

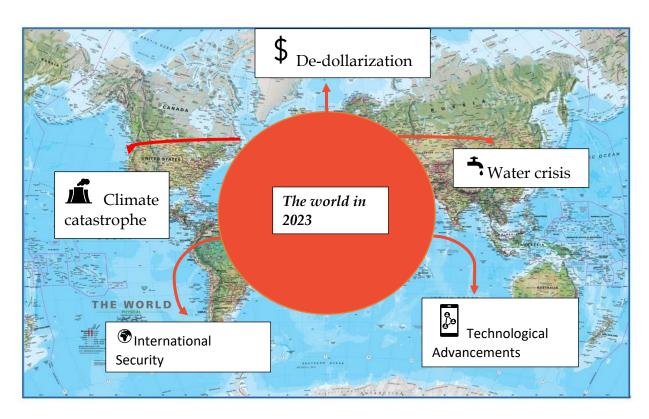
The world in 2023: Five Issues that will shape the International Agenda

Tayyaba Razzaq

Research Associate- NUST Institute of Policy Studies

Email: researchassociate.nips@nust.edu.pk

The world in 2023 is likely to look quite different from the world we used to know. Many of the challenges that will shape the international agenda in the coming years are already emerging, including de-dollarization, water crisis, climate change, international security and technological advancements.



De-dollarization is the process of replacing the US dollar with another currency as a global reserve currency. This is being driven by growing concerns about the US dollar's strength and its ability to remain the global reserve currency. The shift away from the US dollar has already begun and is likely to accelerate as countries seek to reduce their reliance on the dollar.

Water crisis is a growing concern, with water scarcity becoming a major issue in many parts of the world. The world's population is expected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, and this will put further strain on water resources.

Climate change is also likely to exacerbate the water crisis, with rising temperatures leading to more unpredictable weather patterns and increased droughts. Climate change is also likely to be a major issue in 2023. The severe impacts of climate change are already being experienced around the world, with tremendous weather events becoming increasingly common and sea levels rising. Countries will need to work together to develop and implement effective strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

International security is another major issue that will shape the international agenda in 2023. The interconnected globalized world, and proliferation of technology has increased the threats of cyber-attacks and other forms of violence, which is a major concern. Therefore, countries will need to work together to ensure that the world is a safe place for all.

Finally, technological advancements are likely to have a huge impact on the world in 2023. We are already seeing the emergence of new technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) including robotics and many other advancements, which are transforming the way we live and work. These technologies will continue to shape the world in the years to come and have the potential to revolutionize many aspects of our lives.

World will move towards De-dollarization

The world is moving towards a new era of de-dollarization. The US dollar has long been the primary currency of choice for international trade and finance, but the trend is now changing. As the US continues to print more money and the dollar's purchasing power weakens, other countries are looking for alternatives. The US dollar is no longer the world's reserve currency, and this shift is likely to continue in 2023.

In 2023, de-dollarization is being driven by various factors. First, the US dollar's purchasing power has been weakened by the US government's aggressive money-printing policies. As the US continues to print money to prop up the economy, the dollar's value has decreased, making it less attractive for international trade and finance.

Second, nations are looking for alternatives to the US dollar. Global competitors such as China and Russia have begun to use their own currencies for international trade and finance. This trend is increasingly being adopted by other countries as well. For example, Japan also announced that it is exploring ways to reduce its reliance on the dollar for international transactions.

The role of BRICS in the de-dollarization of the global economy is becoming increasingly important. As the US dollar continues to be a dominant currency in global trade and finance, the BRICS countries are looking to develop alternative solutions that reduce their dependence on the dollar and promote greater economic stability. BRICS countries have already started to take steps to reduce the dollar's dominance in their respective economies. China has recently announced plans to phase out the dollar in its foreign exchange reserves, while Russia has been pushing for the creation of an alternative payments system that would reduce its reliance on the US dollar.

In addition, BRICS countries are also working together on the New Development Bank (NDB), it aims to fund infrastructure projects throughout the emerging world. The NDB provides financing for long-term investments in the BRICS countries, which could help to reduce the reliance on the US dollar for global trade and finance. Moreover, BRICS

countries are also looking to promote the use of their own currencies for international investments. By using their own currencies, countries such as China and Russia are hoping to create more stability in the global economy and reduce their reliance on the US dollar. Hence, the role of BRICS in the de-dollarization of the global economy is becoming increasingly important. The BRICS countries are taking steps to reduce their reliance on the US dollar and create more stability in the global economy. By promoting the use of their own currencies, developing alternative payments systems and creating a new development bank, the BRICS countries are leading the way in the push for a more balanced and stable global economy.

