

COP-27 – A Meeting of Public Posturing of Broken Climate Promises, Empty Pledges, and Inaction!

The 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-27) started on Nov 6 in Sharm-el-Shiek Egypt and concluded on Nov 21. 33,000 delegates have registered and participated in the conference. They comprise heads of governments of 198 countries, lobbyists, scientists, big-business representatives, journalists, activists etc. 70 delegates from India attended to this conference. Out of these Indian delegates there are around 15 representatives of the big-business groups.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) prepared a report on climate change on the present day conditions, was released on April, 4. The Vice-chairman of the IPCC, Professor Mohan Munasinghe stated that “environmental consequences of rising greenhouse emissions make much of the social problems, exacerbating the existing problems of poverty, environmental degradation social polarization and terrorism leaving to chaotic situation”. UNDP administrator Kemal Dervis described that “climate change is a threat to humanity as a whole”.

On perusing the IPCC report on climate change, scientists throughout the world stated that it was a watered-down report at the behest of governments that are unwilling to phase-out fossil fuels. They warned that the survival of the planet is at stake. From April 6, they conducted a protest of civil-disobedience in 25 countries demanding “to fossil fuels – death in its stacks” with the slogan “1.5^o Celsius is death – climate revolution now” and demanded to declare a “climate emergency”.

While inaugurating the conference, UN Chief, Secretary General of United Nations Organisation (UNO) appealed for Net Zero emissions by 2050 to keep global temperatures from rising above 1.5^o C.

During the deliberations, scientist Jhon Rockstorm of USA cautioned that with the present soft approaches to limiting atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) it will be almost impossible to achieve 1.5^oC”.

30 newspapers and media from 20 countries among which ‘the guardian’ of UK is a member, in a joint editorial have warned that “time is running out. Rather than getting out of fossil fuels and into clean energy many nations are reinvesting in oil and gas, failing to cut emissions”. It pointed out that the world is rushing for new fuel projects despite the reality that during the year 21-22, “from floods in Pakistan to heat waves in Europe and forest fires in Australia to hurricanes in USA” suffering extreme weather disasters. It pointed out that world’s poorest people will have to bear the brunt of destruction wrought by draught

melting ice-sheets and crop failures due to climatic changes". Heavy rain and flooding affected much of Sahel, the great horn of Africa, India, China and Japan.

World Meteorological Organisation on global climate-2020, reminded that "ocean heat is at record levels. More than 80% of global ocean experienced a marine heat wave in 2020. Since marine eco systems are suffering from more acidic waters due to CO₂ absorption, they had a high impact as extreme heat, wild fires and floods, hurricanes – a threat to human health, security and economic stability and affected millions of people. It stated that more than 30 storms occurred in North Atlantic hurricane season in 2020 making land slides in USA, severe draught affected many parts of interior South America in 2020 and that Northern Argentina, Paraguay and Western border areas of Brazil are worst affected areas. It pointed out climate driven migration increased by the populations severely affected, vulnerable people moved significantly including the pacific region and Central America.

In essence, the present day climatic destruction is mainly caused due to the emission of industrial green gasses into eco system and due to excessive material use of "abiotic resources" V12 fossil fuels, metals and non metallic minerals by the developed (industrially) capitalist countries of the world. Massive productive powers of capitalism generated carbon emissions based on the use of fossil fuels. Capitalist countries especially of North have historically spewed the most carbon into atmosphere and are continuing the same. Countries of Europe and North America benefited from fossil fuels.

Capitalism needs a permanent expansion of production and consumption, accumulation of capital and maximization of profit. This process of unlimited growth based on the exploitation of fossil fuels since 18th century led to ecological catastrophe, climate change threatening the extinction of life on the planet. From 1970 to 2017 "high income industrialized" capitalist nations are responsible for 74% of global excess material use. 27% USA, EU countries 28% and 25% other high income countries.

According to the distinct 'carbon dioxide information centre' of US department of energy "US has been the largest producer of CO₂ emissions since 1750. USA emitted more CO₂ emission than the countries of entire European Union. USA's emissions of CO₂ are twice as much as China and 8 times more than India". From 18th century on US, Europe, Canada and Australia have emitted more than half of cumulative global emissions. 100 world's largest corporations are responsible for 71% of global industrial gases (largely CO₂ and methane).

