

EU's contribution in initiating climate centered motions and its role in G20

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Abstract

As a union that is strongly committed to multilateralism, the European Union continues to actively participate in various multilateral organizations and forums, be it the UN bodies like the World Trade Organization (WTO) or forums like the G7 and G20. The European Parliament in its briefing- 'The European Union and Multilateral Systems' discusses in detail about the EU's commitment towards multilateralism and emphasizes on the fact that its participation as a union allows it to ensure a strong representation of the European interests before the world.

As we discuss G20 in detail, EU has been a founding member and currently holds a strong position in the forum. Being the third largest population and the second largest economy in the forum, EU has been successful in putting across its stance and convincing other members regarding important matters that must be discussed, while giving valuable suggestions for global growth. Not just in the G20 but even otherwise, climate change has been of primary focus to the European Union. EU internally, has been majorly focusing on framing a strong climate policy and implementing it successfully to achieve its climate goals. It has brought its objective, of preventing the delay in achieving SDG goals in the G20, and has time and again encouraged G20 members to focus on matters related to climate change and ensure collaborations to expedite the climate protection process. Thus, this paper sheds light upon EU's climate goals and its

contribution in initiating climate centered motions in the G20, while highlighting the union's success in doing so.

Keywords: European Union, G20, climate centered motions, climate change.

1. Introduction

1.1 What is the EU?

It is a “supranational political and economic union” of 27 member states from Europe. There really isn't a precedent to this type of an entity and its influence. It is usually referred to as a Sui Generis (without precedent) political entity. Hence, since it is not a country, with respect to its position in G20, it has never held the presidency.

Let's further delve into what the EU is, being a primarily economic union, it aims to ensure “free movement of people, goods and services” and maintain “beneficial policies on trade and regional development” among other services. This a strong and a well organized union as the member states pool in for decision making to achieve common goals.

Similar to a country yet different, the EU has its own organization of institutions. The five key institutions under this union include:

- The European Commission
- The European council
- The European Parliament
- Council of European Union
- Court of Justice of the European Union.

The European Union is one of the largest economies in the world, representing roughly 18% of world gross domestic product (2020). The European Union accounts for around 7% of the world's population. Hence, when present at the G20 it voices economical and developmental concerns of a vast set of people who are a totting involved in churning a huge part of the GDP and represents their perspective.

The EU consists of 27 countries, namely Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

Now that we have a better understanding of the EU individually we can now introspect in its position in the G20. But before that, let's also understand what the G20 is.

1.2 What is the G20 forum?

G20 is an "international forum" that brings the largest and fastest growing economies together - 80% of the world's GDP, 75% of global trade and 60% of the population of the planet (*European Commission*). With a single representation, the G20 helps brings 19 countries and EU come together into a single forum to discuss and cooperate on global issues. The G20 includes Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union (*Australian Government*). As we can see

that three of its members - France, Germany and Italy- individually represent themselves in the G20.

Each meeting of the G20, one of the members holds the presidency. The European Union cannot hold the rotating Presidency or organize a Summit; however, it has actively participated in all G20 Summits since the inception of the forum. In every Summit all the members meet and direct goals for the future under a theme.

The “theme” adjusts with time and situation in hand. For example, in October 2008, led by President George W Bush, “the next meeting of G20 would be finding solutions on the economic crisis of 2008”. Hence we can expect this year's G20 meet to revolve around ways to combat economic and developmental challenges brought along by the Russia- Ukraine war.

1.3 EU in the G20

The European Union has ever since been an active member of the G20. It is the only Union which is a part of the G20 and has done a great job in convincing other members of the G20 and influencing the forums’ decisions. The EU had a major role to play in the decisions made by the G20 during the Global Financial crisis as well as influenced the agreements of the London Summit 2011 (*Shankar*). EU’s concerns to bring up in G20 alters with time but its constant recurring focuses can be seen in areas such as climate change and environment, food security, trade, global health and SDGs. EU has always raised pertinent issues in the G20 along with its continuous focus on formulating a strong climate policy. Even recently, in Bali, the EU represented by Charles Michel and Ursula von der Leyen, had demanded a focus on food and

energy security. Food supply was a direct problem of the Ukraine. To keep food supply chains functioning, EU's initiative eventually led to the Black Sea Grain Initiative opening a safe maritime humanitarian corridor in the Black Sea. The EU also focuses on taking G20 as a platform for promoting global cooperation and multilateralism.

