

The Course of Global Climate Governance and the Path of Sustainable Development

Jingyao Yue

The University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Keywords: Climate governance; sustainable development; policy coordination; China

Abstract: With the increasingly severe global climate change and the incidence of extreme weather events are also increasing, climate change has become a major challenge facing human society. From the history of the global response to climate change and achieving sustainable development, climate governance is closely related to the goal of achieving the common prosperity of mankind around the world, and there is a close connection between them. In order to more effectively respond to the climate crisis, the concept of "a community with a shared future for mankind" and SDGs both emphasize the close integration of climate governance with the concept of ecological civilization, which will provide us with more possibilities and achieve greater benefits while achieving synergistic efficiency. By combining SDGs technology and climate governance, not only can promote the modernization of national governance system, but also can make China a responsible power image, making China from a global participants into a leader, it is extremely important to the development of China has realistic significance and far-reaching historical influence. At present, China is facing the deep integration of climate governance and SDGs, which involves both policy coordination and challenges from non-traditional security fields, and needs to the great pressure from all over the world. To this end, it is suggested to take measures, such as promoting cross-departmental cooperation, realizing the co-governance of multiple subjects, and promoting interdisciplinary research.

1. Introduction

Because of the acceleration of global warming. The UN World Environment Conference in 1972 represents a new starting point for the global environment environment in 1990 highlighted the need for global weather management and a more rational approach to political risk. Over the past 30 years, the growth of world weather management has been historic. From the initial chaos to the current effective management, from the disorder in the beginning to the current highly standardized management, this has become a milestone topic, but also the core field of promoting international cooperation. On January 25, 2022, General Secretary delivered a profound speech at the 36th Group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, where he stressed that we should actively participate in and take the lead in implementing global climate governance. At present, in order to achieve this goal, we must accelerate the improvement of the global climate governance system and unswervingly uphold multi-level cooperation under the framework of multilateralism.

2. The basic course and characteristics of global climate governance

In 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment proposed the Action Plan for the Human Environment, which formally stated the importance of global climate governance. Article 70 emphasizes that governments should value activities that may lead to climate change to ensure the sustainable development of global climate change. In February 1979, the first World Climate Congress was held in Geneva, Switzerland, that if carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere maintained the current upward trend, the temperature of the late 20th century could exceed the "measurable" limit, and the warming problem in the mid-21st century could be even worse. In 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development published *Our Common Future*, which aroused enthusiasm around the world, noting that climate change has become a serious global problem that requires the joint efforts of all countries and effective measures to tackle it. To this end, in November 1988, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme jointly established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to assess and respond to climate change in a scientific way. On December 21, 1990, the 45th session of the United Nations General Assembly passed the global climate for future generations resolution 45 / 212, in order to cope with the challenge of global climate change, set up a composed of government negotiating council (INC), and established an effective framework for climate change agreement, this for the global environment agreement and the world climate management laid a solid foundation. In February 1991, discussions on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change began, and after five rounds of heated debate, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was ratified on May 9. On June 11, the United Nations Conference on Environmental Protection and Development was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the Convention was signed by countries around the world and began implementation in March 1994. The Convention has laid a solid legal foundation for all parts of the world to face climate change, become an important pillar of climate governance in the world, and ushered in a new and dynamic era. In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol signed under the framework of the Convention and the Paris Agreement signed in 2015 were considered as the two major landmark achievements in global climate governance. Judging from the development of this period, we have made remarkable progress, and we have formed some representative characteristics^[1].

2.1 The goals of global climate governance are constantly becoming clear and clear

With the efforts of governments and the public around the world, Article 2 of the Convention clearly states the purpose of global climate governance: to take effective measures to reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to a level of harm that can prevent human activities. Effective measures should be taken to enable ecosystems to better adapt to climate change, thus effectively preventing the destruction of food security and providing strong support for the long-term healthy economic development. Article 2 of the Paris Agreement stresses that effective measures should be taken to keep the global average temperature rise within 2 °C below pre-industrial levels, and efforts to limit the temperature rise within 1.5°C to reduce the risks and impacts of climate change. Both "specific goals" and "2C for 1.5 °C" are important parts of the Paris Agreement, but the "specific targets" focus on using temperature rise as a measure to combat climate change, which can more accurately reflect the government's actions and provide reliable data support for the government's actions. The "Guarantee 2C competition for 1.5 °C" sets specific quantitative indicators for the government's actions, which can better encourage the government to implement its actions according to the requirements of the agreement^[2].

