facing such an upsetting situation, worldwide groups initiated a wave of campaigns for environmental protection. The World Conservation Strategy (IUCN, 1980), Our Common Future (WCED, 1987), Caring for the Earth (IUCN et al., 1991), and the 1992 Rio Earth SummitConference and the blueprint of action that came from it, Agenda 21 (UN, 1994), were evidence of this new wave. The UN these days is putting more energy into the production of global environmental issues. Worldwide, NGOs alarmed with

ecological issues are playing ever more vigorous roles in protecting the surroundings. Environmental laws have been recognized at national, regional and international levels, and most countries have adopted a strategy of sustainable development. Defending the environment has become humanity's frequent cause.

12.3.2 Consensus Regarding Environmental Ethics

The debates about the philosophical foundations of environmental ethics still persist, yet we can find much consensus at normative and practical levels among environmental ethicists.

Three normative principles of environmental ethics

- **Principles concerning environmental justice:** Environmental justiceconstitutes the minimum ethical stance of environmental ethics. There are two dimensions to environmental justice. The main concern of distributive environmental justice is the equal distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, whereas participatory environmental justice focuses on opportunities to participate in decision-making. While domestic ecological integrity is easily implicit and accepted, the institutionalizing of worldwide (international) ecological fairness remains a confront to global society. The seventeen values of ecological fairness issued at the First National People of Colour Environmental Leadership Summit in 1991 is a good quality initial point for ecological ethics.
- **The principle concerning intergenerational equality:** The principle of intergenerational equality is an addition to that of equality. Equal rights which are the basis of equality consists of the right to life, liberty and happiness which are considered to be the basic human rights shared by everyone, future generation as well as the present generation. Every generation should lead a life which also benifits the future generation to lead a happy life. Thus it is the duty of any given generation to bestow to their intimates not only a just politico-economic system but also healthy and generative earth.

- **The principle concerning respect for nature:** Though they may come from different perspectives, most environmental ethicists believe that the prime concern of every individual is to conserve and protect the integrity of the ecosystem and biodiversity. Since human beings are the part of nature and what we call as the human economy is a subsystem of natures economy, the former must be all inclusive and fit into the latter and abide by its law. Earth, a planet that is our home is in crisis now and therefore it is the foremost responsibility of everyindividual to take care of it.

12.3.3 Consensus as Regards to Practical Issues

Environmental ethics subsumes practical ethics. Environmental ethicists have reached an impetus on practical issues than on moral philosophical issues.

- **An environmental disaster is the pathology of modern industrial civilization:** Technology is not the reason for the crisis of the environment. Technology cannot be the sole reason for its failure to equip itself with better technology which can refine the toxic waste produced due to environmental hazards. The main reasonfor the modern environmental crisis is about modern civilization and its underlying values. Our ecological disaster is the inevitable product of the current economy's selfishness to the weakness and limits of nature, the mad power kick of current politics, contemporary people's universally equating bliss with material satisfaction, and their overwhelming receipt of an automatic and dualist view of nature. It is not this or that part of trade civilization but industrial civilization itself that is not apt for this small globe Therefore, the chief apprehension is to effortlessly alter developed civilization into an environment-friendly green (or post-industrial) civilization by reforming the uneven economic system, rectifying the unfair biased order, changing the existing consumer way of life and reconstructing a sensible living philosophy that is morally responsible towards others and nature.

- **Earth is the common wealth of everyone:** The earth belongs to all people. No country or group is permitted to threaten the ecological balance. Human beings' common interests come before any state's special interests. To guard our general Earth, countries should uphold the essential equilibrium between economic expansion and ecological protection, and developed countries have a responsibility to diminish the amount of energy and property they consume. We need to hand out worldwide prosperity more uniformly among nations and to establish ajuster worldwide order that is friendly with universal ecological protection. Human beings need to study how to exist as a worldwide Commonwealth on Earth.
- **Poverty is a kind of pollution:** Although excessive affluence puts extensive ecological pressure on the earth, poverty remains a key factor in environmental deterioration, especially at the nation-state level. Poor countries often appoint fast economic expansion in ways that damage their environments. They are indebted to export their natural assets economically and extremely in replace for foreign currency with which they can disburse their debts. They are not able to get hold of environmental-protection technologies and they lack the fiscal budget that ecological defence requires. The lowest-income people, especially those existing in cities, are out in the open to the toxic harsh environment and dangerous chemicals. They have to work in deeply polluted conditions. They are the most susceptible in the facade of ecological catastrophes. In addition, the huge gap between the rich and the poor is incompatible with human morality. Militarism is one of the major threats to life on earth.
- **Nuclear war will be the end of all life on earth :** The enormous damage of the surroundings caused by military behaviour across the globe is the hardest to heal. The military business is among the most profoundly polluting industries. Some countries have annual military budgets of more than 40 billion US dollars, while to save thetropics, where 70 per cent of non-human species live, would requireonly 30 billion US dollars (Wilson, 2002). The deliberate

creation of security threats by any nation, driven by militant-industrial corporate groups, must be fiercely resisted. Militarism and environmentalism are mutually exclusive. An environmentalist must be a pacifist.