Other concerns brought up by the European Union in the G20, included: the climate and energy crises- led to reorganizing aims stressing on rapidly transforming and diversifying energy systems, advancing energy security and resilience, market stability and supply and availability of affordable energy supplies.

A plethora of other concerns were brought up primarily under the categories including Climate and Biodiversity, Health, Digital Transformation, Recover Together and Recover Stronger, Data Sharing and Global Financial Reforms.

1.4 Present engagement of EU at the G20

At the current moment, EU's main focus in the G20 has been majorly on humanitarian issues. While it has continued to push other members towards coming up with more environment friendly and sustainable ways of living and preventing delay in achieving SDG goals, in the recent past, EU has greatly focused on the Russia-Ukraine crisis. It continues to extend its support to Ukraine and has also initiated conversations related to exclusion of Russia from the G20 and other multi-lateral forums. It has tried to initiate discussions on countering and handling negative effects of war, not only for the countries involved in it but also for the rest of

the world. EU has openly condemned any kind of war and highlighted points mentioned in the UN Charter of securing the lives of civilians.

As financial crisis seems to be arising yet again around the world, EU has tried to re-iterate the initial objective of the G20, which was to bring about financial growth and stability through cooperation. EU repeatedly has been highlighting the reasons behind a financial crisis and re-affirming its cooperation to all members of the G20. It stands strong and as it has always believed in global cooperation, has been counting on the G20 to be the platform for cooperation and preventing the world from witnessing a global financial crisis yet again. Through deliberations and cooperation, it is not just encouraging the G20 members to work for each other's benefits but also have been highlighting the problems of the under-developed countries and proposing ways to extend support to them as well, at this time of crisis.

Not only has the EU been keenly participating in the working of the G20, as a member of the G7 and a believer of global cooperation, the European Union is also taking key steps to act as a bridge between the G7 and the G20 (*Zhiqin*). It is trying to enhance cooperation and collaborations between the two forums for global good.

Not to forget, that the world has just come out of a global pandemic and EU has been focusing on global revival post Covid-19. The European Union has continuously been pushing for mainstreaming the transition to a sustainable global agro-food system. Moreover, it is using G20 to address recent EU centric challenges of migration, refugee flow and counterterrorism.

1.5 Impact of the EU-G20 relationship

The European Union has been one of the best students of the G20, when it comes to following the decisions of the forum (*Shankar*). EU's engagements with the G20 have allowed for better internal functioning of the former. Though EU's decision making is dominated by the big nations that are part of it, the G20 gives a platform to the smaller members of the EU for foreign policy engagements and fulfilling their national objectives (*Nasra and Debaere*).

The G20 also becomes a platform for great exchange of ideas, suggestions and models. EU gets a chance to inform other countries about the effective models followed by EU members and encourage other G20 members to try implementing similar models for effective results. Moreover, G20 helps EU to align with global policies and in making response to local and global problems more effective.

The forum has also helped EU in spreading across its idea of multilateralism and global cooperation. It has also been an asset to the G20 by bringing in a diverse perspective into the forum as it is the only member which is not a single country but a group of countries. As a body, EU has been the flag bearer for cooperation, deliberation and economic growth, which as a model it brings to the G20 and inspires its members to cooperate for global growth. The relationship that EU and G20 share has been a crucial one and has benefitted both. On one end, EU has come up with important suggestions, raised pertinent issues and cooperated with all G20 members, and on the other side, G20 has been a platform for EU to put forward its issues and voice strongly, further get aid to solve its own problems and impact EU legislations (*Wouters et al.*).