2.2 The principles of global climate governance are constantly evolving and being adjusted

The Convention aims to ensure the balance of risk prevention, fairness and justice, "common but differentiated responsibilities" and the capabilities of countries as the basic principles of international climate cooperation. In addition, the Convention aims to ensure the balance of risk prevention, fairness and justice, the principles of "common but differentiated responsibilities" and the capacity of countries as the basic norms for international climate cooperation. Moreover, the Convention makes it clear that countries must take the lead in taking appropriate measures to address climate change and the consequences of its effects. It is necessary to take into account all countries in the world, especially in some developed countries that are more vulnerable to the adverse environmental impact of climate change, and also fully consider their own specific needs and special circumstances, so as to maximize the common interests of all parties. The Paris agreement to promote more in-depth and efficient consultation, including "common but different responsibility" and "according to the different conditions" put forward some new principles, including "on the basis of different national conditions at the same time" emphasized the importance of fairness, responsibility and their respective ability, in order to realize the common interests of both sides. With the strengthening of global climate governance, the principle of sustainable development has also received more and more attention. The UN2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development regards tackling climate change as the 13th important goal, which has also become a major challenge facing the world today.

2.3 Major changes have taken place in the emission reduction model in global climate governance

2005 Kyoto protocol came into effect on February 16, on the basis of "top-down", take emissions target allocation model, but with the global climate change, countries in the role of climate governance and significant changes have taken place, make the conflict of interests of all parties become more complex, "top-down" model cannot meet the needs of today's era. At the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, the signing of the Paris Agreement marked a change in the allocation model of emission reduction targets. Based on the "bottom-up" approach, countries will assume their own responsibility for reducing emissions and jointly address the challenge of climate change. Through this transformation, on the basis of respecting the rights and interests of all participants, we can maximize their enthusiasm for participation in global climate governance, and encourage more countries to take action to formulate and implement effective policy measures, so as to inject new vitality and impetus into the reform of the global climate governance system. Fifth, science and technology play a crucial role in global climate governance, and the increasingly close interaction between them provides a strong support for sustainable development. Since 1990, the IPCC has continuously explored the possibility of global climate change, and published six powerful climate change assessment reports, providing strong guidance for the global climate negotiations. In addition, IPCC research also provides strong support for the innovation and development of global green and low-carbon technologies, thus greatly reducing the cost of emission reduction and promoting the deepening of global climate negotiations. China has been actively engaged in international climate negotiations and continuously promoted the development of green and low-carbon technologies. In recent years, it has made remarkable achievements in R & D of renewable energy technology and related equipment, which is a model^[3].

3. The current global climate governance has both challenges and opportunities

With the development of The Times, the world today is at an unprecedented and important turning point, with both traditional security threats and emerging non-traditional security threats, which have

made the uncertainty and instability of international relations grow rapidly. Therefore, global climate governance is also in a state of diversity, which is full of both challenges and opportunities. At present, the biggest challenges facing the world in addressing climate change are some.

3.1 The risk of climate change is increasing, endangering human survival

With the unremitting efforts of the international community, the implementation of "Global warming 2.7C at the end of this century" has significantly improved the global climate situation, but it still cannot fully meet the temperature control targets stipulated in the Paris Agreement. According to the 2021 Emission Gap Report 2021, to meet the Paris Agreement expectations in the late 2000s, global temperatures would have to fall below 1.5 °C by 2030. According to the latest report from the International Energy Agency (IEA), global carbon dioxide emissions surged to 36.3 billion tons in 2021. In addition, the IPCC sixth assessment reminds us that the current global average surface temperature is 1 higher than before the Industrial Revolution.1 °C, the impact of this climate change is expanding and may have serious consequences around the world and may even lead to a catastrophic climate crisis.

3.2 Defects still exist

With the acceleration of global economic integration, the pattern of international climate negotiations is also constantly changing. From the initial two camps of developed countries and developing countries, to the two camps of the north and South, as well as the diversified negotiation groups based on different interests, a complex and diversified negotiation environment has been formed. In developed countries, the US-led umbrella group and the EU are two major categories, in developed countries, SIcountries, similar developing countries, African countries, oil exporting countries and the north and south are all important components, which together constitute a diversified international community structure and provide a strong support for the world economic development. Paris climate conference, "ambitious alliance" and "common but differentiated responsibility" proposed the emission reduction policy won universal affirmation, as a result, because the developed countries did not fulfill their commitments, did not provide effective financial support, and technical support, many developing countries cannot make full use of the support, to achieve effective emissions^[4].

3.3 Traditional and non-traditional security issues have slowed the process of global climate governance

Since February 2022, the escalation of the conflict on the global economy and climate change is huge, it not only weakened the international attention to climate change, also exacerbated the trust deficit between big countries, and makes the global climate governance is facing greater challenges, may even trigger a new round of global food, energy and economic crisis. With rising protectionism, unilateralism and the Cold War mentality, the international community's efforts to address climate change have been severely weakened. In recent years, some Western countries, especially the United States, have abused "small circles" and "small groups", abused the concept of national security, and instigated ideological confrontation and geopolitical confrontation, which has brought a great separatist threat to the world and seriously affected the international environment for global climate governance. Despite the huge challenges facing global climate governance, we cannot ignore the positive impacts, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving the atmospheric environment, improving water quality, reducing pollution and so on.

