

CLIMATE INJUSTICES DUE TO THE UNEQUAL AND DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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Abstract

Climate change is ravaging the whole world, but the poor vulnerable developing countries are the hardest hit even though they are not primarily responsible for the massive greenhouse gases emissions causing global warming and climate change. This is tantamount to climate injustice as they are being impacted severely and have limited capacity to mitigate or adapt to the changing climate. Consequently, there is a need to share the burdens of climate change equally and equitably without discrimination. This paper submits that the developed industrialized rich countries are primarily responsible for climate change due to their massive emissions of greenhouse gases because of their industrial activities. Of note, most of the equipment and machineries used for production and other activities in these countries, utilized fossil fuel and emit greenhouse gases in the process. As such, justice demands that they have to be responsible for providing adaptation and mitigation measures to the developed countries through the mechanisms provided and set out in all international law instruments and agreements reached at the various Conferences of the Parties (COPs). A proportion of the monies and revenue received from the activities resulting in the emission of greenhouse gases are to be allocated to developing countries for adaptation and mitigation of climate change for them to be able to have clean environment, wellbeing, and sustainable livelihood. More importantly, it is imperative to transit to zero emissions globally this can be made possible using renewable energy as an alternative to fossil fuel. The international communities should therefore improve their strategies and effectiveness regarding the implementation of all the treaty agreements on zero-emission to attain climate justice for all.

Keywords: global warming, climate change, greenhouse gases, climate justice, earth, sustainability.

JEL Classification: K30, K33, K38

1. Introduction

The issue of climate justice is gaining momentum and it was remarkable that thousands of protesters marched for climate justice in the United Kingdom before the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26). The essence of the march was to make a statement to the world leaders who attended the COP26 that there should be an end to climate injustice. Lending voice to the protest, Dunn (2021),² reported that “braving rain and high winds, demonstrators marched through Glasgow, Scotland, on Saturday, November 6, 2021, as part of the Global Day of Action for Climate Justice, one of many such demonstrations on the same day in other nations.” The agitation and call for climate justice is predicated on the fact that “the unequal burdens of causation and consequence are the essence of climate injustice because those who suffer climate change are not responsible for producing it.” For instance, although the poor of the world have done disproportionately less to cause the problem of climate change, they suffer disproportionately more from its effects.³

In 2021, while the covid-19 was raging, the world leaders and various climate change activists gathered in Glasgow, Scotland for COP26 from the 7th to 10th November to engage in serious debate about our future. Interestingly, the COP26 Coalition hosted the People’s Summit for Climate Justice to have a frank conversation on how to tackle the impact and effect of climate change on countries, especially vulnerable developing countries with no significant carbon footprints that contribute to the climate change global warming yet facing the brunt of climate change.

The People’s Summit engages in discussing the various climate injustices the world is facing and as such, makes frantic efforts to influence decisions on building a zero-emission future and how to strategically achieve this to tackle and curb carbon emissions. Essentially, “the People’s Summit

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² See Dunn, C. (2021). COP26: A Global Day of Action for Climate Justice. Retrieved from <https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/cop26-global-day-action-climate-justice>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

³ See Holden, W. N. (2018). Typhoons, climate change, and climate injustice in the Philippines. *Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies*, 11(1), 117-139.

is a global convergence space for movements, campaigns, and civil societies that can range from indigenous struggles to trade unions, from racial justice groups to young strikers. Join us to imagine our future, combine our knowledge and build the climate justice movement from the ground up".⁴

The Peoples' Summit sought to be an alternative voice to the ineffective solutions and inactions of the previous Conference of the Parties (COP) negotiation where nothing was done to ensure justice for vulnerable countries being affected by the activities of industrialized countries.

The role of the People's Summit is laudable because the world faces multiple crises because of the intersecting climate injustices the world face today particularly by the vulnerable countries mostly in the developing countries. There is therefore the need to intervene and ensure climate justice, equality, and equity globally. To accomplish this, various strategies and tactics on how to mitigate and adapt to climate change should be fostered by world leaders to create the needed change. In the words of Germanos (2021),⁵ "the era of injustice is over. We will uproot these systems of oppression with our global Green New Deal to guarantee everyone the right to live with dignity and in harmony with our planet."