1.6 Future of the EU at the G20

Being one of the most developed regional organizations and amongst the strongest global economic players, the European Union remains a significant player in the G20 as it represents the most powerful economies of Europe. With a worldwide population of over 7 billion, the EU has a total population of around 500 Million, approximately making up 7% of the worldwide population, this 7% of the worldwide population takes up 25% of the seats at the G20 solely owing to the amount of resources, economic and otherwise, brought to the table by the countries that are a part of the regional grouping that is, EU (*Shankar*).

The EU, shares a symbiotic relationship with the G20. The future of EUs working lies in ensuring enough attention is paid to challenges of global importance and not being region specific. With a well illustrated strategy between internal and external motives, policy changes are being proposed and implemented in a timely manner especially with regards to global financial regulation.

On the whole, to ensure a fruitful future for the EU's position at the G20, it needs to move away from a 'single negotiator perspective'. The regional grouping as opposed to an individual country with specific access points to policy change, the EU provides an abundance of access points to external players in case of any policy-making ambition. This in turn provides for numerous opportunities for international institutions to gain domestic access within the EU, these needs to be looked at from a strategic lens wherein the coalition needs to be driven by aims and goals of the EU and G20 alike.

2. Hypothesis

As discussed, the European Union has taken an impactful stance in most global issues. It has maintained similar performance in the G20. However, climate change has always been its primary focus. According to the recent European Green Deal, EU has made come up with more ambitious targets than ever before to achieve its goal of making Europe the first climate neutral continent in the world. From the time negotiations on climate related issues began in 1991 in the Climate Change Convention, the European Union has pushed for stringent climate commitments and provided leadership in international climate policy (*Oberthür and Kelly*). The EU has brought this commitment of its towards climate into the G20 as well and hopes for collaborations amongst members for safeguarding the planet's climate. Thus, in this paper, we intend to discuss whether the European Union's climate policy be an apt global model and can it be propagated through G20.

3. Research Question

Not only has the European Union built an ambitious climate policies but it also has an action plan to implement it, which at several occasions has given positive results. To state an example, the European Union was successful in achieving its Kyoto target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% (in comparison to 1990) ahead of schedule (*Cornelia*). The EU has surely been successful in taking effective steps to counter climate change and as often called upon the world to collaborate and make ambitious plans along with policies to implement them. Through this paper, we intend to answer the question that, 'Can an ambitious climate policy, like that of the EU, be a model for G20 countries to fight climate change?'

4. Research Methodology

The paper presents our analysis of the qualitative data collected by studying academic works of researchers and scholars, observing policies and actions of G20 and the European Union, and through interviews.

We believe such a methodology allows us to study the happenings of the past in-depth and further answer the desired question. Through the methodology used, we have been able to summarize the progress that has happened in the past and aim to answer the question with thorough understanding of future plans and goals.

5. Literature Review

Since the Paris Agreement, each signatory country is supposed to have a plan to limit its Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, also known as NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions). Reducing GHG emissions has been the primary motive of most countries to achieve goals mentioned in the Paris Agreement. In order to do so, the NDCs are to be updated every five years and each country must set new targets. However, even if the current NDCs are fully implemented, the world will still be unsuccessful in limiting global warming below 2°C, as mentioned in research of Elzen, Michel, and den et al. (2018). The research further questions the possibility of limiting global warming below 1.5°C, when the goal of restricting it below 2°C still seems to be distant. This is also supported in the research of Nascimento, Leonardo, and et al. (2022).

Elzen, Michel, et al. (2018) also highlights the fact that G20 countries are alone responsible for three quarters of global GHG emissions. In such a scenario, creation of stringent policies becomes imperative. Studies presented in Elzen, Michel, and den et al. (2018) and Nascimento, Leonardo, and et al. (2022) greatly emphasize on the need for strengthening of

policy pillars during the period of 2021-2030. The latter appreciates G20 members for enhancing focus on climate change as climate change mitigation has featured higher in the national political agendas, in comparison to what it was twenty years ago. Nascimento, Leonardo, and et al. (2022) also discuss a need for cross sectoral policies and need for increase in use of renewable resources, while use of coal and fossil fuels must be reduced. It indicates that though the G20 members have been successful in increasing use of renewable resources, their emissions continue to increase. On one end policies are present to enhance use of renewable resources, but on the other hand policies for limiting use of fossil fuels are still scarce.

