

# The Role and Challenges of International Organizations in Solving Global Environmental Problems

## -- A Case Study of ClimaHealth

Rain Hou

HAIDIAN KAIWEN ACADEMY, Beijing, 100081, China

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### ABSTRACT

International organizations play a vital role in solving global environmental problems, however, they also face many challenges and limitations. Global environmental issues have become a key factor affecting the sustainable development of human society. There are differences in economy, resource utilization and awareness among countries in environmental protection issues, which makes global environmental governance face many challenges. International organizations play an important role in addressing global environmental issues, but they also face challenges in funding, political interests, transparency and accountability mechanisms. Taking ClimaHealth as an example, this paper explores in depth the role and challenges of international organizations in addressing global environmental issues.

### KEYWORDS

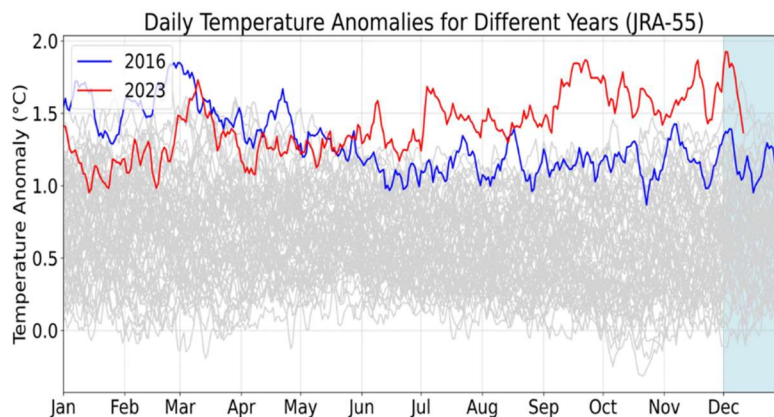
International Organization; Environmental Issues; ClimaHealth.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Global warming, the destruction of the ozone layer, the reduction of biodiversity, the spread of acid rain, the sharp decline of forests, land desertification, the serious pollution of water resources, the serious pollution of the air, the disaster of solid waste, the transboundary transfer of hazardous waste, food waste, etc., these environmental problems are becoming more and more prominent, endangering the safety of the earth on which we live. The year 2023 was currently the hottest on record, with the global average temperature 1.46 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and 0.13 degrees Celsius above the 11-month average in 2016.[1] The year had six record-breaking months and two record-breaking climate disaster seasons. More seriously, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels have never been higher. The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has been around 280ppm for nearly 6,000 years of human civilization, and now it is well above 420ppm, more than double the level before the industrial Revolution began in the 19th century. Rick Spinrad, administrator of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), said the steady annual increase in carbon dioxide was "a direct result of human activities"[2], mainly from fossil fuels used for transportation and power generation, but also from cement manufacturing, deforestation and agriculture. This is undoubtedly one of the biggest environmental problems facing the globe: As greenhouse gas emissions blanket the planet, they trap the sun's heat and cause global warming. Through their multi-faceted efforts, they promote cooperation, resource sharing and policy formulation among countries to deal with the increasingly serious environmental problems and promote the dissemination and exchange of global environmental protection knowledge. ClimaHealth is a good example, bringing together the expertise of WHO and the World Meteorological

Organization to provide global users with information, technical resources and data on climate and health, helping to improve global capacity to address climate change and environmental issues. However, international organizations also face some challenges in solving global environmental problems. Due to political, economic and cultural differences among countries, international cooperation is often affected by many factors, resulting in difficulties in policy coordination and implementation. In addition, international organizations also have certain deficiencies in financing, technical support and accountability mechanisms, which need to be continuously improved and strengthened.