One message that came out loud and clear from the COP26 meeting was that the world needs climate justice. Statistically, "the poorest 50% of the world, those most vulnerable to the ravages of climate change, was responsible for just 7% of global greenhouse emissions between 1990 to 2015, according to research by Oxfam, an international nonprofit organization focused on poverty reduction. Yet the richest 10% of the world's population is responsible for more than half. Since the start of the industrial revolution, in 1751, the countries that are now known as the US and the European Union have generated 47% of the world's total carbon emissions, while Africa and South America produced just 6% in total. Of note, Sub-Saharan Africa, which is responsible for less than 1% of global emissions, will likely suffer the most from the consequences of climate change, which has already caused displacement and might soon lead to conflict over depleted resources".⁶

To achieve the needed change, climate activists continue to raise their voices with the hope that world leaders will listen to them, the activists are however skeptical because in most cases, the richest countries have the tendencies to ignore every moral and political call to do their fair share. For instance, rather than keeping various promises they have made in previous COPs, the world leaders would rather make more empty promises via press releases drafted by corrupt companies to deceive the citizens. However, this seems not to be working anymore as people can no longer be deceived, especially with the enlightenment by the activists.⁷

Undoubtedly, when it comes to climate change, which includes global warming, the rich nations are deliberately sacrificing the poor for profit through their industrial activities which rely mostly on fossil fuels that emits carbon dioxide causing global climate warming. Significantly, "Climate justice has evolved from a concept to a movement to address what can be described as climate inequality, or the disparity between who is causing the climate crisis, and who is paying the steepest price for it. Those demanding climate justice don't just want polluting countries to change their ways, they want them to pay for the damage they have caused, and will continue to cause, as the effect of their past behaviors is felt on the planet".⁸

Alam's (2019) description of the term climate change is all-inclusive and as such, "the term

⁴ See Argentina, R. (2021). On the sidelines of COP-26, People's Summit for Climate Justice takes place in Glasgow. Retrieved from <https://www.pressenza.com/2021/11/on-the-sidelines-of-cop-26-peoples-summit-for-climate-justice-takes-place-in-glasgow/>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

⁵ See Germanos, A. (2021). In COP26 Speech, Climate Justice Leader Vows Global Movement 'Will Change History'. Retrieved from <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/10/cop26-speech-climate-justice-leader-vows-global-movement-will-change-history>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

⁶ See Merelli, A. (2021). FROM OUR OBSESSION: THE climate economy Every industry can be part of the solution-or part of the ongoing problem. Retrieved from <https://qz.com/2086933/cop26-what-is-climate-justice-and-why-it-is-important/>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

⁷ See Germanos, A. (2021). In COP26 Speech, Climate Justice Leader Vows Global Movement 'Will Change History'. Retrieved from <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/10/cop26-speech-climate-justice-leader-vows-global-movement-will-change-history>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

⁸ See Merelli, A. (2021). FROM OUR OBSESSION: THE climate economy Every industry can be part of the solution-or part of the ongoing problem. Retrieved from <https://qz.com/2086933/cop26-what-is-climate-justice-and-why-it-is-important/>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

‘climate justice’ encompasses consideration of climate change’s implications for the notions and practices of justice, especially environmental and social justice. It examines issues of human rights and the development of laws for climate change. Climate justice is concerned with different countries’ contributions to carbon emissions, their vulnerability to climate change, and their ability to bear the costs of mitigation and adaptation.”⁹

Climate justice is associated with adaptation, environmental justice and social justice. Climate justice is also concerned with local impacts and experiences, inequitable vulnerabilities, the importance of community voice, and demands for community sovereignty and functioning. A climate justice approach to adaptation keeps the focus on building adaptive capacity by improving poverty, reducing vulnerability, and developing community-based ideas and support for adaptation policy. These climate dynamics are complicated by the inherent differences between developed and developing countries and raise complex ethical questions.¹⁰