- **Environmental justice is the priority issue of environmental ethics** : Environmental justice is the new frontier of justice. Unjust social frameworks maintain and reinforce environmental injustice, with the result that the privileged permanently enjoy the benefits of the environment while the disadvantaged bear disproportionately the burdens of the environment. Everyone has the right to a liveable environment. A right to the environment is one of the essential human rights, and every state has a responsibility to protect it. International environmental injustice is especially worrisome today. The developed countries should alter their policies of transferring a lot of polluting industries to developing countries, stop exporting dangerous waste to developing countries and alter the high-consumption lifestyle of their population. Consensus on worldwide environmental justice is urgently needed.
- **Environmental ethics should participate actively in environmental decision-making:** Most policies have environmental and normative implications. Yet decision-makers are frequently unaware of, unclear about or not capable to deal with the ethical rudiments of their decisions. Policies involving deterrence and control of pollution, or conservation and reinstallation of natural areas, are evaluated in terms of economics, politics and ethics. Therefore, ecological ethics play an immense function in decision-making.

12.4 INITIATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT

In the present time, anthropogenic activities have posed serious threat to the environment. And as a result environmental problems have been on the rise. Two such major environmental problems of the of the time

are Global Warming and Climate Change. We have read about these in Unit 9. Here we are going to discuss about the various international initatives taken up to mitigate such environmental crisis.

Climate change is a global threat that requires collective action from countries and organizations throughout the world. Climate change and Global Warming are two immediate concerns which needs global consensus to tackle it in a widespread scale. Individual countries and organizations cannot fully tackle these major concerns and the majority of the countries in the world responded to these threats through a collective international response through a number of conventions and conferences since the second half of the twentieth century which is continuing till the present. Let us discuss them in details.

12.4.1 Stockholm Conference

The Stockholm Conference or the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was held from 5th to 16th June, 1972 in Stockholm, Sweden. The United Nations General Assembly convened the conference to discuss the impact of human interaction on the environment. The conference was attended by members from 122 countries. The conference was boycotted by the countries who were signatories of the Warsaw Pact due to the non-inclusion of East Germany in conference as a separate nation.

THE CONFERENCE ADOPTED 26 PRINCIPLES:

- Human Rights must be asserted and apartheid and colonialism were to be condemned.
- The natural resources of nations must be safeguarded.
- The need for maintenance of Earth's capability to produce its renewable resources.
- Safeguarding of the wildlife from extinction.
- The sharing and non-exhaustion of the renewable resources of the Earth.
- The need for keeping the pollution in check in proportion to the Earth's capacity to clean itself.
- Pollution in the Ocean must be prevented.

- The need for development of mechanism to improve the condition of the environment.
- Assistance to developing countries.
- Developing Countries need for reasonable prices for exports to carry out environmental management.
- Environmental policy does not hamper development.
- The need for giving monetary assistance to developing countries in order to develop environmental safeguards.
- The need for planning of integrated development.
- The need for rational planning to address any conflicts between environment and development.
- Planned human settlements
- Individual nations should plan their own policy to tackle population growth.
- The need for plan of development for nation's natural resources.
- Scientific and technological innovations for use of environmental protection.
- Environmental education is essential.
- Environmental research as a discipline in developing countries.
- Individual nation states may exploit their resources but should not endanger other nation's resources.
- Due compensation for any such endangerment of other nation's resources.
- Nations must establish its own standard.
- Co-operation among nations on international issues.
- International institutions should help to improve the environment.
- The Weapons of Mass Destruction must be eliminated.

