

Green Politics: A New Era for Environmental Policy

Hichem Kadri

International Islamic University Malaysia –IIUM, (Malaysia)

hichem.kadri@live.iium.edu.my / hichemphd@gmail.com

received: 21/11/2023

Accepted: 29/12/2023

Published: 31/12/2023

Abstract:

This article explores the emergence of green politics and its implications for environmental policy. It focuses on the intersection of climate and geopolitics, particularly in the engagement between the U.S. and China. The article highlights the role of climate in shaping diplomatic relationships and the transformative shift in global priorities. It discusses the integration of climate in trade policy, decarbonization efforts, and the impact on climate-related technology exports. The article emphasizes the importance of recognizing climate geopolitics in environmental policy and offers insights into addressing cooperation challenges. It advocates for a comprehensive understanding of the foundations and conditions for the success of green industrial policy, which can play a strategic role in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable global transformation.

Keywords:

Green politics; environmental policy; climate geopolitics; cooperation; transformative shift.

1. INTRODUCTION

Green politics has taken on a renewed significance in the new era of climate geopolitics. With the world facing multiple environmental challenges, climate issues have emerged as a central and crucial aspect of international politics. The global community is now witnessing a transformative shift where climate considerations are influencing geopolitical dynamics and decision-making processes. Climate geopolitics has moved beyond the realm of experts and policymakers, capturing the attention of global leaders and stakeholders from diverse sectors.

As shown by the discussions at Davos 2023, climate geopolitics is becoming a top-tier geopolitical issue that demands urgent attention and collaborative action. The fragmented world requires leaders to come together and collaborate to address the pressing environmental and climate crises.¹ This new era in green politics calls for comprehensive and collective efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change and adopt sustainable practices for a greener future.

The intersection of climate and geopolitics in international politics has ushered in a profound transformation. Climate considerations are no longer isolated from geopolitical decisions; instead, they play a vital role in shaping diplomatic relationships and international cooperation. As the global shift towards low-carbon energy and sustainable practices gains momentum, climate issues have become integral to trade policies and international relations.

Leaders and policymakers worldwide increasingly recognize the intertwined nature of climate and geopolitics. The engagement between U.S. climate envoy John Kerry and China is a testament to the growing importance of climate matters in international diplomacy. The emergence of climate geopolitics highlights the need for a comprehensive understanding of its impact on global dynamics and the imperative of addressing climate change in a collaborative and multilateral manner.

The new era of climate geopolitics has far-reaching implications for businesses and global supply chains. As climate issues take center stage in international politics, businesses are closely monitoring the evolving geopolitical landscape. The global focus on low-carbon energy and sustainable practices has the potential to disrupt existing global supply chains and impact international trade.

Businesses operating in a climate-sensitive world must adapt to the changing geopolitical dynamics and incorporate climate considerations into their strategies. The intersection of climate and geopolitics presents both challenges and opportunities for businesses to embrace sustainable practices and align with the growing global demand for environmentally responsible products and services.

In this era of climate geopolitics, businesses need to be agile and initiative-taking in navigating the complexities of the changing geopolitical landscape. Emphasizing sustainability and environmental responsibility can not only ensure resilience in the face of geopolitical shifts but also contribute to global efforts to address climate change and build a more sustainable future.

2. U.S. Climate Envoy's Engagement with China

2.1 Discussion of climate issues amid tense relations

The United States Climate Envoy's engagement with China in 2023 has been a topic of discussion amid the two countries' tense relations. Climate change has become increasingly important on the global stage, and the two nations have a responsibility to work together to address this pressing issue.

The recent diplomatic engagement between the United States Climate Envoy, John Kerry, and his Chinese counterparts has sparked considerable interest within the international political landscape. The discussions, which revolved around the urgent matter of climate change, underscore the intricate interplay of geopolitical dynamics and environmental policy. With a specific focus on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and advancing the adoption of renewable energy sources, these deliberations represent a strategic maneuver in the broader geopolitical chessboard. The positive momentum generated by this exchange serves as a testament to the delicate balance of cooperation and competition between the two global powers. It also highlights the imperative for sustained collaboration in addressing the shared environmental challenges, despite the complex web of political tensions. This diplomatic interplay underscores the pivotal role of both the United States and China in shaping the global discourse on climate change, underscoring the intricate intersection of environmental policy and international relations.

The United States and China, as the world's two largest economies and energy consumers, hold pivotal roles in the global response to climate change. Their collaboration is paramount in addressing this pressing issue, given that they collectively oversee nearly half of the world's carbon emissions. The decisions and actions of these nations will significantly influence the overall success or failure of international endeavors to combat climate change.

While the recent discussions between the Climate Envoy and his Chinese counterparts mark a notable advancement, there remains a substantial amount of groundwork yet to be covered. Both countries must take tangible measures to curtail their emissions and transition towards sustainable, renewable energy sources. This will necessitate substantial investments in clean energy technologies and

infrastructure, alongside the implementation of policies that incentivize the adoption of renewable energy.

