



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE COVERAGE ON
CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH
BY UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

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In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful.

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ABSTRACT

Since the latest release of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, climate change is an issue that is not foreign in the mouths of the public. This is because it has numerous impacts on the society which involves dwindling living spaces, economic turmoil, or health risks to them. This research is proposed due to the abundance of differences between the way of coverage as well as the amount of coverage on climate change issues in the Global North and Global South, the worsening of existing vulnerabilities by climate change, and lack of journalistic resources in the Global South. Therefore, the aim of this study is to analyse the coverage on climate change in the Global South and Global North by UNFCCC. Qualitative research was used to carry out this investigation. The UNFCCC was deemed an appropriate choice. Textual content analysis was employed as the approach of data analysis by sorted into several themes and categories using the qualitative analysis application software NVivo in order to find the key code linked with these categories using certain keywords. The number of articles retrieved from the website of UNFCCC were 51 articles. Global North was given more coverage, with the fact that the Global North only consists of 60 countries than Global South which consists of 134 countries but was mentioned triple times more than Global South. For Global North, the topics of the articles covered were majorly written on the issues, plans, and initiatives of the countries, while Global South were provided with more coverage regarding the impacts or effects of climate change occurrence onto the livelihood of the society and community in their respective region or country. The report highlights significant distinctions between the Global North and the Global South overall. It is recommended for the UNFCCC to ensure better accessibility by preparing translations of the articles or using more simple language for better understanding of all. For future studies, it is best that there could be a presence of a team in order to handle the language barriers which might be present in the conduct of study.

Keywords: *climate change, media coverage, content analysis, Global South, Global North, UNFCCC.*

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Since the latest release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, climate change is an issue that is not foreign in the mouths of the public. This is due to the fact that it has numerous impacts on the society which involves dwindling living spaces, economic turmoil, or health risks to them (Dryzek, Norgaard, & Schlosberg, 2011). The long-term viability of ecological systems and the benefits they give to humans is jeopardised by greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the IPCC (2022), the history recorded the emission of global greenhouse gases reached the highest amount in the year between 2010 to 2019, and it is urgent to lessen the emission by 45% reaching the year of 2030 in order to avoid from reaching the global warming limit of 1.5°C. This is threatening since sea level rise, the development of tropical diseases such as malaria, the amplification of tropical storms, increased floods and droughts, disruption of water supply and agricultural productivity, and biodiversity loss would all be exacerbated by rising temperatures (Dryzek, Norgaard, & Schlosberg, 2012).

However, failure in communicating the issue of climate change occurs and this is largely blamed for the "Consensus Gap," a discrepancy between scientific and popular knowledge of climate change (Nisbet, Cooper, and Garrett, 2015). The intangible character of climate change reporting consistently fails to appropriately explain the gravity of this issue to a general audience, despite an extensive list of threats related to climate change (Bastinid, Clark, Elliott, Hart, van den Hoogenid, Hordijkid, Ma, Majumder, Manoliid, Maschler, Mo, Routh, Yu, Zohner, and Crowther, 2019). The majority of people from all regions of the world find it difficult to imagine how an