2. Explaining climate justice

It is imperative to postulate that there is inequality arising from the devastating impact of global warming as the vulnerable developing countries are usually more severely impacted by the adverse impacts of a warming climate when compared with developed countries. This is due mainly to lack of/or inadequate technology or the wherewithal of the developing countries to mitigate or adapt to the changing climate, unlike the industrialized rich countries that have all the modern technologies and wherewithal to mitigate and adapt to the impact and effect of global warming. Consequently, these amount to climate injustice and inequality. According to Simmons (2020) “climate change, an inherently social issue, can upset anyone’s daily life in countless ways. But not all climate impacts are created equal or distributed equally. From extreme weather to rising sea levels, the effects of climate change often have disproportionate effects on historically marginalized or underserved communities.”¹¹ Simmons (2020) also observes that “climate justice” is a term, and more than that a movement, that acknowledges climate change can have differing social, economic, public health, and other adverse impacts on underprivileged populations. Advocates for climate justice are striving to have these inequities addressed head-on through long-term mitigation and adaptation strategies.¹²

Injustice and inequality could be used to justify climate justice from the perspective of a moral argument which can be examined from the perspective that there is a need to know that climate injustice being faced by the affected people and communities that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.¹³ It is pertinent to point out that this is an injustice and there is a need to intervene to ensure that it is rectified by introducing and implementing swift and effective climate action to combat the injustice. To this end, aggressive carbon, and noxious gasses emissions reduction to zero as rapidly as possible should be deployed to achieve the desired result of eradicating climate injustice being perpetrated by emissions of carbon dioxide mostly by the rich industrialized countries of the world.¹⁴ As such, there is a need to do everything to transit to a zero-carbon economy as it will make the current generation realize their rights without compromising the right of future generations to economic growth and development in a sustainable way. For instance, the use of renewable energy to power plants should be encouraged worldwide as opposed to fossil fuels causing global climate

⁹ See Alam, A. (2019). Climate justice and its impacts on Bangladesh. Retrieved from <https://eprints.usq.edu.au/36814/>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ See Simmons, D. (2020). What is ‘climate justice’? Retrieved from <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2020/07/what-is-climate-justice>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ See Giovetti, O. (2019). Climate justice: 5 inequities of climate change, explained. Retrieved from <https://www.concernusa.org/story/climate-justice-inequities-climate-change>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

¹⁴ See Stoett, P. & Omrow, D.A. (2021). From Petty Fraud to Global Injustice: Climate Ecoviolence. Retrieved from https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-58561-7_6.

change.¹⁵ To achieve this, the global community has to act in accord and in full solidarity using various tools including climate change principles where countries are encouraged to implement emissions reductions international, national, regional, and local law instruments. This is to ensure a smooth transition to clean and renewable energy. The corporations and industries that are often known for using fossil fuel to power plants for production should be brought on board the zero-carbon economy strategies to have a successful transition to alternative renewable energy.

3. The principles of climate justice

Oxfam's CEO, Danny Sriskandarajah indicated that there are three main pillars of climate justice, namely, the reduction of emissions and getting to "net zero", climate finance, and the concept of "loss and damage." The governments of the world are working to agree upon the goal of the reduction of emissions and getting to "net zero", which is yet unachievable.¹⁶ There is also climate finance which is the essential element of climate justice. This is considered a better and more substantial principle of climate justice. Climate finance featured prominently in the 2015 Paris agreement wherein the rich countries were expected to raise "\$100 billion a year to invest in climate technology and to mitigate the impact of emissions paying for a portion of it proportional to their responsibility".¹⁷ However, this has suffered a major setback because "not only was the goal not reached, but it also represented only a fraction of what the world needs in terms of climate investment of more than \$4 trillion by 2030. Furthermore, most of the money availed to countries to develop climate technologies is given out as loans rather than grants, perpetuating cycles of debt".¹⁸

The third one which needs the overall consensus of the world to be effective is the concept of "loss and damage, however, countries of the world have not agreed to this as nations that caused the damage shouldn't just invest in mitigating the consequences but in outright compensating the countries impacted".¹⁹ The concept of loss and damage seems akin to climate finance which requires payment of cash to vulnerable developing countries. However, "the principle is different, as this would be reparations of sorts".²⁰

Some rich industrialized countries are now acknowledging that the concept of "loss and damage," is an important tool, but no reasonable step or action has been taken in this regard in terms of implementation. Remarkably, it has been observed that should this principle be accepted, "a country like the US would owe as much as \$2 trillion for loss and damages".²¹ This tool seems formidable in delivering justice to those who have been and continue to be subjected to climate injustice. It is hoped that sooner than later, this would be addressed and inculcated into an agreement during one of the COPs.