**Figure 1.** Daily Temperature Anomalies for Different Years

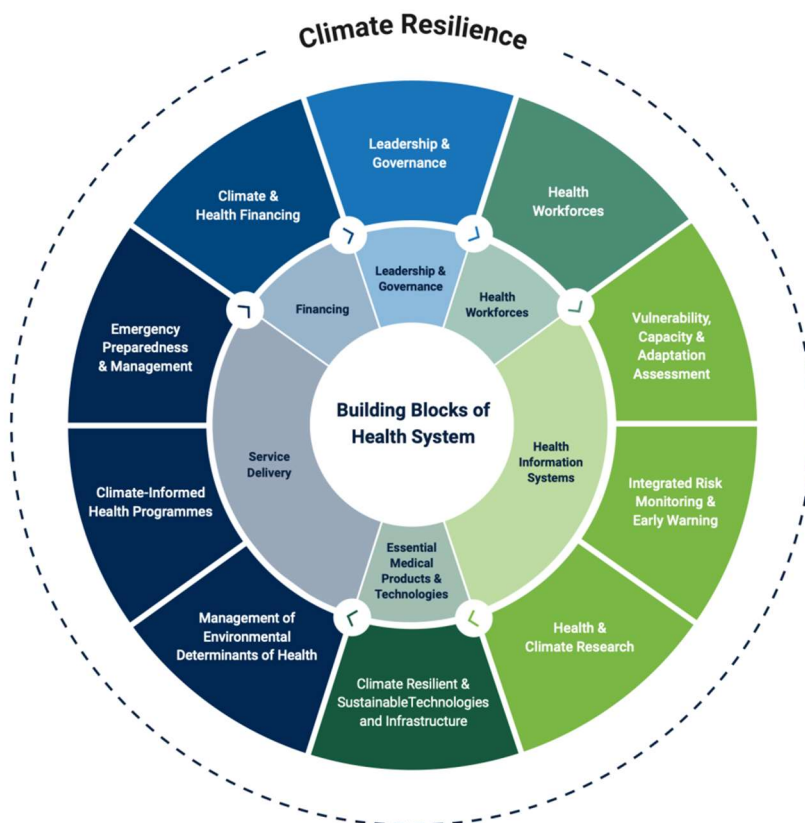
## 2. BACKGROUND OF CLIMAHEALTH

International organizations play an important role in solving global environmental problems. ClimaHealth, as an international information platform aimed at addressing climate and health issues, fully demonstrates the role and challenges of international organizations in addressing global environmental issues. ClimaHealth may provide policy advice and decision support to governments by collecting and analyzing environmental data. They can also assist governments in developing and implementing sustainable environmental policies and promote the continuous improvement of the global environmental governance system. At the same time, by integrating the expertise of WHO and WMO, it provides global users with a wealth of climate and health information, helping to raise public awareness of climate change and environmental issues. However, ClimaHealth also faces challenges in terms of insufficient funding, political interference, and transparency and accountability mechanisms. To overcome these challenges, ClimaHealth will need to seek additional funding, strengthen cooperation with other international organizations, and work to improve its own transparency and accountability mechanisms.[3]



**Figure 2.** The role of ClimaHealth

Increasing climate resilience in the health sector demands understanding and using climate information to inform policy and practice decisions. Learn about the WHO framework for building climate resilient health systems, and key steps to identify, envision, develop and apply climate services for health.



**Figure 3.** The WHO operational framework for building climate resilient health systems is comprised of ten components

### 3. THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ADDRESSING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES - THE CASE OF CLIMAHEALTH

#### 3.1. Coordination of National Environmental Governance Policies

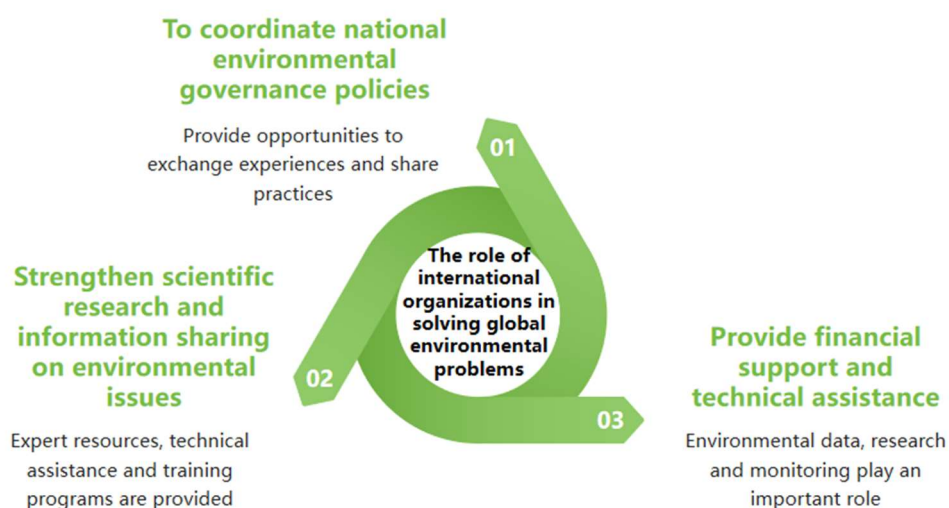
Global environmental problems often transcend national boundaries and require joint responses from all countries. International organizations promote cooperation in the field of environmental protection by convening international conferences and formulating international treaties and agreements. They also provide a platform for countries to exchange and learn, share successful experiences and technologies in environmental governance, and promote mutual benefit among countries. For example, international organizations such as ClimaHealth provide a platform for countries to promote cooperation and transnational coordination in the field of the environment. By organizing conferences, workshops and collaborative projects, ClimaHealth provides an opportunity for governments, research institutions and ngos alike to exchange experiences and share best practices. This cooperation mechanism helps countries to jointly formulate environmental protection goals and policies, coordinate actions, and jointly solve global environmental problems.[4]