LESSONS FROM THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE:

The Stockholm conference was unable to garner the participation of a large number of countries. The divide between the first world countries and the third world countries were evident. Developed nations like the United States of America were criticized by the developing countries throughout the conference for its policies. The

divide between the developed countries understanding of climate change vis-à-vis the developing countries was magnanimous. The developed countries saw it as an environmental problem, while the developing countries saw it as a problem related to large scale emission by the developed countries in the process of industrialization. One of the seminal issues that emerged from the conference is the recognition for poverty alleviation for protecting the environment. The Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in her seminal speech in the conference brought forward the connection between ecological management and poverty alleviation. The Stockholm Conference was significant as it laid the ground work for the number of conferences and conventions that were to follow in the next few decades.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q1: What did Indira Gandhi highlight during her speech in the Stockholm Conference?

Q2: How many members attended the Stockholm Conference?

12.4.2 The Brundtland Commission

The Brundtland Commission also known as the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) was appointed in 1983 under the chairmanship of former Norway Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland. The purpose of the commission was to rally the countries around the world to implement the idea of sustainable development. The United Nations was concerned with the deterioration of the environment and the human impact on the natural resources of the earth. The commission was dissolved in 1987 right after the release of their report known as the 'Brundtland Report' and also as 'Our Common Future'. The report made the concept of sustainable development popular among the nations and showcased a way for the states to implement sustainability in their policies towards the environment and its natural resources.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q3: What is the Brundtland Report also known as?

Q4: Under whose chairmanship was the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) was appointed in 1983?

12.4.3 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The First World Climate Conference held in Geneva from 12th to 23rd February, 1979. It was sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization. It was in this conference, where a number of scientists from all over the world met, the recognition for the need for global collective action to meet the threat posed by climate change and the harmfulness of wide scale emission of Green House Gases (GHGs) was discussed. In 1988 the United Nations General Assembly approved the creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The function of the IPCC was to make available scientific reports and assessment on the impact of climate change- its risks and the possible responses.

12.4.4 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The response for climate change has been largely driven by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which makes use of the reports produced by the IPCC. The UNFCCC is broadly an international treaty on environment which was adopted on 9th May, 1992 and endorsed during the Rio Earth Summit held from 3rd to 14th June, 1992. However it had to wait till 21st March, 1994 to be ratified by a sufficient proportion of countries. The most important objective of the UNFCCC is the stabilization of concentration of the GHGs present in the atmosphere by keeping the emission level around the world in check which can have a major impact on the climate.

The UNFCCC comprises of 196 countries and their meetings are attended by non-state actors like the World Bank and other United Nations agencies.

Typically the countries does not negotiate as single units but as part of groups. Broadly the countries fall under three overlapping broad groups wherein many countries often gets clubbed in in one or more groups. The groups stands like this:

- **Annex 1 Parties:** Comprised of countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), except Mexico and South Korea, and countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, including Russia and many Eastern European countries.
- **Annex 2 Parties:** Comprised of only the countries of the OECD.
- **Non-Annex 1 Parties:** The majority of the world's countries, including newly industrialized nations such as Singapore and South Korea, the larger economies such as India, China and Brazil, oil producing states, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the low income countries of the world.
- **Principles of UNFCCC:** A set of principles of the convention in particular to the development perspective was ratified by the UNFCCC through its Articles. Three inter-related principles are:
- **Precautionary Principle:** a lack of scientific certainty should not be used as a reason to delay taking action to prevent environmental damages or disasters. (Article 3.3)
- **Equity/common but differentiated responsibilities:** Article 3.1 of the convention states that parties should protect the climatic system based on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
- **The Right to Promote Sustainable Development:** this principle is reinforced by Article 3.2 of the convention which recognizes the specific needs
- Commitments of UNFCCC: The convention contains sets of commitments relating to reporting on and implementing policies and measures to tackle climate change. Commitments are differentiated between countries in the three annexes. The convention also

highlights countries requiring attention due to vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, especially in the least developed countries. However the commitments were voluntary in nature and as such they proved to be insufficient.

There have been three pivotal milestones in the development of the extended climate regime under the UNFCCC. The first was the creation of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 to set binding targets for the Annex 1 countries. The second was the COP 13 meeting in Bali in 2007 that established the process for developing the follow up to Kyoto after its initial commitment period ended in 2012. The third was the agreement of the Durban Platform in 2011 to develop a comprehensive international agreement by 2015 following the failure to meet the 2009 deadline for a post-2012 agreement in Copenhagen.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q5: Where was the First World Climate Conference held?

Q6: In which year was the IPCC created?

Q7: What is the most important objective of the UNFCCC?

Q8: What are the milestones of the UNFCCC?

12.4.5 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)

The Rio Earth Summit which is also known as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in 1992 was the first conference in which the idea of sustainable development became a part of the measures to tackle climate change. The Conference was the first attempt to bring to the international community on a same page for having a far reaching commitments and having an infrastructure to back these commitments in place.