Third, some countries are looking to cryptocurrencies as a potential alternative to the US dollar. Cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, and Litecoin have been gaining in popularity and are becoming increasingly accepted as currencies for finance.

These trends are likely to continue in 2023, as countries continue to look for alternatives to the US dollar. As more countries abandon the dollar, the world will slowly move towards a state of de-dollarization. This will reduce the US's economic influence and increase the power of other currencies.

Ultimately, de-dollarization is a long-term process that will take time to unfold. In the short term, considering the Russia-Ukraine Crisis, it is likely that the US dollar will remain the dominant currency for international trade but not for a longer time. Therefore, the trend towards de-dollarization is likely to continue. As more countries look for alternatives to the US dollar this year, the world will slowly move away from its reliance on the US dollar and towards a more diverse and global financial system.

International Security

International security will be a challenge in 2023, due to a variety of factors. The world is becoming increasingly interconnected, with globalization and the proliferation of technology contributing to this trend. As a result, cybercrime, and other security issues will continue to be a major challenge.

The increased complexity of the global economy, and the emergence of new power structures, will also continue to create security issues. The effects of globalization on international security is an area of concern, as it has the potential to amplify existing threats. With the emergence of global networks, there is a risk that terrorist networks, organized crime, and cyber-attacks, can be spread across the world.

In addition, the increasing prevalence of cyber-attacks, and the lack of effective cyber-security measures, will further heighten the risk of international security threats. The increasing prevalence of artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics will present new threats to international security. AI and robotics will be used to develop new weapons, surveillance systems, and other security measures, which could be used to undermine existing security structures.

Similarly, the use of AI and robotics could be used to facilitate espionage, terrorist activities, and other malicious activities. The increasing prevalence of natural disasters, due to climate change, will also present a major challenge to international security in 2023, because of the extreme weather events, such as floods, hurricanes, and drought, that has caused significant disruption to global infrastructure, which has lead to economic instability, and increased security risks. In addition, the displacement of people due to climate change, this year, will lead to increased levels of migration and refugee crises, which could further increase the threats of international security issues.

Water Crisis

In recent years, the world has been facing a growing water crisis, and this crisis is expected to worsen by 2023, if the current trajectory of water usage continues. According to the United Nations, by 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity, and two-thirds of the world's population could be living in water-stressed conditions. This water crisis will have severe implications for global economic growth, health, and food security, as well as the environment.

The water crisis can be understood by considering significant number of factors, which include population growth, climate change, and the lack of access to drink clean water. As the population of the world is increasing day by day, the necessity for fresh water will also increase while the amount of available water resources will remain relatively constant. This situation has further worsened by the impacts of global climate change, that is causing droughts and melting glaciers, which is reducing the amount of available water. In many regions of the world, access to clean water is limited, resulting in people using contaminated water not only for drinking but also for other uses.

The water scarcity should be considered as a global problem and requires a global solution. International agreements, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, have been established to address the water crisis. These goals include providing universal access to clean water, sanitation, promoting an efficient use to water resources, and protecting water-related ecosystems. However, these goals have not been adequately implemented, and progress towards achieving them has been slow.

In addition to international agreements, national governments must take action to address the water crisis. This includes investing in water infrastructure, such as dams, irrigation systems, and wastewater treatment plants. Governments must also promote sustainable water management practices, such as water conservation, rainwater harvesting, and reuse of wastewater.

Furthermore, governments should promote awareness and education around water issues, so that people understand the importance of using water resources responsibly. If the current trends of water usage continue and the world fails to take meaningful action to address the water crisis, the situation will only worsen by 2023. The impacts of the water crisis will be felt in all areas of society, and it will have severe implications for global economic growth, health, and food security. In order to avoid this grim future, governments must take action now to address the water crisis. This includes implementing effective international agreements, investing in water infrastructure, and

promoting sustainable water management practices. If we are to succeed in averting a global water crisis in 2023, states must act now.

Technological Advancements

Technology has always been a part of our lives, and it is constantly changing and evolving. We now live in a world where technology is advancing faster than ever before and it is having a huge impact on our lives. The most obvious example of how technology is changing the world this year is in the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

AI is already being used in a wide variety of applications, from smart home devices to autonomous vehicles. AI is also being used in healthcare, finance, and education, as well as many other areas. In 2023, AI is expected to become even more advanced and sophisticated, with researchers predicting that it will be able to perform tasks that were previously impossible. AI is also being used to develop new technologies and systems that can help us solve issues of the world like poverty and climate change.