4. Consequences of climate change

The disruptive nature of climate change is felt all over the world, especially by the vulnerable developing countries, despite that they do not make any significant contribution to climate change. According to Holden

¹⁵ See Elum, Z.A. & Momodu, A.S. (2017). Climate change mitigation and renewable energy for sustainable development in Nigeria: A discourse approach. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 76:72-80.

¹⁶ See Merelli, A. (2021). FROM OUR OBSESSION: THE climate economy Every industry can be part of the solution-or part of the ongoing problem. Retrieved from <https://qz.com/2086933/cop26-what-is-climate-justice-and-why-it-is-important/>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid. See also Cristina Elena Popa (Tache), *Compliance with the legal treatment standards of international investments during the global economic crises. Between yes and no*, in Dalvinder Singh, Cristina Elena Popa Tache, Cătălin-Silviu Săraru (editors), *Looking for New Paths in Comparative and International Law (Contributions to the Conference on Comparative and International Law June 25, 2021, Bucharest - International Conference)*, Adjuris – International Academic Publisher, 2021, pp. 161-171.

¹⁹ Merelli, A. (2021). From our obsession: the climate economy Every industry can be part of the solution-or part of the ongoing problem. Retrieved from <https://qz.com/2086933/cop26-what-is-climate-justice-and-why-it-is-important/>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

(2018),²² “climate change is an uneven process when it comes to the contribution of individual countries and the impact that climate change has, and will have, on individual countries. The developed countries of the world have contributed to a disproportionate amount of harmful anthropogenic emissions over the past couple of centuries and still contribute disproportionately more in per capita terms to global warming.”

More importantly, to seek and deliver justice to the affected people, it is imperative to recognize the fact that the experience, impact, and effect of climate change are being felt differently by different people in the world. Against this backdrop, it is apt to say that the impacts and effects of global warming and climate change will not be borne equally or fairly. No doubt, the poor will continue to be impacted and hardest hit. What needs to be emphasized is that irrespective of socioeconomic status, age, sex, or race, climate change is happening daily to everyone on the planet earth. To this end, no person, country, or community is immune to climate change. Although, it is necessary to reemphasize that mostly, the victims are the poor and vulnerable who are the first to suffer and the worst hit by climate change. It is generally accepted that many of these victims of global warming and climate change have disproportionately low responsibility for causing the emissions responsible for climate change in the first place. They have produced fewer emissions per capita than is the case in the major polluting countries.²³

Essentially, in Africa where many farmers across Africa and mostly women rely on the local weather predictions on when to begin planning to sow seeds, but climate change impacts have made the seasons unpredictable. Of note, local weather forecasts which have been relied upon for ages have become unreliable. Hence making a plan on when to sow and when to harvest has become unpredictable. Undoubtedly, research attests to the fact that these climate changes were caused by the industrial activities of the developed economies which they have used for many centuries such as fossil fuels to power their various industries operations. The carbon and other noxious emissions from these activities are the reasons for climate change and these activities are still ongoing despite change mitigation and adaptations instruments to slow and curtail climate change.²⁴ At this juncture, it is apt to restate that most of the developing countries that did not contribute to climate change are now bearing the brunt hence climate injustice. Also, while developed countries have the technological capacity to continue to adapt to the impact and effect of climate change, the developed world has no such competencies and capacity, hence they are hugely impacted by various devastating consequences such as drought, global warming, and unpredictable seasons on agriculture which is also associated to increase in the prevalence of food insecurity in Africa. Undoubtedly, the climate shocks in most of the developing countries make it difficult to achieve food security and significant development prospects.²⁵

Furthermore, climate impacts can exacerbate inequitable social conditions such that the “low-income communities, people of color, indigenous people, people with disabilities, older or very young people, women—all become more susceptible to risks posed by climate impacts like raging storms and floods, increasing wildfire, severe heat, poor air quality, access to food and water, and disappearing shorelines”. For example, people with disability and physically challenged with severe chronic illnesses may have a harder time living through periods of severe heat or being able to quickly and safely evacuate from major storms or fire.²⁶

Also, incidents of people with limited income that are living in subsidized housing often are located in a flood plain are vulnerable to the manifestation of climate crisis.²⁷ Mostly, their “housing

²² See Holden, W. N. (2018). Typhoons, climate change, and climate injustice in the Philippines. *Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies*, 11(1), 117-139.

