

TOPIC: More obligations for high-income countries to combat climate change

In 2019, natural disasters affected the lives of 95 million people, causing the forced migration of nearly 25 million people and around \$150 billion in damage. Every country should contribute to combating climate change. The economic and industrial development of high-income countries has not only challenged weaker economies, but has also caused environmental and ecological damage. How can these consequences be mitigated? Is it fair to call for equitable responsibility, or do high-income countries have greater obligations on this issue?

PRO THESIS: "High-income countries have more obligations in combating climate change."

AGAINST THESIS: "High-income countries do not have more obligations in the fight against climate change."

Current situation and context.

In 2015, the United Nations Climate Change Conference reached a historic agreement with the goal of keeping global warming below 2°C and significantly reducing CO2 emissions by 2050. Since then, many governments and organisations have sought innovative solutions to counter and mitigate the effects of the ongoing climate crisis. The climate crisis is a direct consequence of human activity and, in particular, the development patterns of high-income countries. For example, the activities of 100 mining companies alone have been responsible for about 70% of greenhouse gas emissions since 1998. In many cases, countries facing the most severe consequences of the climate crisis are extremely vulnerable due to a lack of financial resources or because of past political and humanitarian crises. Some argue that there is a need to increase the economic participation of high-income countries in adaptation and mitigation policies funds. Others believe that the ecological problem can only be overcome through global cooperation, including all states, to create sustainable and long-term development models.

Pro arguments:

- Historical and current responsibilities must be taken into account when talking about combating climate change.
- High-income countries have most of the polluting industries, so it is up to them to take measures that also benefit middle- and low-income countries.

Against arguments:

- We live in a globalized world and the climate issue has to concern every country, without exception, because everyone will benefit.
- Emerging countries such as China, Brazil or India must contribute financially to achieving the Paris Agreement objectives, even if they have recently become major polluters.

Further Insights:

- UNFCCC: [The Paris Agreement](#)
- [IPCC](#)
- UNFCCC: [Climate Finance](#)
- The Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research: [Climate Change](#)
- UNHCR: [The 1951 Refugee Convention](#)