### 3.2. Provide Financial Support and Technical Assistance

Addressing environmental problems often requires large financial and technological investments, but many developing countries have difficulties in doing so. International organizations help these countries improve their environmental conditions and improve their environmental governance capacity by setting up environmental funds, providing technical assistance and training, for example, ClimaHealth plays an important role in environmental data, research and monitoring. Through the establishment of databases and information networks, they collect, collate and analyze global environmental data to provide countries with real-time and reliable environmental information. This information helps countries assess the state of the environment, develop effective environmental policies, and monitor the effectiveness of policy implementation. ClimaHealth has a special focus on the link between climate and health by providing relevant data and information to help countries better address the health impacts of climate change.[5]

### 3.3. Strengthen Scientific Research and Information Sharing on Environmental Issues

International organizations provide scientific basis for global environmental governance by organizing scientific research projects, releasing environmental assessment reports and monitoring data. At the same time, international organizations have also promoted the dissemination and exchange of global environmental protection knowledge through the establishment of information sharing platforms to help countries better cope with environmental problems. ClimaHealth also helps countries improve their environmental protection capacity and knowledge by providing technical support and information exchange. They may provide expert resources, technical assistance and training programmes to enable countries to respond more effectively to environmental challenges. Such technical support and information exchange will help narrow the gap between countries in environmental protection and promote the balanced development of global environmental governance.[6]



**Figure 4.** The role of international organizations in addressing global environmental problems

## **4. CHALLENGES FACED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ADDRESSING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES - THE CASE OF CLIMAHEALTH**

### **4.1. Shortage of Funds and Resources**

Many international organizations face the dilemma of insufficient financial and technical resources in environmental governance. The solution of global environmental problems requires a large amount of financial input and technical support, but the funding sources of international organizations are often limited and cannot meet all needs. This limits the scope and effectiveness of their actions in environmental governance. Organizations such as ClimaHealth require significant funding and technical support to carry out their work, including data collection, analysis, research and dissemination. However, due to limited sources of funding and insufficient technological innovation, international organizations often struggle to meet these needs. This limits their role and influence in addressing global environmental problems.

### **4.2. Interference by Political Interests**

In solving global environmental problems, some countries may have reservations or take negative actions on certain environmental issues out of their own interests. Such interference of political interests makes international organizations face great resistance in promoting global environmental governance, which may lead to the delay or obstruction of environmental protection actions. In the process of global environmental governance, international organizations may be influenced and controlled by major powers, thus losing their independence. ClimaHealth, as an information platform, needs to be objective and impartial, but in practice it may be affected by the interests of some countries, resulting in its positions and views deviating from objective facts. At the same time, the positioning of international organizations in global environmental governance may also be problematic, and they may regulate too little or too much, and fail to fully play their due role.[7]

### **4.3. Difficulties in Cooperation and Coordination**

International cooperation and coordination have become particularly difficult due to the differences in interests and positions of countries on environmental issues. International organizations face enormous challenges in coordinating national policies and promoting common action. ClimaHealth aims to integrate the expertise of WHO and the World Meteorological Organization to provide global users with information, technical resources and data on climate and health. However, international cooperation is often difficult to achieve due to differences in the positions and interests of countries on climate change and environmental protection. Countries may give priority to their own economic interests and development needs, while ignoring the overall interests of global environmental governance. This makes it hard for international organizations to get countries to act together. Finally, there are deficiencies in transparency and accountability mechanisms in the operation of some international organizations. This can lead to problems such as unfair decision-making, poor implementation, and difficulties in assessing the effectiveness of governance. The lack of transparency and accountability mechanisms may also undermine the credibility and authority of international organizations.

