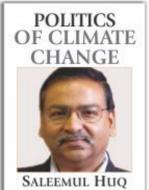


Trump will make the US face loss and damage claims



POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE
SALEEMUL HUQ

SINCE the announcement by President Trump that the US will withdraw from the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change, he has been facing a whirlwind of push backs and rejection by all the 195 countries who are parties to the Paris Agreement (only Syria and Nicaragua did not sign it), and it looks like the US will be on its own on this issue from now on, and is already being termed a rogue state by many.

I want to focus on a little known Article of the Paris Agreement, which may well come to haunt the US and will be an unintended consequence of the US withdrawing from it.

This is about Article 8 of the Paris Agreement, which is on an issue called Loss and Damage from climate change, a fiercely fought topic in the negotiations going into Paris which was not resolved until the last hour of the final agreement in Paris at midnight on December 12, 2015.

Before going into the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to be held in Paris in December 2015, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), there were a series of negotiations to prepare the final negotiating text which would then be finalised over the two weeks of COP21.

Going into Paris, every Article

had some proposed text from the developed countries (called option 1) and another few paragraphs of text from the developing countries (called option 2), and in many cases, the two options presented opposing ideas. The idea was that all countries would spend two weeks in Paris at COP21, finding a compromise text between the two opposing options to emerge with a consensus text as part of the Paris Agreement.

However, the exception to this pattern was Article 8 on loss and damage where the developing countries proposed a few paragraphs of text, but the option from the developed countries wasn't just to offer no text but to instead propose that this Article be deleted completely!

Why was this the case?
 The reason is because the issue of loss and damage from climate change refers to the residual impacts of human induced climate change when efforts to prevent impacts by mitigation have been insufficient, and also when efforts to adapt to those impacts are not enough either. The resulting impacts and the resulting loss and damage, thus, can be attributed to human induced changes to the climate.

In such cases, the loss and damage is no longer due to natural causes but due to human interference in the climate system. Hence, there is a potential liability and claims for compensation to be made by the victims against the polluters.



IMAGE: SARAH WASKO-MEDIA MATTERS

That is why the developed countries had fought tooth and nail to refuse to accept any discussion of liability and compensation in the UNFCCC talks for over twenty years. However, the breakthrough came at COP19 in Warsaw, Poland in 2013, where they were forced to accept the setting up of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage (which was understood to be a euphemism for

liability and compensation). So coming in to the COP21 talks in Paris in December 2015, the developed countries did not want to accept a new separate Article on Loss and Damage in the Paris Agreement at all. Hence, this Article became one of the most politically charged and sensitive issues in the COP21, talks. The developing countries, led by the small island developing states and the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group, in which Bangladeshi negotiators played an important role, pushed to include loss and damage in Article 8.

After very hard negotiations for two weeks, initially at the level of the technical negotiators and then ministers, it was still not resolved until the last few hours of COP21 when Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga of Tuvalu, on behalf of the developing countries, and US

Secretary of State John Kerry, on behalf of the developed countries, requested their negotiators to leave the room and agreed on the final text that was eventually accepted as the Loss and Damage Article 8 of the Paris Agreement.

The reason that John Kerry of the US finally accepted Article 8 on Loss and Damage was because the Prime Minister of Tuvalu allowed him to insert a paragraph into the COP21 decision associated with the Article which specifically stated that Article 8 of the Paris Agreement could NOT be used to claim compensation on the basis of liability from the polluting countries. This was specifically inserted to protect the US from potential future claims for compensation once loss and damage from climate change is established.

So as per President Trump's announcement when the US officially withdraws from the Paris Agreement, the US will lose the protection of this clause and hence will be open to claims for compensation from people, communities and countries that suffer loss and damage that can be attributed to human induced climate change. I am not sure if any of President Trump's advisers told him about this unintended consequence of his decision to leave the Paris Agreement!

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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Boosting growth by green design



CLIMATE change is the result of human activity. That activity is, for the most part, work or work-related. It is only logical then that the world of work has a key role to play in finding a solution to this pressing issue.

The power of climate change to damage infrastructure, disrupt businesses and destroy jobs and livelihoods has been well-demonstrated. We are confronted with these challenges on an unprecedented scale and on a daily basis.

Both businesses and workers are being affected. This is particularly the case for the working poor, the self-employed, and those in informal, seasonal and casual work, who often lack adequate social protection and who have limited alternative income opportunities. They are also highly dependent on climate sensitive resources, such as local water and food supplies.

But the world does not have to choose between job creation and preserving the environment. Environmental sustainability is a must, including from a labour market perspective.

Challenges and opportunities
 True, on the way to a more sustainable economy many types of jobs that exist today –



ILLUSTRATION: NEWSIDENT.COM

especially in highly polluting or energy intensive activities – will disappear. Others will be replaced or adapted. But new jobs will be created as well.

Greener economies can be engines of growth, both in advanced and developing economies. They can generate decent green jobs that contribute

Sectors like forestry, energy, recycling, transport and agriculture are likely to gain a lot from the transition to a green economy.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, a shift to more sustainable practices in agriculture – which includes a high proportion of the global workforce and where decent work deficits are widespread and severe – has the potential to create over 200 million more fulltime jobs by 2050.