Nascimento, Leonardo, and et al. (2022) in the end suggest the need for all G20 members to work together to expedite the process of achieving the Paris Agreement goals and that the current sector policies give a good entry point to raise ambition. Even Hirsch, Thomas (2016) sheds light on the need of alliances to combat climate change. The author aptly defines an alliance as a grouping framed to achieve a collective goal. The research brings forward the achievements of Durban Alliance and Climate Ambition Alliance in paying closer heed to the issues of vulnerable states and commends the two alliances for increasing climate-policy ambition. The main point highlighted here was that an ambitious agreement was achievable only via a joint effort of the industrialized and developing countries. This importance of coming together with a common goal is highlighted multiple times.

Hirsch, Thomas (2016) lists down four objectives of alliances which must be immediately implemented to achieve desired goals related to climate change. Among the four mentioned, the research proposes that alliances such as the G7 and G20 must boost a sense of responsibility among the major emitters, table pertinent issues and formulate possible ways of collaboration among countries. The other three objectives listed are: (i) extending support to

developing and emerging countries, (ii) to ensure both public and political pressure on countries which fall short on ambition and a strong policy to combat climate change and (iii) conduct implementation of the Paris Agreement out of the climate-policy niche and merge it with the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). Elzen, Michel, and den et al. (2018) seconds the need of alliances and believes that efforts of G20 economies are obligatory for the world to achieve Paris Agreement goals and they must completely implement or preferably exceed their NDC commitments.

In the midst of need of alliances and implementing NDC commitments, Klugman, Cornelia (2018) state the European Union to be at the forefront of international efforts in reducing GHG emissions, leading to safeguarding the planet. Oberthür, Sebastian and Kelly, Claire Roche (2008) convey that climate has become a major agenda for the EU and it is often discussed by the European Council of EU heads of state and government. However, various studies mentioned above also state that the European Union falls short in areas such as having a high ambition and allocating adequate budget for climate change. Moreover, they also state that the EU needs to work greatly in terms of implementing its NDC commitments, whereas G20 members like India and China are currently working at pace which will allow them to exceed their NDC commitments.

Though there are areas in which the EU needs to work upon (as per past researches), yet Oberthür, Sebastian and Kelly, Claire Roche (2008) mention that the European Union has established itself as an international leader in global environmental governance and it is continuously improving its leadership record. The research also states that the EU has not just emerged as a leader today but has been the leader since negotiations in the Climate Change

Convention, in 1991, began. It has always called upon for stringent international policies and reduction of green house gas emissions.

The recent progress of the European Union can be understood by the EU's Climate policy architecture laid out in Klugman, Cornelia (2018). The architecture presents effective climate policies of the EU and how they have divided the emissions into two categories:

- (a) Industrial and other emissions covered by the EU emissions trading system (ETS).
- (b) and Non-ETS emissions, which accounts to around 55%-60% of the total emissions.

The European Union's climate architecture, as mentioned in Klugman, Cornelia (2018), rectifies a major misconception, which is that greater emphasis on environment protection does not negatively impact economic development. The research clarifies that rather than being a burden for economic development, climate change mitigation, to an extent supports it. Considering the G20 is primarily an economic and developmental forum, the aspects of actions and investments against climate change might be assumed to hinder the initial agenda. The EU proves that this is not true. The GDP of EU economies grew by 53% while emissions dropped by 23% (between 1990-2016), and this is exactly what this work of Klugman, Cornelia (2018) presents very well. This literature hopes that the EU's Climate Policy Architecture can be of help to other nations for adopting a stringent policy internally and joining forces against climate change.