In addition to emission reduction efforts, the United States and China have the responsibility to collaborate on addressing the multifaceted impacts of climate change. This includes adapting to shifting weather patterns and rising sea levels, as well as extending support to developing nations in their endeavors to combat climate change. The complexity of these tasks underscores the critical need for sustained, cooperative efforts between these global powers in navigating the challenges posed by climate change on a global scale.

The historical collaboration between the United States and China on environmental matters, exemplified by their participation in the landmark Paris Agreement on climate change, underscores the enduring significance of their joint efforts in addressing global environmental challenges. Despite the recent strains in their bilateral relations, the imperative for continued cooperation on this critical issue remains paramount. The magnitude of the stakes involved renders it impractical for either nation to pursue unilateral action.

The recent deliberations between the United States Climate Envoy and his Chinese counterparts represent a pivotal advancement in the global response to climate change. Both nations persist in their collaborative endeavors to curtail emissions, transition to sustainable energy sources, and confront the repercussions of climate change. The international spotlight on these developments underscores the far-reaching implications of the outcomes, with the success or failure of these joint efforts bearing substantial consequences for the future of our planet. The intricate interplay of geopolitical dynamics and environmental policy underscores the pivotal role of these global powers in shaping the trajectory of global environmental sustainability.

2.2 Key Interests and Stakeholders Involved

The United States and China are the two largest greenhouse gas emitters in the world, accounting for over 40% of global emissions. Their cooperation is essential in addressing the urgent threat of climate change.² The appointment of John Kerry as U.S. Climate Envoy in the Biden administration signaled a renewed commitment to international climate action and a focus on engaging with China. In this article, we explore the key interests and stakeholders involved in the U.S. Climate Envoy's engagement with China.

The U.S. Climate Envoy's engagement with China is driven by several key interests, including:

1. Reducing global greenhouse gas emissions: Reducing global greenhouse gas emissions emerges as a paramount aim for both the United States and China, reflecting a shared commitment to mitigating the impacts of climate change. Recognizing the urgency of this endeavor, the two nations are compelled to cooperate and coordinate efforts across various sectors, encompassing energy, transportation, agriculture, and industry. In the energy domain, collaboration involves transitioning to cleaner and more sustainable sources, coupled with advancements in energy efficiency technologies.³ Joint initiatives in transportation emphasize the development of electric vehicles, investment in public transportation infrastructure, and exploration of alternative fuels. Addressing emissions in agriculture requires the adoption of sustainable farming practices and concerted efforts to combat deforestation, while the industrial sector causes the implementation of cleaner technologies and sustainable production practices. The collaborative strategies within these sectors underscore the significance of diplomatic negotiations, technological exchanges, and the amalgamation of resources and expertise. By setting an example through their cooperative endeavors, the U.S. and China can catalyze global efforts toward comprehensive and effective climate action, fostering a sustainable and resilient future for the planet.

2. Advancing clean energy: The United States and China have made a joint commitment to shift towards a low-carbon economy and promote the adoption of renewable energy sources. By collaborating on clean energy technologies, such as solar and wind power, both nations can expedite the transition process and effectively decrease greenhouse gas emissions.⁴ This cooperation not only contributes to mitigating climate change but also paves the way for a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future.

3. Strengthening global climate governance: The United States and China share a common interest in bolstering global climate governance and ensuring the effectiveness of international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, in addressing the urgent challenges of climate change. Recognizing the global nature of this issue, both countries understand the importance of working together to strengthen the implementation and enforcement of these agreements. By collaborating on climate governance, the U.S. and China can enhance transparency, accountability, and cooperation among nations, leading to more impactful and comprehensive actions to combat climate change on a global scale. This shared commitment to effective climate governance sets a positive example for other nations and reinforces the importance of international cooperation in tackling this critical issue.⁵

4. Promoting economic growth: The U.S. and China both see opportunities for economic growth in the transition to a low-carbon economy. Cooperation on clean energy technologies can create new jobs and industries while reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

The involvement of the U.S. Climate Envoy with China includes various stakeholders, such as:

1. Government agencies: The U.S. Climate Envoy plays a crucial role in coordinating climate policy and negotiations with China. To achieve this, the U.S. Climate Envoy works closely with various government agencies, such as the Department of State, Department of Energy, and Environmental Protection Agency, to ensure a coordinated approach towards climate action.⁶ This collaboration enables the U.S. to leverage the expertise and resources of these agencies, leading to more effective climate negotiations and policies. By working together, the U.S. and China can set an example for other nations to follow and foster a sustainable future for the planet.