Earth Summit was created as a response for Member States to cooperate together internationally on development issues after the Cold War.

Due to conflict relating to sustainability being too big for individual member states to handle, Earth Summit was held as a platform for other Member States to collaborate. The summit focused on:

- Systematic scrutiny of patterns of production - particularly the production of toxic components, such as lead in gasoline, or poisonous waste including radioactive chemicals.
- Alternative sources of energy to replace the use of fossil fuels which delegates linked to global climate change.
- New reliance on public transportation systems in order to reduce vehicle emissions, congestion in cities and the health problems caused by polluted air and smoke.
- The growing usage and limited supply of water.

  An important achievement of the summit was an agreement on the Climate Change Convention which in turn led to the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q9: What is the Rio Earth Summit also known as?

Q10: What did the Rio Earth Summit focus on?

12.4.6 The Kyoto Protocol

Developments in climate science in the early 1990s led to increasing acknowledgement that the convention's voluntary commitments were insufficient to meet its overall objective. As a result a new form of discussion began to take place which stressed on legally binding targets for countries and it culminated into the Kyoto Protocol. The protocol was adopted on 11th December, 1997 in Kyoto, Japan and it came into effect from 16th February, 2005.

Stressing on the need for legally binding emission cut targets for member countries the Protocol set targets for Annex 1 countries for an average of 5.2 per cent reduction in Green House Gas Emission from 1990 levels during the period of 2008-12. Targets for each country was individually negotiated.

The European Union agreed to an overall reduction of 8 per cent among member states. The United States of America agreed to a 7 per cent cut while Japan and Canada agreed to a 6 per cent cut. Countries like Russia had to return to 1990's level. Other least developed countries were permitted an increase due to national circumstances.

The protocol included a number of flexible mechanisms including the Clean Development Mechanisms. The Protocol is based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities: it acknowledges that individual countries have different capabilities in combating climate change, owing to economic development, and therefore puts the obligation to reduce current emissions on developed countries on the basis that they are historically responsible for the current levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

- Lessons from the protocol: Despite being central to the creation of the protocol, following a change in the government in U.S.A decided to not ratify the agreement in 2003 citing emission cuts negative impact on the domestic economy and international competitiveness. Australia refused to ratify till 2011 and Canada withdrew in 2009. The absence of these major polluters was a big setback for environmental concern of climate change. The Protocol's first commitment period started in 2008 and ended in 2012.

  A second commitment period was agreed in 2012, known as the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, in which 37 countries have binding targets: Australia, the European Union (and its 28 member states), Belarus, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, and Ukraine. Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine have stated that they may withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol or not put into legal force the Amendment with second round targets. Japan, New Zealand, and Russia have participated in Kyoto's first-round but have not taken on new targets in the second commitment period. Other developed countries without second-round targets are Canada (which withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol in 2009) and the United States (which has not ratified). As of January 2019, 124 states have accepted the Doha Amendment, while entry into force requires the

acceptances of 144 states. Of the 37 countries with binding commitments, 7 have ratified.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q11: Why didn't the U.S.A. ratify the Kyoto protocol?

Q12: In which principle does the Kyoto Protocol try to operate?

12.4.7 Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance, starting in the year 2020. The agreement's language was negotiated by representatives of 196 state parties at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC in Le Bourget, near Paris, France, and adopted by consensus on 12th December, 2015. As of February 2019, 195 UNFCCC members have signed the agreement, and 185 have become party to it. The Paris Agreement's long-term goal is to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels; and to limit the increase to 1.5 °C, since this would substantially reduce the risks and effects of climate change. Under the Paris Agreement, each country must determine, plan, and regularly report on the contribution that it undertakes to mitigate global warming. No mechanism forces a country to set a specific target by a specific date, but each target should go beyond previously set targets. In June 2017, U.S. President Donald Trump announced his intention to withdraw his country from the agreement. Under the agreement, the earliest effective date of withdrawal for the U.S. is November 2020, shortly before the end of President Trump's current term. In practice, changes in United States policy that are contrary to the Paris Agreement have already been put in place.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q13: How many UNFCCC members have signed the agreement?

Q14: What is the long term goal of keeping global average temperature in check?