The EU's environment policy can surely be inspiring for other countries. Moreover, the EU is a staunch believer of multilateralism and often calls upon for global collaboration to combat climate change. O'Sullivan, David (2021), in his work, initially brings in a characteristic

of the EU, its sui generis nature, which implies that its structure and its working is unique, something that isn't replicated by any other member state. This paper touches upon the integration of the EU in the multilateral world, something that has never been an easy talk. The paper efficiently and effectively touches upon essential topics impacting the EU's role in the G20 and individually as a country. Just a few of the areas covered include, 'Economic and Monetary Union and the Euro' this section brings forth EU's leading role in monetary policy and how that plays an essential role in showcasing EU's influence in the world of economic and financial affairs. We are further able to read about 'An impressive legacy of multilateral action in trade and development policy' where we learn about the extensive competence that the EU can rely on in the multi-lateral space. Through this research, one can confer the ability of the EU to influence international affairs, its bilateral relations and how today trade plays a very significant role in establishing EU's global influence, as it works hand in hand with other areas of external policy. Finally, O'Sullivan, David (2021) states that the EU, by major countries, is seen as the last truly committed defender of multilateralism seeing that the EU always exercises its role with a view to reinforce and develop the rules-based multilateral system.

6. Analysis

Till this point in the paper, we have discussed about the European Union, G20 and their relationship. Further, we put forward existing research which makes need for climate change mitigation evident and demonstrates the progress of the EU in doing so, while not just being the leader but calling out countries to emphasize on climate protection and to even collaborate. Hence, we intend to put forward our analysis and showcase how the European Union model can be implemented by all nations, especially the G20 members.

The climate mitigation model of the European Union previously faced four primary criticisms:

- (a) the EU does not have policies which are ambitious enough;
- (b) sufficient finances are not allocated towards mitigation of climate change, as they should be; and,
- (c) lack of fair share and unequal involvement of smaller members;
- (d) The European Union, at the pace it is working, is not at par to achieve its NDC or other climate mitigation related targets.

A few researches as highlighted in the previous section too highlight the four points mentioned above. We will in this section of the paper discuss how the EU has been successful in regularly updating its climate mitigation framework and present an answer to all the criticisms it has faced.

Upon realizing the need for working towards climate change, the EU has completely revolutionized its climate policies and is aiming high, when it comes to solving the climate crisis. It is nowhere close to taking a hit to its position of the 'leader' in climate change mitigation. As per the data presented by an independent scientific project, Climate Action Tracker, working towards tracking government's impacts and policies related to climate goals, the European Union comes out to be one of the only two members of the G20 whose Net Zero Targets are considered to be 'acceptable'. The second G20 member in this 'Acceptable' category is ex-EU member, the United Kingdom. All other G20 members lay either in 'Poor' or 'Average' category and sufficient information for targets of few of the members is not even available. This mere statistic tells us that the EU has already provided an answer to its first criticism, of not being 'ambitious'.

In addition to that, we will study the EU's latest policies, targets and aspirations and why it can emerge as a best practice model for at least the G20 countries. We will also discuss, study and assess the importance of the 'European Green Deal', 'European Climate Law', 'Fit for 55' and 'REPowerEU'.

In order to tackle the second criticism targeted at it, the European Union, in the European Green Deal, has been allotted a budget of £600 million, which is one third of the £1.8 billion investment of the NextGenerationEU Recovery Plan and EU's seven-year budget. With this investment of £600 million, the EU intends to become a resource-resilient, modern and competitive economy, while ensuring:

- (a) zero net emission by 2050
- (b) decoupling economic growth from resource use
- (c) inclusion of each place and person