2. Business leaders: The U.S. Climate Envoy actively engages with business leaders from both the United States and China to foster clean energy investments and partnerships. This collaborative effort extends to companies operating in various sectors, including energy, transportation, and technology. By promoting dialogue and cooperation between these business leaders, the U.S. Climate Envoy aims to accelerate the transition to clean energy solutions, drive innovation, and create opportunities for sustainable economic growth.⁷ Through these partnerships, both countries can unlock the potential for increased investment in clean energy technologies, leading to a greener and more resilient future.

3. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs): NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) play a crucial role in advocating for climate action and holding governments accountable for their commitments. Recognizing the significance of civil society perspectives, the U.S. Climate Envoy actively engages with NGOs from both the United States and China. By involving these organizations in climate negotiations, the U.S. Climate Envoy ensures that a diverse range of voices and expertise are considered.⁸ This engagement not only enhances transparency and inclusivity but also strengthens the effectiveness of climate policies and actions. Through collaboration with NGOs, the U.S. and China can work towards more comprehensive and impactful climate solutions, fostering a sustainable future for all.

4. Academia: The U.S. Climate Envoy recognizes the importance of academic institutions in advancing clean energy technologies and promoting effective climate

policy.⁹ As such, the U.S. Climate Envoy engages with academic institutions from both the United States and China to foster research and development of clean energy technologies and to share best practices for climate policy. Through this collaboration, academic institutions can contribute to the development of innovative solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency, and mitigate climate change impacts. Additionally, sharing best practices for climate policy can help inform and improve policies in both countries, leading to more effective climate action. By engaging with academic institutions, the U.S. Climate Envoy aims to leverage their expertise and resources to accelerate the transition to a sustainable future.

Challenges and Opportunities

The U.S. Climate Envoy's efforts to engage with China encounter various obstacles, which include:

1. Political tensions: The relationship between the United States and China has been strained in recent years because of a range of issues, including trade disputes, human rights concerns, and geopolitical tensions. These political tensions could complicate efforts to cooperate on climate action, as they may hinder the ability of both countries to work together towards common goals.^{10 11} For instance, disagreements over trade policies or human rights issues could lead to a breakdown in communication and trust, making it more difficult to find common ground on climate-related issues. Geopolitical tensions could cause one or both countries to prioritize other objectives over climate action, leading to a lack of commitment or cooperation. Despite these challenges, the U.S. and China must continue to engage in constructive dialogue and overcome their differences to address the urgent challenges posed by climate change.

2. Different priorities: While the United States and China share a common interest in addressing climate change, they may have different priorities and approaches to achieving this goal.¹² For example, the U.S. may prioritize reducing emissions from the transportation sector, while China may focus on reducing emissions from heavy industry. Additionally, the U.S. may emphasize technological innovation and market-based solutions, while China may prioritize government-led initiatives and investment in infrastructure. These differences in priorities and approaches could create challenges for cooperation on climate action. However, they also present opportunities for both countries to learn from each other and develop more comprehensive and effective strategies to address climate change.^{13 14}

3. Domestic politics: Both the United States and China face domestic political pressures that could impact their ability to cooperate on climate action. In the U.S., political polarization, and a lack of consensus on climate policy could limit the Biden administration's ability to take bold action on climate change.¹⁵

¹⁶Additionally, some U.S. politicians may prioritize other policy objectives over climate action, such as economic growth or national security. In China, domestic pressures may include concerns about economic development, energy security, and social stability. These pressures could lead to a focus on short-term interests rather than long-term sustainability goals. Despite these challenges, both countries need to prioritize climate action and work together towards a more sustainable future.

Despite these challenges, there are also opportunities for the U.S. Climate Envoy's engagement with China:

1. Renewed commitment: The Biden administration, under President Joe Biden, has demonstrated a renewed commitment to international climate action. This commitment signifies a shift in the United States' stance towards climate change and presents an opportunity for enhanced cooperation with China. By prioritizing climate change as a key policy objective, the Biden administration aims to rejoin global efforts to combat climate change, such as the Paris Agreement. This renewed commitment opens the door for increased dialogue and collaboration between the U.S. and China on climate-related issues.¹⁷ It creates a more favorable environment for both countries to work together towards common goals, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting clean energy technologies, and addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change. Through this partnership, the U.S. and China can play a crucial role in driving global climate action and fostering a more sustainable future for all.

2. Shared interests: The United States and China share a common interest in tackling the urgent issue of climate change and driving economic growth by investing in clean energy. Both countries recognize the importance of transitioning towards sustainable and renewable energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change.¹⁸ By aligning their efforts, the U.S. and China can leverage their resources and expertise to develop innovative technologies, foster international cooperation, and create opportunities for clean energy investments. This shared interest not only benefits both nations but also contributes to the global fight against climate change, paving the way for a greener and more sustainable future.

