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## THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

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### **Abstract**

This article examines the role of international law in combating global climate change. It explores the legal aspects of global climate change, international agreements and their impact on national legislations, as well as the challenges and future prospects of international law. The study highlights the solutions to global problems that can be achieved through joint actions of countries in the fight against climate change.

**Keywords:** Global climate change, global problems, international law.

### **Introduction**

One of the greatest challenges of the modern era is global climate change. It is one of the key issues that concerns our entire society. As a result of irregular weather conditions, serious disruptions in natural patterns are being observed. These phenomena are already being felt by society. The melting of glaciers, the rise in sea levels, extreme weather events, and the disruption of ecosystems are causing social, economic, and environmental consequences worldwide. These problems require solutions not only at the national level but also through international cooperation and within an international legal framework[1].

The approach of international law to climate change is one of the key areas dealing with this process. Climate change does not manifest itself only in environmental phenomena. It should be considered not only as an ecological problem but also in the context of human rights, economic development, and security.



Picture 1. Global climate change

International law defines the responsibilities, obligations, and mechanisms of cooperation among states. These are implemented through key international treaties and mechanisms. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) forms the foundation of global climate policy and establishes the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The Kyoto Protocol assists developed countries in undertaking commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Carbon markets, joint implementation, and the Clean Development Mechanism are among the main instruments of the Kyoto Protocol. The primary goal of the Paris Agreement is to keep the rise in global temperature below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C as much as possible [2].

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are new implementation mechanisms of international law. International law encompasses a set of principles and mechanisms. The principle of sustainable development requires that economic growth should not undermine ecological balance. The principle of equity and responsibility sharing implies that industrialized countries bear greater obligations. The polluter pays principle ensures accountability for environmental harm. International cooperation mechanisms include financial instruments, technology transfer, and adaptation programs. Nevertheless, a number of legal challenges exist in this field. Among them is the weakness of enforcement mechanisms, which allows states to evade their obligations.



## *Modern American Journal of Business, Economics, and Entrepreneurship*

ISSN (E): 3067-7203

Volume 01, Issue 06, September, 2025

Website: [usajournals.org](http://usajournals.org)

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Conflicts between national interests and international commitments, resource limitations in developing countries, and the uncertain legal status of climate migrants also represent significant difficulties [3].

However, several prospects are foreseen in the future. These include strengthening monitoring and reporting mechanisms to ensure the implementation of the Paris Agreement, integrating human rights and the concept of climate justice into international law, the possible establishment of climate courts and arbitration mechanisms (Voigt, 2019), and aligning regional agreements with international law[4]

### **Conclusio**

The fight against climate change has become one of the most pressing challenges of the 21st century, requiring the collective efforts of states, international organizations, and civil society. International law provides the necessary framework for regulating state responsibilities, creating accountability mechanisms, and ensuring cooperation at the global level. Instruments such as the Paris Agreement, the Kyoto Protocol, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have established legal standards that influence both national legislation and international relations. However, the effectiveness of these frameworks is often undermined by divergent national interests, insufficient enforcement mechanisms, and the lack of binding obligations for all parties.

At the same time, international law continues to evolve, introducing new approaches that emphasize climate justice, sustainable development, and the protection of vulnerable communities most affected by climate change. Strengthening compliance mechanisms, enhancing transparency in emission reporting, and expanding financial and technological support for developing countries are critical to making these legal frameworks more effective. Moreover, the integration of climate considerations into trade law, human rights law, and environmental governance shows that international law is becoming increasingly interdisciplinary in addressing the climate crisis.

Ultimately, combating climate change requires not only the adoption of international treaties but also their effective implementation at the national level,



## ***Modern American Journal of Business, Economics, and Entrepreneurship***

**ISSN (E):** 3067-7203

**Volume 01, Issue 06, September, 2025**

**Website:** usajournals.org

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backed by political will and global solidarity. The future of international law in this area lies in fostering stronger cooperation, establishing more binding commitments, and ensuring that all states—developed and developing alike—share both responsibilities and benefits. Only through such coordinated legal and political action can the international community create a resilient system capable of mitigating climate change and safeguarding the planet for future generations.

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