Another big change that technology is bringing to the world this year is the rise of the internet of things (IoT). The IoT is a type of technology that creates a network of connected devices which are capable of communicating with each other. This means that devices like phone, TV, and refrigerator can communicate with each other and even with home's central computer. This technology is already being used in smart homes, but it is also being used in a variety of other areas such as factories, hospitals, and even public transportation. Virtual reality (VR) is also becoming increasingly popular this year. VR allows people to experience environments in a completely immersive way. This technology is being used in the gaming industry, but it is also being used in education, and other areas. VR is allowing people to experience places and things that were previously inaccessible or too expensive to explore. Finally, blockchain technology is beginning to revolutionize the way people do business. Blockchain technology is a secure and decentralized ledger system that allows for the transfer of data between two parties

without the need for a third party. It being used in different places like industries, including finance and in government services.

Technology is changing the world in 2023 in a variety of ways. This is in stark contrast to the way it was used in the past, when technology was mainly used to improve the efficiency of existing processes. Now, technology is being used to create entirely new ways of doing things and to solve some of the world's major issues.

Climate Catastrophe

Climate catastrophe has been an increasing concern in recent years, with weather-related disasters such as floods, hurricanes and heat waves becoming more frequent and more intense. In 2023, if nothing is done to address this growing threat, climate catastrophe will indeed have a devastating impact all over the world.

The effects of global climate change will be felt in multiple ways, including the disruption of ecosystems, changes to the global economy, and the displacement of millions of people. The Paris Agreement was a landmark agreement in 2015, in which countries agreed to take action not only to to reduce their emissions but also to keep global temperature rise at least below 2 degrees Celsius. However, since then it is observed that the progress of the states is slow, and in 2017 the United States withdrew from the agreement, a major setback for efforts to tackle climate change. At the COP27 in 2022, the issue of "Loss and Damage" was discussed, with a fund being created to provide financial compensation to countries that have suffered the most from climate-related disasters. This is an important step, but it is not enough to prevent the devastation caused by climate catastrophes in 2023.

The world is running out of time to take action to mitigate the effects of climate change. If nothing is done, the impacts of climate catastrophe in 2023 will be catastrophic. Extreme weather events will increase in number and intensity, causing economic losses, displacement of people, and disruption of ecosystems. Heat waves will become longer and more intense, leading to droughts, crop failures, and increased water scarcity.

In order to prevent the worst from happening, countries must eliminate or at least minimize the use fossil fuels. This requires a global effort, as well as government policies and incentives to encourage businesses and individuals to switch to clean energy.

Additionally, there needs to be investment in climate adaptation strategies, such as improved infrastructure, water management systems, and early warning systems. It is clear that climate catastrophe in 2023 will be a reality unless drastic action is taken now. To prevent the worst from happening, governments must work together to implement policies to reduce emissions and invest in climate adaptation strategies. It is essential that the world takes action now, as 2023 could be our last chance to control the climate disasters.

Conclusion

In conclusion, if we see the world in 2023 with different lens considering these five Issues that will shape the International Agenda, we will understand that it is a complex and multifaceted topic that cannot be ignored. In the future, the five issues of de-dollarization, water crisis, climate change, international security and technological advancements will be of particular importance when it comes to shaping the global agenda. De-dollarization has already begun and is likely to continue, leading to a more diversified international economic system. At the same time, it is likely to reduce the influence of the US in global economic affairs. The water crisis is an urgent issue that has been exacerbated by climate change and population growth. Water scarcity will continue to be a serious issue in many regions of the world in 2023, and it is likely to be an important factor in global geopolitics. Countries will need to cooperate to address water scarcity and improve access to clean water, as well as to mitigate the effects of climate disasters on the availability of water. This global issue of climate change will require concerted international efforts and the development of more sustainable energy sources. Additionally, for International security, the states will need to work together to address these threats and develop effective strategies for maintaining global security. Technological advancements are also likely to have a significant impact on the global agenda in 2023. AI and automation will continue

to transform many sectors, while new technologies such as blockchain will also have important implications. Therefore, the world in 2023 is likely to be a very different place from today. It is essential that countries work together not only to address such issues but also make sure that the world is a safe place for all.