3. Global leadership: Cooperation between the United States and China, the

two largest greenhouse gas emitters, has the potential to provide much-needed global leadership on climate action. By working together, these two nations can set an example for other countries around the world to follow. Their joint efforts could inspire other countries to take more ambitious actions toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to clean energy, and addressing the impacts of climate change.^{19 20} As global leaders in climate action, the U.S. and China have a unique responsibility to lead by example and drive international efforts toward a more sustainable future. By leveraging their resources and expertise, these two nations can inspire global cooperation and create a more favorable environment for achieving a safer, healthier, and more sustainable planet for future generations.

The U.S. Climate Envoy's engagement with China is a critical component of global efforts to address climate change. By working together on reducing emissions, advancing clean energy, strengthening global climate governance, and promoting economic growth, the U.S. and China can lead the world towards a more sustainable future. While challenges remain, there are also significant opportunities for cooperation between these two important stakeholders in the fight against climate change.

2.3 The emerging role of Climate in diplomatic relationships

The relationship between the United States and China has been a topic of discussion for various years. In recent times, climate change has emerged as a key issue in diplomatic relations between the two nations. The role of the U.S. Climate Envoy in engaging with China is of foremost importance.

In recent years, climate change has become an increasingly important issue in diplomatic relationships between countries. One of the most notable examples of this is the engagement between the United States and China on climate issues.²¹ In this article, we will explore the emerging role of climate in diplomatic relationships and examine the U.S. Climate Envoy's engagement with China.²²

The importance of addressing climate change has become increasingly evident, driven by a series of impactful natural disasters and extreme weather events. Governments worldwide have acknowledged the necessity of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and lessening the effects of climate change. Consequently, climate has emerged as a significant topic in diplomatic relations, with countries collaborating to develop solutions and strategies to tackle this global challenge.

The interaction between the United States and China regarding climate issues holds great significance, as these two nations are the largest emitters of greenhouse

gases globally. In recent years, the U.S. and China have collaborated on several key initiatives aimed at emission reduction and climate change mitigation.²³

A central figure in this collaboration is the U.S. Climate Envoy, a position established by President Joe Biden to lead the nation's efforts in addressing climate change on the international stage. The current U.S. Climate Envoy is John Kerry, a former Secretary of State and a prominent advocate for climate action for many years. Since assuming the role, Kerry has participated in discussions with Chinese officials on climate matters. In April 2021, he visited Shanghai to meet with his Chinese counterpart, Xie Zhenhua, to explore opportunities for enhanced cooperation on climate issues.²⁴ The meeting marked a positive stride towards increased collaboration between the two countries on this critical issue.

John Kerry's diplomatic interactions with Chinese officials signify a strategic approach to global environmental challenges. One noteworthy aspect of his involvement is evident in his active participation in significant climate change initiatives. An exemplary illustration is his instrumental role in the negotiations leading to the Paris Agreement, a pivotal international accord designed to curtail greenhouse gas emissions and cap global warming at a maximum of 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Kerry's influence extends beyond international agreements, encompassing initiatives to advance clean energy and emissions reduction within specific sectors. A case in point is his pivotal role in fostering a cooperative effort between the United States and the European Union. This collaborative endeavor, announced in June 2021, focuses on promoting electric vehicle usage and mitigating emissions in the transportation sector. Such initiatives underscore Kerry's commitment to addressing climate change through multifaceted strategies.

The diplomatic collaboration between the United States and China on climate-related matters represents a noteworthy paradigm shift in global politics. In the context of the ever-pressing challenge posed by climate change, international cooperation emerges as an imperative factor for meaningful progress. The engagement between Kerry, serving as the U.S. Climate Envoy, and Chinese officials serves as a compelling example of how nations can align their efforts, pooling resources and expertise to devise comprehensive solutions and strategies to combat this critical global issue. This collaboration exemplifies the potential for diplomatic synergy to drive positive change on a global scale in addressing the complexities of climate change.

3. Climate Matters Taking Center Stage

3.1 Integration of climate in trade policy

The issue of climate change has recently gained significant attention and is now taking center stage in global discussions. One area where this is particularly evident is in the integration of climate considerations into trade policy.

Trade policy traditionally focuses on promoting economic growth, increasing market access, and reducing trade barriers.²⁵ However, there is a growing recognition that trade and climate change are interconnected and that trade policies should also address environmental concerns.

One way in which climate is integrated into trade policy is through including environmental provisions in trade agreements. These provisions aim to ensure that trade does not undermine environmental goals and that countries uphold their environmental commitments.²⁶ For example, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) includes provisions on environmental protection, sustainable development, and climate change.

