

Implementing further institutions and mechanisms to ensure climate justice while preventing the unequal distribution of costs in relation to emissions by country

Historical Introduction:

Climate Change is accelerated by the emission of greenhouse gases such as CO₂, Nitrous Oxide and Methane. CO₂ is emitted when fossil fuels like, for instance, coal or petrol for heat production, industrial Purposes or fuelling vehicles are burnt. However, lesser-known gases like Methane are emitted in the farming industry, for example by cows.

In the late 18th century, the invention of the steam engine by James Watt in Britain marked the beginning of the Industrialization in Great Britain, from where it quickly spread to western Europe and later the United States.

Factories, railways, and steamships relied heavily on coal, leading to the first major rise in carbon emissions. In the late 19th and early 20th century, the invention of the automobile and the mass use of oil further accelerated industrial growth and fossil fuel consumption.

Together, these developments allowed Western nations to become economically powerful which is still clearly visible today. They did, however, also create a bulk of historical CO₂ emissions that still drive global warming today.

Bloc positions:

Now, in the face of global warming and its growing effects, different countries have different views upon CO₂ Emission and are divided into **five blocs**.

The first bloc consists of the **developed countries**, which are the fully industrialized nations such as Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden, UK and the USA. These countries have industrialized early and quickly, making them historically high CO₂ emitters but also economically powerful and generally wealthy. They, while supportive of climate action, reject financial responsibility and prefer voluntary pledges to avoid legal obligations and maintain flexibility.

The **Developing Countries (Also G77)** make up the second bloc. It's predominantly inhabited by countries from the global south. For instance, Bangladesh, Egypt and Kenya (Mainly the global south). These countries, while historically having rather little

involvement in the industrial greenhouse gas emission, are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and lack the financial and social resources to combat them. The developing countries demand climate justice and strong financial support from the developed countries and the **emerging economies**.

The emerging economies are the third block. They consist of nations like Argentina, China, Russia, South Africa, Turkey and UAE. The emerging economies, are the highest greenhouse gas emitters today and striving to become developed countries, requiring strong industry and thus, high emission. The third bloc's countries often claim "developing" status (and are often part of the G77) but face high pressure to contribute to climate relief programs. Their countries, while improving, still have millions of citizens living in poverty.

The fourth bloc consist of the **Smaller Island States**. These countries include Fiji, Tuvalu or the Maldives and are the ones suffering the most from the effects of climate change. With rising sea levels, some are losing major land mass and fear for their existence. The smaller island states are the ones pushing the hardest for climate action to be taken as soon as possible and are often the moral leaders in negotiations.

Finally, the **NGOs** are counted as the fifth block. They are not voting members of the UN, but they shape the debates through lobbying and participating in debates. Examples for those NGOs are Greenpeace and the Human Rights Watch (HRW). They argue that current institutions are failing because funds are too small, too slow, and too political. NGOs usually push for mandatory contributions by the donor countries and also take the moral lead in debates.

Climate Justice

The climate justice conflict deals with the responsibilities of high carbon gas emitters to the ones suffering. Mainly, it's about distributing the resources, provided by funds fairly and enhancing the different climate action and relief funds in order to make them just. The developing countries and Island States claim that the Developed Countries and Emerging Economies are required to provide them with the resources, required to combat the effects of climate change on their countries as they are the ones responsible for most of them. There is a dire need for the developing countries to receive support mechanisms in order to combat climate change, while also ensuring that the aids are distributed in a fair manner not only between countries, but also within the countries with respect to the poorest and marginalized groups.

Prior efforts and institutions

While, there are already institutions in place, they do not suffice, are argued to not be just but in need of enhancements to actually provide the nations in need with the required resources.

One of those established institutions is the **UNFCCC** (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). It is the main UN treaty, setting up international climate cooperation and allowing for climate negotiations (all COP conferences, including the Paris Agreement, happen under the UNFCCC). This framework might however not be as effective as it should, since countries can just leave agreements such as the Paris Climate Agreement. The recent withdrawal of the USA from the Paris Agreement has also left a lot of uncertainty and made it a lot less effective, since countries (especially emerging economies) don't feel, it is just for them to follow the agreement any longer, if one of the highest contributors to Climate Change isn't part of the agreement.

Additionally, the **GCF** (Global Climate Fund) from 2010 is designed to transfer money from developed countries, to developing countries in order to support mitigation (for example renewable energy infrastructure) and Adaption (helping countries prepare for impacts with flood defences or drought resistant farming).

While developed countries had pledged to mobilize \$100 billion dollars per year by 2020 (which was not fulfilled), the GCF is not as effective as could be, since contributions are voluntary.