### **4.4. Institutional Complexity and Institutional Confusion**

The decision-making mechanisms of some international organizations are not transparent and fair enough, which may lead to governance imbalances and conflicts of interest. In addition, the monitoring and enforcement mechanisms of international organizations are inadequate to ensure that countries meet their commitments on environmental protection. Some international organizations

have the problem of excessively large institutions and chaotic systems, leading to a decline in governance efficiency. This has affected the trust and reliance of member States on international organizations and limited the role of international organizations in solving global environmental problems. In the case of ClimaHealth, although it integrates the expertise of multiple organizations, the decision-making mechanisms and distribution of power of international organizations in the global environmental governance system may not be transparent and fair enough. This can lead to the voices of some countries being ignored, while others may use their influence in international organizations to advance their own interests. In addition, the monitoring and enforcement mechanisms of international organizations may be inadequate to ensure that States meet their commitments on environmental protection.

## **5. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ADDRESSING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS - THE CASE OF CLIMAHEALTH**

### **5.1. Strengthen Fund Raising and Technical Support**

International organizations should seek diversified sources of funding, including government grants, corporate donations, and social investment, to ensure continued financial support for environmental governance projects. At the same time, it is also necessary to establish closer cooperation with international scientific research institutions and universities, promote technological innovation and research and development in the field of environment, and effectively translate these technologies into practical solutions. Learning from ClimaHealth's model and working with professional organizations in the field to jointly develop and promote environmental technologies and solutions for developing countries, the use of climate and environmental science and its tools tailored to public health has great potential to save lives, including disease prediction and heat wave and health early warning systems. These tools and resources can advance our understanding of the links between climate and health, help us reach people at risk, and predict and reduce impacts.

### **5.2. Improving the Global Environmental Governance Mechanism**

On the one hand, a more just, transparent and efficient decision-making mechanism should be established to ensure that the interests of all member states are fully taken into account and balanced. On the other hand, we should strengthen the supervision and evaluation of countries' environmental governance behaviors, encourage countries to effectively fulfill their environmental protection commitments, and form a joint force for global environmental governance. Finally, explore the establishment of incentive mechanisms for global environmental governance, such as setting up environmental protection awards, providing technical support, etc., to encourage countries to actively participate in global environmental governance.

### **5.3. Strengthen International Cooperation and Coordination**

Deepen cooperation with governments, non-governmental organizations, enterprises and other stakeholders to form a pattern of diverse participation in global environmental governance. International conferences, seminars and other activities will be held to strengthen exchanges and cooperation among countries in environmental policy, technology and finance. Promote the establishment of regional environmental governance cooperation mechanisms, such as regional environmental cooperation organizations and transboundary river governance cooperation, to address regional environmental problems. For example, ClimaHealth users will be able to connect with global experts and find upcoming events, news, opportunities, technical resources and data, as well as applied decision and learning tools, case studies, planning guides and research documents; At the

same time, users can search by country, disaster and topic, and find the profiles and related resources of a growing number of climate service providers.[8]

#### **5.4. Promote Public Awareness and Participation**

Building on ClimaHealth's approach in public education and awareness raising, we will carry out a wide range of environmental advocacy activities to raise public awareness and concern about global environmental issues. Encourage the public to participate in environmental governance, such as the establishment of environmental volunteer projects, environmental public welfare activities, etc., to form a good atmosphere for all people to participate in environmental governance. Strengthen cooperation with the media, communicate the seriousness and urgency of global environmental problems to the public through news reports, documentaries, etc., and guide the public to take positive environmental actions. Tailored climate information for the health sector requires strong partnerships and collaboration between producers and users of climate information. ClimaHealth's new platform will help connect the health and climate communities, supporting accelerated multidisciplinary research and national capacity building. And support the use of evidence and decision-making tools by a broad audience, including policymakers and community groups, to drive access to information and to advocate for action and investment.

#### **5.5. Strengthening the Self-improvement of International Organizations**

To enhance the professionalism and authority of international organizations, strengthen cooperation and exchanges with international environmental experts, and enhance their influence and voice in global environmental governance. Improve the internal management systems and operational mechanisms of international organizations to ensure that they perform their environmental protection duties efficiently and impartially. We will strengthen training and education for the staff of international organizations to enhance their environmental awareness and professionalism, so as to better serve the cause of global environmental governance. Through the implementation of the above recommendations, the role of international organizations in solving global environmental problems will be further enhanced, and greater contributions will be made to building a beautiful and clean earth environment.

### **6. CONCLUSION**

International organizations play a key role in solving global environmental problems, but they also face many challenges. The role of international organizations in global environmental governance can be further brought into play by strengthening international cooperation, improving the efficiency of capital and resource utilization, optimizing policy coordination mechanisms, and strengthening transparency and accountability mechanisms. In the future, with the continuous progress of science and technology and the continuous improvement of the global environmental governance system, the role of international organizations in solving global environmental problems will become more prominent.

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