Becoming carbon neutral and reducing, and gradually ending its carbon emission, has become the European Union's one of the top priorities. The Union has also adopted several set of proposals related to taxation, climate, energy and transportation, to make its policies fit for reducing net GHG emissions. It aims to reduce its green house gas emissions by 55% (in comparison to 1990) by the year 2030. The previous target was just 40% which now has been updated by 55% because of the rate at which progress is being seen. Not only is it a more ambitious target but the EU is also nearly on track of achieving it. Moreover, if the latest policies changes do get implemented successfully, EU may be able to achieve the goals before the expected timeline. The EU is in itself creating ambitious targets and expects the world to follow suit. The Union, in regards to climate change, believes that ambitious targets will only ensure

formulation of strict and new policies. The will to update these targets which might seem ambitious initially, will encourage governments to create policies and an action plan to successfully implement them. It is such a system of the EU which has aided its climate mitigation progress and it calls upon the world to be ambitious in making targets and then try their best to achieve them. Another reason behind such a strategy is that at the current moment, the world cannot afford to move slow. The 'Climate Clock' as formulated by scientists and researches state that we have close to 5 years and 310+ days left to be able to limit global warming below 1.5°C. And this clock keeps ticking while we discuss.

The European Union has not limited itself to the European Green Deal and has also formulated the European Climate Law. It was first published in the Official Journal on July 9th, 2021 and came to force on July 29th, 2021. The law has been formed with the core objective of the Union reaching climate neutrality by 2050. Just like the Green Deal, it too focuses on travel and transportation, economy, climate change and energy. One of its primary objectives is also to create a system to for monitoring the progress and take required actions, accordingly. The progress is to be checked every 5 years, in accordance of the Paris Agreement. The law intends to review the progress of each and every member state and advice them individually and not just review the progress of Europe as a continent. This is another showcase of the EU's multilateral built that it intends to focus on each member so that they contribute equally. Each member will be thus accountable to the other and no big or small member to become a free-rider. Additionally, it will also allow each Union member to collaborate and learn from each other. As it is a continent wide legislation and not just a mere proposal or policy limited to a single nation. EU will ensure immense stress on its implementation and make an attempt to prevent any member country from ignoring or neglecting it. Making climate mitigation legislation also helps

in tackling one of the drawbacks of the COPs and other treaties and agreements that each participant is bound. We continue to observe various countries fail to provide regular updates or ignore the steps that have been asked to be taken in these agreements. A law will make taking necessary steps a compulsion.

As the EU is a Union and works together as an alliance, it further seconds past researches which have suggested upon the positive change alliances have brought about. The G20 too must come together and work in the form of an alliance. If we also analyze the Covid-19 period, we can observe the strength of global cooperation and alliance there as well. At time of crisis, we witnessed the world powers in unison in terms on 'Health', 'Food Security', 'Vaccination', 'Trade' and in varied sectors with a common goal of global welfare. In current times, climate change is the biggest crisis and it will keep worsening if we as global citizens and nations as universal stakeholders do not act. The EU with its mission to guarantee peace, freedom and security in and around Europe, embodies cooperation. Its members have often been observed helping each other on various issues. Similarly, G20 members, if work together, it will not only result in mutual benefits, they will together be equipped to extend a helping hand to other developing and under-developed countries.

Another aspect which the EU is greatly focusing on, is renewable energy and limiting the use of fossil fuels. It has also taken various steps on the lines of energy protection. With the 'REPowerEU' initiative launched in May 2022, the European Union has been successful in saving energy, producing clean energy and diversifying its energy supplies. It was a plan as a response to energy disruption caused by the Russia-Ukraine war. The EU, while supporting Ukraine also ensured that its citizens do not face energy shortage. It was successful in creating a better plan for itself and get out of a crisis situation as well. The 'Fit for 55 package' also works

with a similar intention. It does not have anything to do with the war but supports the larger goal of the EU to achieve its 2030 emission targets. The package adopts a set of proposals and streamlines EU's working to help it achieve its climate goals. It includes the:

- (a) EU emission trading system (EU ETS);
- (b) Social climate fund;
- (c) Carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM);
- (d) Member states' emission reduction targets;
- (e) Emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry;
- (f) CO2 emission standards for cars and vans;
- (g) Reducing methane emission in the energy sectors;
- (h) Sustainable aviation fuels;
- (i) De-carbonized fuels in shipping;
- (j) Alternative fuels infrastructure;
- (k) Renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- (l) Energy performance of buildings;
- (m) Hydrogen and de-carbonized gas market package; and
- (n) Energy taxation