The **Adaptation Fund** has committed about 1.25 billion for climate change adaptation and resilience projects and programmes since its establishment in 2010. Its primarily *funded from a 2% share of proceeds of the Certified Emission Reductions issued by Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism*¹. While the adaption fund has worked well so far, the available financial resources are no longer enough in the face of increasing effects of global warming.

The **Loss and Damage Fund** from 2022, is a very recent mechanism, designed to compensate countries for losses and damages caused by global warming. The fund is, however, not yet fully operational as the UN still debate who should contribute. While developed countries are expected to contribute, debates over whether emerging economies should donate as well are being held. Also, the Loss and Damage Fund is yet to incorporate actual binding contribution systems in order to establish a money flow.

Deadlocks and disagreements

But time is running. While the impacts of global warming are becoming increasingly visible and natural disasters are rapidly growing in number, the UN still suffer deadlock in their debates.

First and foremost, member states can't seem to agree on the question of responsibility. While most agree, that the developed countries must be the ones compensating for, and helping to prevent the impacts of climate change, it is yet unclear what role the emerging economies play. The developing countries, while acknowledging their historically high carbon emission, believe that emerging economies like China, Brazil or India, being the highest emitters today, are also responsible and thus required to contribute resources as well.

Another issue is the debate over voluntary or mandatory contributions. The developed countries, which are the ones that the contributions will come from, push for voluntary contributions and pledges. However, as seen in the GCF, this may not be the most effective system as the countries will stall and often not meet their promises. The Developing Countries and especially the Small Island States, fearing for their existence demand for mandatory contributions to be established.

The aspect of transparency is also problematic. As previously established, the donor states often don't actually deliver on their promises. Also, already existing donations are often repackaged and now marketed as climate contributions. On the other side, however, the donor states demand transparency on the Developing Countries' side and clear plans, explaining, how their resources will be utilized.

Many of the pledges from developed countries are actually loans, not grants. This puts the poorer countries, that feel the effects of climate change the most, even deeper into debt.

Resolution guidance

The resolution(s) debated in GA4 should come to a conclusion by determining:

1. Who pays and how much?
2. Whether contributions should be binding or voluntary?
3. How contributions and promises will be enforced?
4. Whether the existing mechanisms need reform or whether new mechanisms should be introduced. If so, what should these new mechanisms look like?
5. How climate justice can be achieved with regards to the different blocs.
6. How accountability and transparency can be achieved in funding?
7. How the resources can be distributed fair between but also within countries and different groups?

Bibliography:

- *About small island developing states* | Office of the High Representative for the least developed Countries, landlocked Developing Countries and small island developing states. (n.d.). <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/about-small-island-developing-states>
- *Causes of climate change* | US EPA. (2025, August 25). US EPA. <https://www.epa.gov/climatechange-science/causes-climate-change>
- *Climate justice: who is responsible for the climate crisis?* (n.d.). Robert Bosch Stiftung. <https://www.bosch-stiftung.de/en/stories/justice/climate-justice-responsible-crisis>
- *Adaptation Fund*. (n.d.). World Bank. <https://fiftrustee.worldbank.org/en/about/unit/dfi/fiftrustee/fund-detail/adapt>
- *About the Adaptation Fund*. (n.d.). adaption-fund.com. Retrieved September 14, 2025, from <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/about/>
- *Countries deadlocked on “loss and damage” fund as UN climate summit nears*. (2023, October 23). reuters.com. Retrieved September 14, 2025, from <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/countries-deadlocked-loss-damage-fund-un-climate-summit-nears-2023-10-23/>
- Du Trésor, D. G. (2023, June 15). *Emerging economies and climate change*. Direction Générale Du Trésor. <https://www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr/Articles/2023/06/15/emerging-economies-and-climate-change>
- *Introduction to Climate Finance*. (n.d.). unfccc.int. Retrieved September 14, 2015, from <https://unfccc.int/topics/introduction-to-climate-finance>
- Legal Response International. (n.d.). *Creation of a UNFCCC negotiation bloc*. <https://legalresponse.org/legaladvice/creation-of-a-unfccc-negotiation-bloc/>
- Ritchie, H., Rosado, P., & Roser, M. (2023, December 5). *CO₂ and Greenhouse Gas Emissions*. Our World in Data. <https://ourworldindata.org/co2-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions>
- Shukla, N. (2025, August 14). *Explainer: What is the UNFCCC?* Earth.Org. <https://earth.org/explainer-what-is-the-unfccc/>
- Team, I. (2024, June 26). *Industrialization: What it is, examples, and impacts on society*. Investopedia. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/i/industrialization.asp>
- Unctad. (n.d.). *Classifications* | UNCTAD Data Hub. United Nations. <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Classifications.html>