Another way in which climate is being integrated into trade policy is with carbon pricing mechanisms. A few countries are considering imposing carbon tariffs on imports from countries with weaker climate policies to level the playing field and incentivize countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. This approach is to address carbon leakage, where emissions are shifted from one country to another. There is a growing push for trade policies to support the transition to a low-carbon economy. This includes promoting the trade of clean technologies and renewable energy products, as well as supporting sustainable agriculture and forestry practices. By encouraging the trade of climate-friendly goods and services, trade policy can contribute to global efforts to mitigate climate change. However, integrating climate into trade policy is not without its challenges.²⁷ There are concerns about the potential for trade measures to be used as protectionism, and the need to ensure that any trade restrictions are based on sound scientific evidence.²⁸ There is a need for international cooperation and coordination to ensure that climate measures in trade policy are effective and do not lead to trade disputes.

The integration of climate into trade policy reflects the growing recognition of the need to address climate change at a global level. By incorporating climate considerations into trade policy, countries can work together to promote sustainable development and tackle the urgent challenge of climate change.

3.2 Incentivizing Global Decarbonization Efforts.

Incentivizing global decarbonization efforts is crucial to effectively address climate change and transition to a low-carbon economy. Here are some key approaches to incentivize and support decarbonization efforts on a global scale:

Financial incentives play a pivotal role in motivating businesses and industries to embrace low-carbon technologies and practices. Governments can employ various measures, including subsidies, grants, and tax breaks, to encourage investments in sustainable initiatives. Additionally, the establishment of green investment funds serves as a strategic move to support clean energy projects and foster innovation, creating a conducive environment for the transition to a low-carbon economy.

The implementation of carbon pricing mechanisms represents another crucial avenue for incentivizing emissions reduction. Carbon taxes and cap-and-trade systems create economic incentives for businesses to adopt cleaner technologies and practices, as they seek to avoid higher costs associated with carbon emissions. This market-driven approach aligns economic interests with environmental goals, encouraging sustainable practices across industries.

International cooperation and funding mechanisms are integral components of the global effort to combat climate change. Developed nations can play a crucial role by providing financial and technological support to developing countries, assisting them in transitioning to low-carbon economies. Instruments like the Green Climate Fund serve as conduits for financial assistance, supporting climate adaptation and mitigation projects and fostering a more inclusive and sustainable global response.

Facilitating the transfer of clean technologies from developed to developing countries is a key strategy to accelerate global decarbonization efforts. Partnerships, knowledge-sharing initiatives, and capacity-building programs can bridge the technological gap, empowering nations to adopt cleaner solutions. Meanwhile, sustainable trade policies and agreements contribute to the global effort by incentivizing the adoption of cleaner production methods, encouraging the trade of climate-friendly products, and discouraging high-carbon goods.²⁹

Governments can further catalyze decarbonization through research and development incentives, fostering innovation in clean technologies. Grants, tax credits, and public-private partnerships incentivize the creation of more efficient and affordable low-carbon solutions. Simultaneously, raising public awareness and education initiatives is essential in creating a demand for sustainable products and services. Through education and outreach programs, individuals and communities

can be empowered to adopt more sustainable practices, contributing to a collective shift towards a low-carbon future. It is crucial to recognize that the incentivization of global decarbonization necessitates a collaborative and coordinated approach among nations, emphasizing international cooperation, knowledge sharing, and a shared commitment to common goals.

3.3 Impact on exports of climate-related technology

The impact of exporting climate-related technology can be transformative for countries leading in the development and production of clean technologies, offering a host of benefits. Foremost, as nations globally strive to meet climate goals and shift toward low-carbon economies, there is a burgeoning demand for climate-related technologies. From renewable energy systems to energy-efficient appliances, electric vehicles, and carbon capture and storage technologies, countries with robust export markets in these areas stand to gain from increased demand and expanded export opportunities.

The export of climate-related technologies not only spurs economic growth but also catalyzes job creation. Developing and producing clean technologies can invigorate domestic industries, particularly in sectors like renewable energy, where the installation and maintenance of clean energy systems create a skilled workforce.³⁰ This economic boost and job creation contribute to fostering sustainable and resilient economies.

The export of climate-related technologies serves as a testament to a country's technological leadership and innovation prowess. A reputation as a leader in clean technology can attract foreign investments, partnerships, and collaborations, bolstering the country's economic growth and global competitiveness. This technological leadership also positions the country as a hub for innovative innovations in the fight against climate change.

Countries exporting climate-related technologies can leverage their expertise to acquire trade advantages on the global stage. This includes negotiating favorable trade agreements, accessing new markets, and establishing enduring partnerships with other nations. This competitive advantage enhances their standing in the global trade landscape and opens doors for sustained economic growth.

Beyond economic gains, the export of climate-related technologies contributes significantly to environmental benefits. By enabling other countries to adopt cleaner technologies, exporting nations play a pivotal role in global efforts to mitigate climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This positive impact on global emissions reduction aligns with broader initiatives for environmental sustainability.³¹ However, it is crucial to acknowledge the challenges accompanying the export of climate-related technologies. Competition from other countries, concerns related to intellectual property rights, trade barriers, and market access issues can pose significant obstacles. Ensuring the environmentally responsible production and

disposal of these technologies is paramount to prevent potential negative impacts.

