

The Prospect of Global Climate Regime: Effective Enforcements and Empowerment

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Abstract

Since the 1990s, the study of nontraditional security (NTS) concerns about environmental degradation, outbreaks of infectious diseases, illegal migration, various types of transitional crimes and other threats that danger the security of states and society, and the regional and international community at large. It is important in that "security-framing" brings attention to these threats, convey urgency and command resources from the local to the international to address the complex challenges that arise as we face these security challenges. The threats of weapons, mass destruction, and the spread of global disease remind that we are vulnerable to the unstable world. And most important of all, these above threats usually accompany with climate change, resource depletion and species destruction.

The Copenhagen climate summit, held in December 2009, is the most important meeting since Kyoto (the first climate protocol). After two weeks of negotiations in the Danish capital, 192 countries had reached the "Copenhagen Accord." In the accord, developing countries will submit national reports on their emissions pledges under a method "that will ensure that national sovereignty is respected." The accord was notable in that it referred to a collective commitment by developed countries for new and additional resources, including forestry and investments through international institutions, which will approach USD 30 billion (£18.5bn) for the period 2010 - 2012 to help poor countries cope with the impacts of climate change. However, the conference did not achieve a binding agreement for the post-Kyoto period since this 'political accord' was mentioned by the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as there was no consensus. In addition, the upcoming negotiations are now due to report to COP 16 and MOP 6 in Mexico. Barack Obama had thrashed out a "meaningful agreement" with China, India and South Africa on some of the steps to be taken toward tackling climate change at the Copenhagen summit, but the "historic" step seems "not sufficient" to fight the ravages of climate change. The Copenhagen Accord has been taken no more than a political agreement without legal standing and has been criticized for lacking a legal framework and concrete objectives.

The 'New Institutionalism', initially advocated by James March and Johan Olsen, refers to institutions as rules, thus political institutions define the framework within which politics takes place. Institutions or international organizations are defined as the rules or norms that govern behavior, whether individual or organizational. In that case, to 'govern' actions means to restrain activity by narrowing down possible means and ends. Besides, the strategies of public diplomacy and international broadcasting based on Constructivism to form the persuasive communication could be utilized to target the global citizen's consensus in application to climate issues. What deters a common ground on climate change is that there is still a gap between the views of the developing and developed world. For this reason, this research intends to explore the approach to facilitate an effective regime that balances state interests, disseminates information to monitor states to comply, and guides the negotiations on a feasible treaty.

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