Thus it is the highly industrially developed capitalist countries responsible for the present day ecological catastrophe of the globe and the liability for it has to be borne by them and necessary compensation has to be paid to the poor and developing countries that are suffering due to ecological catastrophe.

An analysis based on the data of World Bank by Prof. Aviel Verbruggen revealed that for the past 50 years oil and gas industry has delivered \$ 2.8 billions a day in pure profit and that total amount captured by petro states and fossil fuel companies since 1970 is a staggering amount of \$ 52 trillions and that these oil companies can buy every politician and every system with all their money.

According to IMF, "fossil fuel industry benefits from subsidies of \$ 6 billion a day".

In May 2022 'the guardian' revealed that the world's biggest fossil fuel firms are planning score of "carbon bomb" oil of gas projects driving climate beyond limits intentionally with catastrophic impact.

Companies like SHELL knowingly have been expanding their fossil fuel operations, wrecking lives, communities, the world's climate and our prospects for future in the process.

The stark warnings of the world's scientists are being ignored and suppressed by governments and powerful corporations who are putting economic growth and short term profit above the survival of life on earth.

In 2021 while the world spent over \$ 2 trillion on war, but spent only a paltry amount of \$ 750 billions on the problem of utmost importance. Investments in arms are rising and investment in fossil fuels are continuing. While total investment in energy infrastructure in 2021 was \$ 1.9 trillions, the bulk of investment is spent on fossil fuels V12 oil, natural gas and fuels.

In such a background the COP-27 conference is held. But the discussions in the conference did not reflect these root causes for planetary disaster. Neither, why the promises made at COP-26, to provide \$ 100 bn annually by the rich capitalist nations have not fulfilled are discussed.

COP-27 Conference - Empty Pledges

On the contrary the rich western countries resisted a global goal for limiting warming to 1.5°C and the developed rich countries have asked the poor countries to commit to a higher level of cutting down green house emissions. The European Union countries on the pretext of Ukraine-Russia war, wanted to continue and expand their energy resources through coal, gas and oil fossil fuels for some more years, instead of cutting them down.

While this conference is in deliberation, the US special climate envoy John Kerry, stated in the COP-27 conference that "US will not support establishing such a fund (loss & damage fund)... US and many other countries will not establish some sort of a legal structure that is tied to compensation and liability. That is not just happening". Thus he made it clear that industrially developed rich capitalist countries will not accept their historical responsibility, liability for the green gas emissions that are the sole cause of the planetary disaster and catastrophe of present day. At the most they will throw alms to some sort of a fund that has no legal binding for paying out compensation as their legal liability.

The question whether the world would end all categories of fossil fuel or only just coal is not resolved. Only it is agreed to create a so-called ambiguous 'loss and damage fund' estimated to be over \$ 500 billions without any specifics of its nature and management.

EU pressed hard China, Arab States and large developing countries - to contribute on the grounds they are large emitters of green house gases.

Only Scotland and Wallonia (Belgium) made nominal commitments to the L&D fund. There is no guarantee that this L&D fund will be meaningfully implemented even after many years.

While the immediate necessity is to keep global temperatures from rising 1.5°C, by 2050, the COP-27 document ensures that the rise in temperature does not go beyond 2.0°C by the end of the century.

The COP agreements are not binding and the UN General assembly only discusses on ecology but not about implementation.

The rich nations and oil oligarchy are able to resist the demand for compensation & liability responsibility. The subsidies to fossil fuel industry have not ended. No decision is taken to cut back the overall consumption of unnecessary and destructive ones such as the production of Mc. Mansions and private jets, fossil fuels and arms industries and the entire philosophy of planned obsolescence.

The issues and factors like battery materials, raw materials mining and their impact is not discussed. But arguments for public funds are made to stabilize turbulence in the capitalist system and revitalizing capitalist system.

The COP-27 manifested the total unwillingness of the ruling elite – the imperialism and capitalism to end climate destruction making it clear that capitalism will not solve the climate crisis since it is the principal cause of the crises.

This is the 21st Century Barbarism!