This elaborate package is an answer to all the other criticisms which EU had previously faced. It focuses on various sectors and tries to aid climate mitigation in all ways possible. It checks the status of and holds each member accountable, speeds up the change and possibility of EU achieving its NDC targets and greatly reduces EU's GHG emissions. As stated by the World Economic Forum, the EU is also hoping to reduce 90% of its carbon emission from trucks by 2040, which account to nearly 6% of EU's total emissions. By following the CBAM model of

the EU, the industrialized countries will finally be able to walk the talk, also be able to reduce their own carbon emissions while aiding other countries to reduce their carbon emission as well. Also, the mechanism seeks to penalize ‘free riders’, this adds on to the reason for supporting CBAM. The EU has lately not been a greater admirer of fossil fuels and wishes that the world moves away from non-renewable sources of energy, mainly, fossil fuels at the earliest. It also expects the establishment of a global target out of the G20 to ensure energy efficiency on the whole and particularly, for all its members to be more energy efficient economies and for them to create more and better prospects for widespread dissemination of renewable energy.

7. Conclusion

The premier world countries have generally fallen short of reaching their own climate targets, let alone helping other countries. The severity of the climate issue, as of now, is understood by all. The only thing to watch out for is the actions. To quote His Excellency Antonio Gueterres, the current United Nations Secretary-General, from one of his speeches before the COP27, he stated, “As climate chaos gallops ahead ... COP27 is critical but we have a long way to go. Let’s be clear, the collective commitments of G20 governments are coming far too little and far too late.” This is a direct hit on the G20 and is extremely alarming. It is about time for G20 countries to start taking active steps towards climate mitigation, both individually and together.

However, since COP27 also, the European Union has modified several of its policies and has strengthened its position in at least the climate mitigation sector. Studying the European Union and its climate policies has made us realize that the Union is a best practice model in

itself. It might not have achieved all its targets, it however has one of the best policies in the current multipolar world order. It ticks all boxes, from being a multi-lateral body and epitome of collaboration to making stringent climate policies and an action plan to implement them. It has already created a Climate Law and is adamant in making Europe climate neutral.

EU does realize that climate mitigation is not EU's priority alone, as the world wants to be climate neutral. For the same, it calls upon all countries to co-operate and collaborate, just like they did during the Covid-19 period. Currently, the EU wishes for the success of COP28 and for each country to review their climate status and create necessary policies and with efficient and effective implementation plans.

The EU as body can be something that the G20 can look up to in climate matters, given that the G20 is a forum that the world is looking up to, as it constitutes the world's biggest economies, and it cannot afford to fall behind. Learning from the functioning of the EU, the G20 must begin to make similar collaboration policies for its members. Collaboration is key for climate change and innumerable examples have proved that to us. The best part of the EU model is that it does not just wish to make itself climate neutral but also extend a hand of support to countries around the world. Other G20 members too must be encouraged to align their policies in a similar fashion. Though the G20 was a forum created to get out of an economic problem, it becomes important for it to work together to solve other and current global issues. The importance of which has also highlighted in book, 'The Global Governance for Climate Change – G7, G20 and UN Leadership' and the paper – 'The role of G20 in governing the climate change regime'.

In this paper, we have descriptively discussed, the European Union, its climate related work, contribution, its leadership and its success. The EU climate model needs to be brought on the G20 table for the latter's members to pick valuable insights from and move towards shaping a world with net zero emissions. Yet again, it might sound as an over-ambitious goal but as EU believes – ambitious goals lead to ambitious and modified policies and such stringent policies, if implemented aptly, gradually lead to achieving the goal. Thus, EU has the role of an advisor in the G20, where it inspires fellow members to come together, learn from its model and make policies according to their respective individual circumstance. But, these policies must ensure that the rate of climate change mitigation is expedited. Lastly, we remain hopeful of global collaboration and streamlined climate action to finally achieve the Paris Agreement Goals before it gets too late, as it is necessary for the planet to be a suitable place to live in and for biodiversity to sustain.

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