But the challenge is not just about creating more jobs. It's the quality of those jobs that counts, too. Sustainable development must be pursued in full regard to its social and economic dimensions, not only its environmental consequences. Otherwise the transition to a green economy will be anything but just.

How do we get there?
 If our aim is a successful, just transition to a green economy, then we need predictable and appropriate regulation. Governments must work closely with employers' and workers' organisations to ensure this happens. In fact, this will be one of the main issues under discussion at the International Labour Conference, which begins on June 5.

Skills development and social protection are two further ingredients for a just transition, as they have a proven record in facilitating socially acceptable and

beneficial change at work.

Finally, climate change does not respect borders nor institutional silos. We need governments and the different organisations of the multilateral system working together coherently for common objectives. This is necessary not only to achieve a just transition but most importantly to achieve all 17 inter-related goals of the UN 2030 Development Agenda.

The cost of inaction
 Ignoring climate change will eventually damage economic growth. That was the stark warning issued by the UK's Stern Review over a decade ago. Since then, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has found incontrovertible evidence that human-induced climate change is well underway and warned of the consequences of failing to limit global temperature rise to at most 2 degree Celsius over pre-industrial levels.

This bleak outlook is confirmed by many other studies, including the ILO's Global Linkages model, which predicts a

drop in productivity levels of 2.4 percent by 2030 and 7.2 percent by 2050 under the business as usual scenario.

The positive news is that we know where we want to go and how to get there. The Paris Agreement (in which the international community agreed to keep the global temperature rise this century well below 2 Degree Celsius over pre-industrial levels) and the 2030 Development Agenda have defined the intended destination, and a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies has been accepted as a key reference point for the route to be taken.

But knowing the destination and the road to follow is not enough. We need the political will to keep us going. A greener future will not be decent by default, but by design. So let's not just mark World Environment Day. Let's make it a reason to put our political will into action. The future of our jobs, and of our children, relies on it.

The writer is Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

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ENLISTMENT NOTICE

Applications are hereby invited from the bona fide firms for Enlistment as qualified vendors of the North South University for the year 2017-2019. The firms who are engaged in business of the following items may apply:

Category No.	Items
01	Brand/Clone Computer, Printer, Scanner, Computer Accessories & Printer Toner/Cartridge.
02	Photocopier Machine, Toner of Photocopier and Repairing.
03	Air-Conditioner, Parts and Repairing.
04	Office Stationery & Cleaning items
05	Furniture (Wooden & Steel).
06	Networking Equipment & Accessories.
07	Chemicals, Accessories, Reagents, Glasswares & Lab Equipment (For Lab).
08	Printing Materials (Printing Press).
09	Audio Visual products (MVP, Sound systems).

Vendors are requested to submit their applications with the following documents:
a) Valid Trade License, b) Certificate of Incorporation (if any), c) Income Tax Certificate, d) VAT Registration Certificate, e) Bank Solvency Certificate, f) List of Clients, g) Brief profile of the firm, h) Distributorship/Agency/Dealership Certificate and any other relevant papers. The vendors must have minimum 3 years supply record. One vendor may submit application for more than one Category but have to be submitted separately. Applications are to be submitted to the undersigned on or before **June 20, 2017 within 3.00 p.m.** clearly mentioning the Category name and number on the top of the envelop.

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CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 27th president</p> <p>5 Church heads</p> <p>10 Homer work</p> <p>12 -- acids</p> <p>13 Hull bottom</p> <p>14 Ship of 1492</p> <p>15 Time before</p> <p>16 Boa bit</p> <p>18 Tie down</p> <p>20 Mine matter</p> <p>21 Head-phones setting</p> <p>23 Was a pioneer</p> <p>24 Custom</p> <p>26 Begged</p> <p>28 Immoral act</p> <p>29 Manhattan area</p> <p>31 Gallery fill</p>	<p>32 Lower</p> <p>36 Belt material</p> <p>39 Hacking tool</p> <p>40 Parts of hearts</p> <p>41 Writer Jong</p> <p>43 Like some papers</p> <p>44 Quite full</p> <p>45 Espies</p> <p>46 Cunning</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Lama's land</p> <p>2 Full of verve</p> <p>3 Steak choice</p> <p>4 Luggage ID</p> <p>5 One of a bear trio</p> <p>6 Skip</p> <p>7 Tiny opening</p> <p>8 Went in</p>	<p>9 Took to the sky</p> <p>11 Bests</p> <p>17 Make missteps</p> <p>19 Farm clucker</p> <p>22 Balls</p> <p>24 Bug's kin</p> <p>25 Michigan neighbor</p> <p>27 Building site</p> <p>28 Leafy courses</p> <p>30 Low bill</p> <p>33 Half of Hispaniola</p> <p>34 Do well</p> <p>35 Prepared</p> <p>37 Pinball no-no</p> <p>38 Robert of "Airplane!"</p> <p>42 Bitterly cold</p>
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YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

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