²³ See Simmons, D. (2020). What is ‘climate justice’? Retrieved from <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2020/07/what-is-climate-justice>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

²⁴ See Lindsey, R. (2021). Climate change: atmospheric carbon dioxide. Retrieved from <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-atmospheric-carbon-dioxide>.

²⁵ See Ganzi, G. (2015). What is climate justice? Retrieved from <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/08/what-is-climate-justice>.

²⁶ See Simmons, D. (2020). What is ‘climate justice’? Retrieved from <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2020/07/what-is-climate-justice>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

²⁷ See Baker, J.L. (2012). *Climate change, disaster risk, and the urban poor: cities building resilience for a changing world*. The World Bank Publication.

options may also have inadequate insulation, mold problems, or air conditioning to effectively combat severe heat or cope with strong storms. Economically challenged people may also be hard-pressed to afford flood or fire insurance, rebuild homes, or pay for steep medical bills after catastrophe strikes”.²⁸

To reduce the impact of climate change, climate information is imperative as it provides the necessary impetus for planning and evacuation before or during a disaster. Importantly, climate weather forecast is a potent mitigation tool but can only be effective if there are no language barriers which make it difficult for communities to get early information about incoming storms, weather disasters, or wildfires, or to communicate effectively with first responders during an evacuation order. Widespread dissemination through electronic media is also important but most people who live in areas prone to weather disasters are poor with no means to buy TV sets or radio hence left vulnerable to the manifestation of the devastating impact of climate change.

Many people in climate change- vulnerable countries and communities have lost their homes and livelihoods to rising sea levels or drought. Another consequence of the devastating effects of climate change could be prolonged drought and flooding which might affect food supply or distribution, making it harder for people to access affordable and healthy food which can result in food insecurity, malnutrition, hunger, and even death of people, especially children.

5. Climate justice solution intervention: a tool for combating climate inequalities

The essence of climate justice is to ensure that climate burden and benefits are shared equally and equitably.²⁹ The rich developed countries cannot continue to emit carbon dioxide causing climate change while the vulnerable developing countries that have little or no emissions contributions continue to bear the burden of climate change.³⁰ To this end, it is apt to point out that “climate justice is focused on human rights and development and advocates a human-centered approach, protecting the rights of the most vulnerable and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its resolution equitably and fairly. Fundamental principles of climate justice include respect for and protection of human rights, including the right to development; sharing climate change-related benefits and burdens equitably; ensuring that decisions on climate change measures are participatory, transparent, and accountable; gender equality and equity; harnessing the transformative power of education for climate stewardship; and using effective partnerships to secure climate justice” (Factsheet on the EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice 2018). This is what is expected of COPs. The vulnerable countries should be afforded broad protection and emitters should be made to take responsibility under the international legal frameworks.

Emitters should be made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance clean energy while promoting food justice, transportation equity, and civil rights in emergency planning.³¹ These are the ideals that the UN and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) should continue to place greater emphasis on. Considering that climate change is caused by human activities, it would be very difficult to build a just and equitable society on a planet that is being destabilized by human activities.³² To combat this, everyone should actively participate in the transition to a zero-emissions.³³ While this could be a daunting task, the leaders of the world and more particularly, leaders of the leading emitter countries should know that there is only one planet earth.³⁴ They may

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ See Vanderheiden, S. (2011). Climate Justice as Globalized Responsibility: Mitigation, Adaptation and Avoiding Harm to Others. Retrieved from <https://www.elgaronline.com/view/edcoll/9780857931603/9780857931603.00007.xml>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

³⁰ See Davey, T. (2016). Developing Countries Can’t Afford Climate Change. Retrieved from <https://futureoflife.org/2016/08/05/developing-countries-cant-afford-climate-change>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

³¹ See Harlan, S.L. Pellow, D.N. Roberts, J.T. Bell, S.E. Holt, W.G. & Nagel. G. (2015). *Climate change and Society*. Oxford University Press.