In conclusion, the export of climate-related technologies offers substantial opportunities for countries to foster economic growth, create jobs, and contribute meaningfully to global climate change mitigation. Realizing these opportunities causes a supportive policy framework, strategic investments in research and development, and a commitment to international collaboration. By overcoming challenges and embracing these opportunities, countries can play a pivotal role in advancing a sustainable and low-carbon future.

4. Challenges and Concerns

4.1 Potential risks to cooperation amidst geopolitical challenges

Geopolitical challenges can pose potential risks to international cooperation on climate change. Several of the key challenges and concerns include:

- 1. Political tensions:** Geopolitical conflicts and rivalries can hinder cooperation on climate issues. Countries may prioritize their national interests over collective action, leading to a lack of consensus and cooperation in addressing climate change.
- 2. Competing priorities:** Geopolitical challenges often result in countries focusing more on economic growth, security concerns, or political stability rather than climate cooperation. This can divert attention and resources away from addressing climate change and hinder progress in international climate negotiations.
- 3. Lack of trust:** Geopolitical challenges can erode trust among countries, making it difficult to build and maintain cooperative relationships necessary for addressing climate change. Mutual suspicion and skepticism can hinder information sharing, technology transfer, and joint initiatives.
- 4. Nationalistic approaches:** In some cases, geopolitical challenges can lead to a rise in nationalism and protectionism. This can result in countries adopting unilateral approaches to climate action, rather than working together through multilateral agreements and frameworks.
- 5. Disruption of international institutions:** Geopolitical challenges can disrupt the functioning of international institutions and forums that play a crucial role in climate cooperation. For example, disagreements among countries can lead to gridlock in negotiations or the withdrawal of countries from international agreements, undermining global efforts to address climate change.
- 6. Unequal burden-sharing:** Geopolitical challenges can exacerbate inequalities in burden-sharing among countries. Developing countries, particularly those with limited resources and capacity, may face greater challenges in implementing climate policies and adapting to the impacts of climate change. Geopolitical tensions can further hinder support and assistance to these countries.

Addressing these challenges requires diplomatic efforts, trust-building, and a commitment to multilateral cooperation. Countries must recognize the

interconnectedness of climate change with geopolitical challenges and work towards collective solutions that prioritize the well-being of the planet and future generations.

4.2 Addressing obstacles to effective environmental policy.

To address obstacles to effective environmental policy, several key challenges need to be considered:

1. **Policy inconsistencies:** Different countries may have varying environmental policies and regulations, making it challenging to align and coordinate efforts. This can create barriers to trade and hinder the adoption of consistent and effective environmental policies globally. To address this challenge, international cooperation and coordination are essential to harmonize policies and promote best practices.
2. **Economic considerations:** Balancing environmental objectives with economic considerations can be a challenge. Some countries may be reluctant to adopt stringent environmental policies if they perceive it as detrimental to their economic growth or competitiveness. To address this, it is important to demonstrate the economic benefits of environmental policies, such as job creation, innovation, and long-term sustainability.
3. **Implementation and enforcement:** Even if environmental policies are agreed upon, ensuring their effective implementation and enforcement can be challenging. Monitoring compliance, addressing non-compliance, and establishing mechanisms for accountability can be complex and resource-intensive. Strengthening institutions, providing technical help, and promoting transparency can help overcome these challenges.
4. **Technological and financial barriers:** Developing countries may face technological and financial barriers in implementing effective environmental policies. Access to clean technologies, capacity building, and financial support are essential to enable these countries to adopt and implement sustainable practices. International cooperation, technology transfer, and financial assistance mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund, can help address these barriers.
5. **Public awareness and participation:** Effective environmental policies require public support and engagement. Lack of awareness, understanding, or involvement of the public can hinder the implementation and success of environmental policies. It is crucial to promote public awareness, education, and participation to build a broader constituency for environmental action.

Addressing these obstacles requires a multi-faceted approach that includes international cooperation, capacity building, technology transfer, financial support, and public engagement. By addressing these challenges, countries can enhance the effectiveness of

their environmental policies and contribute to global efforts to address climate change and environmental degradation.

4.3 Navigating the complexities of climate geopolitics.

Navigating the complexities of climate geopolitics is a formidable task, fraught with challenges and concerns that demand careful consideration. One major obstacle stems from competing national interests, as countries harbor diverse priorities regarding climate change. Disputes arise over resource allocation, burden-sharing, and policy implementation. Successfully navigating these conflicting interests causes diplomatic finesse and the ability to forge a consensus among nations.

