



1 Historic Responsibility

- Developed countries have emitted the majority of greenhouse gases since the Industrial Revolution.
- These emissions have contributed significantly to global warming, disproportionately impacting vulnerable countries.

2 Global Emission Inequities

- Developed countries have higher per capita emissions compared to many developing countries.
- Developing countries contribute far less to climate change and have to bear the brunt of its effects such as extreme weather events, rising sea levels, forest fires.



3 Economic & Developmental Disparities

- Many developed industrialised countries are using fossil fuels, reaping economic benefits.

5 Key Elements of Climate Debt

- Financial Debt - payment for damage and loss as a result of climate impacts.
- Ecological Debt - restoration of ecosystems & biodiversity impacted by industrialisation.
- Technological Debt - sharing of clean technologies & expertise to assist developing nations make transitions to sustainable energy.



4 Moral & Ethical Dimensions

- Climate debt is framed as an ethical obligation - those responsible for the problem should assist those that are suffering the most.



Sources: https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/application/pdf/4_bolivia.pdf
<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2023/09/settling-the-climate-debt-clements-gupta-liu>