³² See IPCC, (2021). Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying-IPCC. Retrieved from <https://www.ipcc.ch › ar6-wg1-20210809-pr>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

³³ See Pye, S. Broad, O. Bataille, C. Brockway, P. Daly, H.E. Freeman, R. Gambhir, A. Geden, O. Rogan, F. Sanghvi, S. Tomei, J. Vorushylo, I. & Watson, J. (2021), Modelling net-zero emissions energy systems requires a change in approach. *Climate Policy*, 21(2): 222-23.

³⁴ See Foley, J.A. (2011). Can we feed the world sustain the planet? *Scientific American*, 305(5): 60-65.

decide to be responsible and intervene to mitigate emissions or be responsible to aggravate global warming.³⁵ But one fact is certain. It is preferable to globally choose the path of sustainable planet earth as opposed to destroying the earth through human activities.³⁶

Therefore, it is now being recognized that climate justice as a social issue should have broad support to ensure environmental justice and equitable economic opportunity in a clean energy future and as such, these are potential for addressing environmental and climate justice which are needed for sustainable clean environment.

6. Conclusion

Climate injustice is being perpetrated mostly by rich developed countries of the world. These countries are responsible for causing global warming and climate change due to their thirst for aggressive industrialization marred with stiff competition amongst them. They are emitting millions of tonnes of greenhouse gases yearly and this is causing global warming and climate change globally. Unfortunately, the poor developing countries who contributed minimally are feeling the brunt of climate change as they do not have the technology or wherewithal to mitigate and adapt to these climate changes, hence they are susceptible to the devastating effects and impacts. Fortunately, there are various NGOs that are advocating for the need to address climate injustice and they have been doing this through organized protests around the world to sensitize leaders of the world that climate injustice and discrimination is a violation of the right to clean environment, development, and sustainability. They were vocal before and during the COP26 and they ensured that the world leaders know that climate change is impacting severely on poor countries. To attain justice, the UN, COPs, and other international organizations must insist on implementing various emission reduction strategies that will lead to zero-emission treaties locally and internationally. Also, climate burden should be shared fairly and equally amongst all countries to combat discrimination. This entails that the rich industrialized countries responsible for massive emissions should honor their treaties obligations by assisting poor countries to mitigate and adapt to climate changes. Sharing the benefits entails that the dividend accrued by the rich developed countries should be shared with the poor developing countries. Lending money to the developing countries as opposed to giving them the money is tantamount to the Paris Agreement where the developed countries promised \$100,000 Billion assistance to the developing countries for mitigation and adaptation. Instead of giving and assistance and aid to fight and tackle climate change impacts and effects, the developed countries are borrowing the developing countries. This is contrary to Paris COP15 agreement.

7. Recommendations

Vulnerable developing countries continue to experience more profound impacts of climate change compared to rich developed countries as it worsens daily having a devastating impact and effect on the health, wellbeing, and livelihood of the affected communities. Similarly, climate change is having severe impacts financial implications on the affected vulnerable developing countries and their communities because they must continue to borrow money from the culprits' emitters to shore-up infrastructure and other adaptation and mitigation needs in their society. This is pure injustice and as such, there is a need for climate actions duly promoted by the UN to ensure that the vulnerable are assisted with all they need to adapt and mitigate. As such, the burden of climate crisis needs to be shared indiscriminately globally.

Climate justice requires that prompt climate actions be taken consistently and sustainably using existing laws national and international laws. To attain justice, everything needs to be done to

³⁵ See Marshall, A.K. (2021). *Sinking Islands: Climate Change Migration, Mitigation, and Cultural Preservation for Pacific Islanders*. Retrieved from <https://www.proquest.com/openview/41289e9ae80d2bb93a74e429800ab2cf/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&di ss=y>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

³⁶ See Cohen, S. (2020). *Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability*. Retrieved from <https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2020/01/27/economic-growth-environmental-sustainability/>, consulted on 1.10.2021.

ensure that vulnerable countries are assisted in adaptation and mitigation measures without discrimination. Currently, there is discrimination because the developing countries are the ones having the technologies and human capital to mitigate and adapt to climate change while developing countries are being left behind.

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