Power dynamics add another layer of complexity to climate geopolitics. Major emitters, such as the United States, China, and the European Union, wield substantial influence in global climate negotiations. In contrast, smaller or less powerful nations may struggle to assert their voices and protect their interests.³² Balancing representation and decision-making equitably among all countries poses a significant challenge in fostering a more inclusive and effective international approach to climate issues.

Climate justice further complicates the landscape. Developing countries often bear a disproportionate burden of climate impacts, despite contributing less to global emissions. Addressing these inequalities and promoting fair and just outcomes requires intricate international cooperation and strategic policy development. Climate change intensifies resource competition, exacerbating geopolitical tensions around access to water, land, and energy resources.³³ This competition can hinder collaborative efforts on climate change as countries vie for limited resources.

A critical concern in climate geopolitics is the lack of trust and cooperation among nations. Geopolitical challenges erode mutual trust, impeding the establishment and maintenance of cooperative relationships crucial for addressing climate change. Suspicion and skepticism hinder information sharing, technology transfer, and the initiation of joint initiatives. Political instability, including conflicts and unrest, can divert attention and resources away from climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Overcoming these challenges demands diplomatic skills, multilateral cooperation, and a steadfast commitment to finding common ground. Successfully addressing these concerns is paramount to ensuring effective global action on climate change and achieving sustainable and fair outcomes.

5. CONCLUSION

In recent years, there has been a significant shift in environmental policy toward recognizing the urgent need to address climate change and other environmental challenges. The global community understands the interconnectedness of environmental issues and the need for collective action. This new era in environmental policy is characterized by a growing recognition of the importance of sustainable development, the adoption of ambitious climate targets, and the integration of environmental considerations into various sectors and policies.

The future of environmental policy holds both challenges and opportunities. The urgency of addressing climate change and other environmental issues requires continued efforts to strengthen and implement effective policies. This includes further investment in renewable energy, sustainable transportation, and nature-based solutions. There is a need for innovative approaches and technologies to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Integrating environmental considerations into various sectors, such as agriculture, industry, and finance, will be crucial for achieving sustainable development. This requires collaboration between governments, businesses, and civil society to develop and implement sustainable practices and policies. Amidst geopolitical challenges and competing national interests, it is essential to emphasize the need for continued cooperation on climate matters. Climate change is a global issue that requires collective action and shared responsibility. International cooperation, multilateral agreements, and diplomatic efforts are crucial for addressing climate change effectively. Building trust, promoting transparency, and ensuring fair representation are essential for fostering cooperation among countries. By working together, we can overcome the challenges of climate geopolitics and achieve sustainable and fair outcomes.

The new era in environmental policy calls for ambitious action, innovative approaches, and continued cooperation. By addressing obstacles, navigating complexities, and promoting collective solutions, we can make noteworthy progress in addressing climate change and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

6. Notes Bibliography:

- ¹ Soria Baledon, Monica, Marcel Trudel, and Nicolás Kosoy. "Alternative Jet Fuels and Climate Geopolitics: What, Why Does It and Who Matters in the Environmental Policy-Making Process." *International Journal of Sustainable Transportation* 16, no. 6 (2022): 541-57.
- ² BBC-NEWS. "US and China reach 'some agreements' on climate - John Kerry." Press release, 2023. Retrieved <https://bbc.in/3x4y5z6>.
- ³ Yu Hongyuan. "China's Energy Transition: Approaches, Progress, and Prospects." *China Quarterly of International Strategic Studies* 8, no. 02 (2022): 175-195.
- ⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Wong, Edward, Keith Bradsher, and Alan Rappeport. "Biden Bets High-Level Diplomacy Can Cool Fiery Relations with China." *International New York Times* (2023): NA-NA.

⁶ Yu Hongyuan, op. cit., pp. 180-184

⁷ Weiss, J. C. "The China trap: US foreign policy and the perilous logic of zero-sum competition." *Foreign Aff.* 101 (2022): 40.

⁸ Wang, H., Posen, A. S., Roy, J. S., Thornton, J. L., & Zhu, G. "Think Tank Dialogue: Balancing Competition and Cooperation in China–US Relations: A Dialogue with Adam S. Posen, J. Stapleton Roy, John L. Thornton, and Guangyao Zhu." In *Understanding Globalization, Global Gaps, and Power Shifts in the 21st Century: CCG Global Dialogues*, 163-186. Springer, 2022.

⁹ Yu Hongyuan, op. cit.

¹⁰ Sutter, R. "America Counters China: Congress, Resolve, and Constraints Protests, Pandemic, and Security Predicaments: Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, and the US in the 2020s.", 397-430. Springer, 2023.

¹¹ Weiss, Jessica Chen. "The China Trap: Us Foreign Policy and the Perilous Logic of Zero-Sum Competition." *Foreign Aff.* 101 (2022): 40.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Cossa, Ralph A. "Building Partnerships Amidst Major Power Competition." *Comparative Connections: A Triannual E-Journal on East Asian Bilateral Relations* 25, no. 2 (2023).