3.3.1 The goal of carbon neutrality has spawned a new wave of green and low-carbon development in the world

In April 2022, 130 countries and regions around the world proposed long-term emission reduction targets for carbon neutrality, highlighting that green and low-carbon development has become the mainstream of today's world. The Glasgow Climate Conference adopted the Glasgow Climate Convention, successfully resolved the remaining problems in the Paris Agreement, and adopted the global carbon market framework, promising to gradually reduce the use of coal.

3.3.2 Global competition around green and low-carbon technologies and industrial development is conducive to promoting global climate governance

With the intensification of global climate change, China, the United States and Europe and other countries have given priority to tackling climate change in the first place of diplomacy and national security. They are trying to improve their climate and environmental governance capabilities, formulate international climate order rules, and enhance global leadership, in order to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality. This competition not only promotes the dialogue and cooperation between the North and the South, but also provides a strong support for the realization of the overall goal of global climate governance.

3.3.3 Fighting climate change is not only the best entry point for the greatest interests of all countries and cooperation, but also the main direction of cooperation between major countries

As challenges in global governance, trust, peace and development grow, global cooperation has encountered unprecedented difficulties, making the field for building a global climate cooperation system very narrow. However, the complexity, persistence and systematization of climate change have made its development an important issue of all parties today, which is the key to achieving its overall goal. Relations have been strained by Joe Biden's emergence as president and the Trump administration's ongoing measures to contain the US. However, as the two sides have shown strong cooperation intention in addressing climate change, this issue has gradually become an important part of the pragmatic exchanges between China and the United States and provides the possibility for both sides to jointly tackle climate change.

4. A multi-pronged approach will contribute to the sustainable development of global climate governance

At present, global climate governance is at a historical crossroads. What future is the sustainable development of mankind. The international community should respond to strengthen cooperation and jointly promote global climate governance.

4.1 We will unswervingly defend multilateralism and oppose unilateralism

Climate change has become the most important challenge facing the world today, so we should take a positive approach to promote global climate governance and unswervingly practice true multilateralism. The core of this multilateralism is to view the world with an open mind, closely align global interests with national interests, abandon selfishness and prejudice over personal interests, and take positive actions to jointly address climate change under the commitments outlined in the Paris Agreement. In order to ensure the fairness and transparency of international climate negotiations, we should adhere to the principle of open inclusive, respect the rights and interests of all stakeholders, and firmly opposed to "circle" exclusive terms and the ideology of climate change, and violation of

the basic principles of the Paris agreement unilateral carbon border adjustment measures of unilateralism^[5].

4.2 We will actively promote the reform and improvement of the global climate governance system

History shows that the current world climate governance system is feasible, but it still needs in-depth reform and development. Therefore, we need to determine the ways and standards of change, namely to build a fair, reasonable and win-win world climate governance framework; Meanwhile, we should maintain the central role of the United Nations, actively encourage the participation of other global institutions, and adhere to the concept of "common but differentiated responsibilities" to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of world environmental management. And developed countries should also support the economic development of developing countries, and actively promote the world carbon emissions decline, accelerate the pace of carbon neutral, and in 2022 years ago to developing countries with \$100 billion funding commitment, in order to promote the friendly relations between the two sides, and provide more support for the development of both sides.

4.3 We will effectively play the role of sub-state actors and non-state actors, and promote continuous innovation in green and low-carbon technologies

State actors, such as cities, NGOs, and businesses, play a vital role in global climate governance. They can not only help people raise environmental awareness, but also help collect information, monitor policies, implement projects, promote the development of low-carbon technologies, and contribute to the building of global networks. To better respond to climate change, the international community must take effective measures in order to make full use of these technologies. At the same time, we must also strengthen scientific and technological innovation to promote the development of green and low-carbon technologies. If these technologies can be widely adopted, we will expect to significantly improve the global capacity to mitigate climate change.

5. Conclusions

In short, China is becoming an important pillar of the international community on climate change, is committed to promoting the establishment of global ecological civilization, and on this basis, constantly explore and improve the international climate negotiation mechanism, efforts to the Paris agreement and other international climate agreement signed, in order to achieve the goal of human destiny community, and on this basis, put forward the solution with Chinese characteristics, and plan of action to promote the sustainable development of the world.

References

- [1] Li Jiantao. *The "Chinese Wisdom" of global climate governance* [J]. *Cooperative Economy and Science and Technology*, 2023 (06): 33-35.
- [2] Zhao Yongxin. *To provide a scientific reference for global ecological governance* [N]. *People's Daily*, 2023-01-18 (014).
- [3] Yu Hongyuan. *China's ecological civilization leadership construction—Based on the analysis of the global environmental governance system threshold* [J]. *International Outlook*, 2023, 15 (01): 24-41 + 153-154.
- [4] Jiang Siyu. *Global climate governance has entered the era of "implementation"* [J]. *Knowledge of the World*, 2023 (01): 59-61.
- [5] Li Qiang. *Building a community of human and natural life: ideas, principles and paths* [J]. *Contemporary China and the world*, 2022 (04): 66-74 + 126.