12.5 LET US SUM UP

- Environmental ethics is a recent sub-discipline of values that deals with the ethical trouble neighbouring ecological protection. It aims to offer ethical justification and moral inspiration for the cause of universal ecological protection. There are quite a few unique types of environmental beliefs that deserve our attention.
- The 1960s and 1970s witnessed an environmental disaster brought about by developed civilization. This crisis was composed of environmental pollution (such as air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, toxic chemical pollution, solid waste pollution), resource shortages (such as shortages of energy, cultivated land, minerals and fresh water) and ecological imbalances (such as the rapid decrease of forest and biodiversity, the rapid growth of population and the desertification of land the world over).
- Beginning with the Stockholm Conference the world governments began to address global warming and its impact on climate change.
- The Stockholm Conference adopted 26 principles.
- The Brundtland Report made the concept of sustainable development popular among the nations.
- The IPCC was to make available scientific reports and assessment on the impact of climate change.
- The most important objective of the UNFCCC is the stabilization of concentration of the GHGs present in the atmosphere by keeping the emission level around the world in check.

- The Rio Earth Summit was the first conference in which the idea of sustainable development became a part of the measures to tackle climate change.
- The Kyoto Protocol stressed on the need for legally binding emission cut targets for member countries.
- Under the Paris Agreement, each country must determine, plan, and regularly report on the contribution that it undertakes to mitigate global warming.



12.6 FURTHER READING

1) Panjabi, R. K. L. (1997). The Earth Summit at Rio: Politics, Economics, and the Environment. New Hampshire, U.S.A.: Northeastern University Press.

2) Shearman, R. (1990). The meaning and ethics of sustainability. Environmental Management, 14(1), 1-8. https://doi.org/10.1007/BF02394014

3) Victor, D. G. (2001). The Collapse of the Kyoto Protocol and the Struggle to Slow Global Warming. Princeton, U.S.A.: Princeton University Press.

12.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: The Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in her seminal speech in the conference brought forward the connection between ecological management and poverty alleviation.

Ans to Q No 2: The conference was attended by members from 122 countries.

Ans to Q No 3: The Brundtland Commissionis also known as the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED)

Ans to Q No 4: The Brundtland Commission was appointed in 1983 under the chairmanship of former Norway Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland.

Ans to Q No 5: The First World Climate Conference was held in Geneva from 12th to 23rd February, 1979.

Ans to Q No 6: In 1988 the United Nations General Assembly approved the creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Ans to Q No 7: The most important objective of the UNFCCC is the stabilization of concentration of the GHGs present in the atmosphere by keeping the emission level around the world in check which can have a major impact on the climate.

Ans to Q No 8: There have been three pivotal milestones in the development of the extended climate regime under the UNFCCC. The first was the creation of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 to set binding targets for the Annex 1 countries. The second was the COP 13 meeting in Bali in 2007 that established the process for developing the follow up to Kyoto after its initial commitment period ended in 2012. The third was the agreement of the Durban Platform in 2011 to develop a comprehensive international agreement by 2015 following the failure to meet the 2009 deadline for a post-2012 agreement in Copenhagen.

Ans to Q No 9: The Rio Earth Summit which is also known as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)

Ans to Q No 10: Earth Summit was created as a response for Member States to cooperate together internationally on development issues after the Cold War. Due to conflict relating to sustainability being too big for individual member states to handle, Earth Summit was held as a platform for other Member States to collaborate.

Ans to Q No 11: The U.S.A decided to not ratify the agreement in 2003 citing emission cuts negative impact on the domestic economy and international competitiveness.

Ans to Q No 12 : The protocol included a number of flexible mechanisms including the Clean Development Mechanisms. The Protocol is based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities: it acknowledges that individual countries have different capabilities in combating climate change,

Ans to Q No 13 : As of February 2019, 195 UNFCCC members have signed the agreement, and 185 have become party to it.

Ans to Q No 14 : Ans: The Paris Agreement's long-term goal is to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels; and to limit the increase to 1.5 °C, since this would substantially reduce the risks and effects of climate change.



12.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q1. What are the 3 normative principles of environmental ethics?

Q2. Write a short note on international environmental justice and global warming.

Q3. Which group of countries boycotted the Stockholm Conference?

Q4. How did the UNFCCC categorize the countries in relation to their role in climate change?

Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500words)

Q1. Write a note on consensus on environmental ethics regarding practical issues.

Q2. How climate change policies began to take shape on an international scale?

Q3. What were the principles agreed in the Stockholm Conference?

Q4. How would you review the Kyoto Protocol? Was it successful or did it fail in its mandate?

Q5. In what way is the Kyoto Protocol different from previous conferences and conventions?

Q6. What is the current scenario of the initiatives of state and international agencies to tackle climate change?

Q7. What is the stand of developed and developing countries on emission of Green House Gases?

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