¹⁴ Wang et al., op.cit.

¹⁵ Bano, Saira, and Kari Roberts. "Contemporary Us-China Relations: From Engagement to Competition." In *The Ascendancy of Regional Powers in Contemporary Us-China Relations: Rethinking the Great Power Rivalry*, 15-33: Springer, 2023.

¹⁶ Sutter, R. op.cit.

¹⁷ Wong, Edward, Keith Bradsher, and Alan Rappeport. "Biden Bets High-Level Diplomacy Can Cool Fiery Relations with China." *International New York Times* (2023): NA-NA.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Wang et al., op.cit.

²⁰ Yu Hongyuan, op.cit.

²¹ Wang et al., op.cit.

²² Wong et al., op.cit.

²³ Wang et al., op.cit.

²⁴ U.S.-Department-of-State. "U.S.-China Joint Statement Addressing the Climate Crisis." APRIL 17, 2021.

²⁵ Laurens, Noémie, Clara Brandi, and Jean-Frédéric Morin. "Climate and Trade Policies: From Silos to Integration." *Climate Policy* 22, no. 2 (2022): 248-53.

²⁶ Ibid., pp. 250-251

²⁷ Ibid., p. 252

²⁸ Jakob, Michael, Stavros Afionis, Max Åhman, Angelo Antoci, Marlene Arens, Fernando Ascensão, Harro van Asselt, *et al.* "How Trade Policy Can Support the Climate Agenda." *Science* 376, no. 6600 (2022): 1401-03.

²⁹ Laurens, et al., *op.cit.*, p. 252

³⁰ Jakob et al., *op.cit.*

³¹ Ibid.

³² Soria Baledon, Monica, Marcel Trudel, and Nicolás Kosoy. "Alternative Jet Fuels and Climate Geopolitics: What, Why Does It and Who Matters in the Environmental Policy-Making Process." *International Journal of Sustainable Transportation* 16, no. 6 (2022): 541-57.

³³ Ibid.

7. Bibliography :

1/. Books and Journal Articles:

1. Bano, S., and K. Roberts. *Contemporary US-China Relations: From Engagement to Competition The Ascendancy of Regional Powers in Contemporary US-China Relations: Rethinking the Great Power Rivalry*. Springer, 2023.
2. Cossa, R. A. "Building Partnerships Amidst Major Power Competition." *Comparative Connections: A Triannual E-Journal on East Asian Bilateral Relations* 25, no. 2 (2023).
3. Jakob, M., et al. "How trade policy can support the climate agenda." *Science* 376, no. 6600 (2022): 1401-1403.
4. Laurens, N., C. Brandi, and J.-F. Morin. "Climate and trade policies: from silos to integration." *Climate Policy* 22, no. 2 (2022): 248-253.
5. Soria Baledon, M., M. Trudel, and N. Kosoy. "Alternative jet fuels and climate geopolitics: What, why does it and who matters in the environmental policy-making process." *International Journal of Sustainable Transportation* 16, no. 6 (2022): 541-557.
6. Sutter, R. *America Counters China: Congress, Resolve, and Constraints Protests, Pandemic, and Security Predicaments: Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, and the US in the 2020s*. Springer, 2023.
7. Wang, H., et al. "Think Tank Dialogue: Balancing Competition and Cooperation in China–US Relations: A Dialogue with Adam S. Posen, J. Stapleton Roy, John L. Thornton, and Guangyao Zhu Understanding Globalization, Global Gaps, and Power Shifts in the 21st Century." Springer, 2022.
8. Weiss, J. C. *The China trap: US foreign policy and the perilous logic of zero-sum competition*. *Foreign Aff.* 101 (2022): 40.

9. Yu, H. "China's Energy Transition: Approaches, Progress, and Prospects." *China Quarterly of International Strategic Studies* 8, no. 02 (2022): 175-195.

2/. Websites:

1. BBC-NEWS. "US and China reach 'some agreements' on climate - John Kerry." (2023). Accessed <https://shorturl.at/gtK15>
2. U.S.-Department-of-State. "U.S.-China Joint Statement Addressing the Climate Crisis." April 17, 2021. Retrieved from <https://rb.gy/oupmlw>.
3. VOANews. "Kerry: US and China Have 'Some Agreement' on Climate Issues." (2023). Accessed <https://shorturl.at/fgosN>
4. Volcovici, V. "US envoy Kerry says climate cooperation could redefine US-China ties." Reuters. July 18, 2023. Retrieved from <https://shorturl.at/kADNX>
5. Wong, E., K. Bradsher, and A. Rappeport. "Biden Bets High-Level Diplomacy Can Cool Fiery Relations With China." *International New York Times*. NA-NA, 2023.