Sharing and Development of Renewable Energy

With climate change threatening devastating impacts upon the world, something needs to be done about energy sources that pollute the environment and a way forward is the development of renewable energies which are, for the most part, very eco-friendly. According to Wikipedia, "renewable energy is energy that is collected from renewable resources, which are naturally replenished on a human timescale". This means that they are energies that replenish themselves quickly, unlike fossil fuels which are burnt rapidly for energy but take a long time to replenish and are running out. Examples of renewable energies include: hydropower, geothermal, wind and solar.

Countries will need to rethink their energy policies as global climate change is approaching and many sources of fossil fuels such as oil and natural gas are almost fully depleted. The world will inevitably have to develop renewable energies from renewable energy sources to counter act these problems. Currently there are over 30 nations who depend on fossil fuels for 90% or over of their energy – this results in these fossil fuels being burnt, which is incredibly harmful to the environment as concluded by numerous studies.

In addition, there are countries, such as Saudi Arabia, that rely on 100% finite energy sources (non-finite is the same as renewable), therefore currently use no renewable energies for their energy consumption. This is an issue because they will need support in developing these technologies for cleaner energy as they don't use any right now.

The issue is trying to improve development of renewable energies and creating a sound infrastructure for the sharing of these technologies. This is because the spreading of these technologies should not be so that companies and industries who have developed them profit via financial gains but so the world profits by tackling climate change and all other issues that stem from it. However, many countries will not be willing to invest in these technologies as it much more efficient to burn fossil fuels and renewable energies are often expensive and research isn't always cost-effective. This may be the case particularly in LEDCs in which there may be a lack of funding or resources for an efficient renewable energy program. With the sharing of technologies, another issue arises in which countries may try to make others pay for the insight into cleaner energies. Therefore, the issue of whether the sharing should be free and non-profit gaining or not should be addressed.

Furthermore, countries that are currently having an industrial boom, such as China, are burning up much more fossil fuels than other countries and may not be willing to try and integrate more renewable energies into their energy production and consumption for reasons listed above. Furthermore, it can be seen as unfair that countries such as the UK and others in Europe have already had their industrial revolution and have already damaged the environment and countries that are having theirs now may feel that this is unjust.

Points To consider:

- Should all countries have to replace a certain amount of their energy production/consumption with renewable energy? Should there be a percentage of all energy that is renewable that has to be met by each nation?

- Should there be an individual nation, all nations or UN effort into the development of such technologies?
- If individual, should technologies be given freely to other countries, or at a price?
- Should there be a target for a percentage of the world's energy to be renewable?
- Should there be sanctions on countries who fail to adhere to specified targets?

Useful links:

- World Atlas – most dependent countries on fossil fuels:https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/countries-the-most-dependent-on-fossil-fuels.html
- Wikipedia – Renewable Energy: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renewable_energy