

28 – 31 March 2021

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) NMUN Simulation*



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Conference A

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United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Committee Staff

Director	Christopher Duggan
Assistant Director	Johanna Günkel
Chair	Taylor Gregory

Agenda

- I. Forced Displacement Due to Climate Change
- II. Ensuring Access to Safe and Sustainable Energy
- III. Improving Employment Opportunities for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UNHCR/1/1	Forced Displacement Due to Climate Change	42 votes in favor, 3 votes against, 2 abstentions
UNHCR/1/2	Forced Displacement Due to Climate Change	36 votes in favor, 5 votes against, 6 abstentions
UNHCR/1/3	Forced Displacement Due to Climate Change	43 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 2 abstentions
UNHCR/1/4	Forced Displacement Due to Climate Change	43 votes in favor, 3 votes against, 1 abstentions

Summary Report

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Forced Displacement Due to Climate Change
- II. Ensuring Access to Safe and Sustainable Energy
- III. Improving Employment Opportunities for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

The session was attended by representatives of 50 Member States, one Observer, and one non-governmental organization.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning a discussion of the topic of "Forced Displacement Due to Climate Change." By Monday, the Dais received a total of five proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including a definition of climate refugees, data and early warning systems for climate related displacement, planned relocation, alternative forms of agriculture, regional cooperation, and education and employment training programs. By Tuesday, the committee had merged four working papers into two, with another working paper addressing other aspects of the topic and one additional working paper focusing explicitly on the definition of climate refugees and IDPs. Debate in UNHCR was diplomatic and productive and delegates worked exceedingly well together these first two days.

On Wednesday, four draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, three of which had amendments. The committee adopted four resolutions following voting procedure. One attempted division of the question to highlight a clause on youth education did not pass in the procedural vote. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including definitions of the terms 'environmental IDP' and 'environmental refugee', resettlement of refugees and IDPs affected by climate change, alternative forms of agriculture, education and employment training, and data collection on climate and disaster related displacement. Throughout the conference, delegates worked under a shared goal of consensus and were committed to finding common solutions to forced displacement due to climate change.



Code: UNHCR/1/1

Committee: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Forced Displacement Due to Climate Change

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Recognizing that there are no officially recognized terms for those persons forced to relocate due to climate change related reasons, either internally or transnationally, within the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or by the *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* (1951),

Acknowledging the progress made by the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) in their ruling on the case of *Leoane Teitiota v. New Zealand* (2020), which established precedent towards recognizing the right to life of those individuals who are displaced by environmental causes,

Recalling the *Kampala Convention* (2009), in which the African Union (AU) provided “measures to protect and assist persons who have been internally displaced due to natural or human made disasters, including climate change”,

Having reviewed the definition of “environmental migrant” put forward by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), “predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are forced to leave their places of habitual residence”,

Further recalling the advice put forth by Human Rights Watch that a climate refugee should be identified by these factors: “forced migration, temporary or permanent relocation, movement across the borders, disruption consistent with climate change, sudden or gradual environmental disruption, and a more than likely standard for human contribution to the disruption”,

1. *Invites* the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to legally define, at the international level, persons displaced due to climate related causes, as:
 - a. Environmental Internally Displaced Person (IDP), a person who, predominantly for reasons of progressive change in the environment that adversely affects their life or living conditions, is obliged to leave their habitual home, either temporarily or permanently, and who moves internally within their own nation state;
 - b. Environmental Refugee, a person who, predominantly for reasons of progressive change in the environment that adversely affects their life or living conditions, and has a well-founded belief that returning to their state of origin would threaten their life or living conditions due to environmental degradation and/or natural disasters, is obliged to leave their habitual nation state;
2. *Further invites* the General Assembly to grant the same protections to Environmental IDPs and Environmental Refugees as are offered to IDPs and Refugees as accepted in the extant diplomatic lexicon.



Code: UNHCR/1/2

Committee: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Forced Displacement Due to Climate Change

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Fully alarmed by global warming and environmental disasters which are already major drivers of forced displacement today, and noting with deep concern that the situation is going to deteriorate dramatically, as, according to the World Bank, 143 million people are going to be displaced due to climate change related causes by 2050,

Reaffirming the importance of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 13 of General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015) on “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, calling for urgent action against climate change and underlining the specific protection needs of the poor and vulnerable being disproportionately strongly affected by climate change,

Emphasizing the importance of the plan “Engaging with employers in the hiring of refugees. A 10-point multi-stakeholder action plan for employers, refugees, governments and civil society” by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which focuses on the economic inclusion of displaced persons by strengthening collaboration between diverse stakeholders,

Acknowledging the necessity of the Green Climate Fund set up to help vulnerable societies adapt to the unavoidable effects of climate change increasing the resilience of 498 million people,

Recalling SDG 11, the Tempelhof Project and the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Organization, calling for and working towards inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements,

Approving of the actions taken by the Resilient Cities Initiative by the Climate Fund in Latin American nations to support establishment and climate resilient infrastructure,

Appreciating the 240,000 farm households that have been supported by the Integrated Land Management Initiative by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

Recognizing the important work of other United Nations (UN) entities in the area of climate displacement like the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (1945), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (1972) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1994),

Taking into consideration the lack of an internationally approved refugee definition that includes Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) displaced by the effects of climate change,

Welcoming the *Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (OAU Convention)* (1969) serving as a regional effort to expand the *1951 Refugee Convention* refugee definition by including environmental disasters and the *2009 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention)* addressing internal displacement caused by armed conflict, natural disasters, and large-scale development,

Reaffirming the report of UNEP, *Livelihood Security: Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in the Sahel* (2011), which states that climate change effects increased competition over scarce resources in some hot spots in the areas,

Recalling the report by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recommendation for *Addressing Women's Human Rights in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* (2016), and noting with disapproval that women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men and further subject to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) through the displacement cycle, thus have specific protection needs,

Acknowledging the report *How Europe takes Forward Refugee Compacts: Recommendations related to girls and women* (2017) by the European Network of Migrant Women and Women Refugee Route calling for a gender-sensitive perspective in planning, implementation, and monitoring of migration solutions,

Recognizing the international commitment on climate change adaptation by creating the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* and the *2018 Global Compact on Refugees* (GCR) calling for the inclusion of refugees and IDPs in climate resilience strategies,

Calling attention to the Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide (2016) by UN International Children's Fund (UNICEF), which provides guidelines on understanding, situating and operationalizing conflict-sensitivity and peacebuilding and UNHCR's Promoting Conflict-Sensitive Aid project that strengthens the capacities of healthcare and humanitarian actors to implement programs using a conflict-sensitive approach,

Stressing the protection needs of indigenous peoples sharing a cultural relationship with the ecosystem, and further acknowledging that their traditional knowledge and climate change adaptation strategies may enhance existing and future frameworks, and thus *appreciating* the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) established to facilitate the exchange of experience and practices responding to climate change among indigenous and local communities,

Recognizing the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons as a concise framework that promotes self-sufficiency amongst IDPs which focuses on strengthening independence and initiating solid plans for peaceful return for IDPs,

Appreciating the work done from 2014 to 2017 by the Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP) project in partnership with six Member States regarding the adaptation of migration strategies to climate change,

1. *Recommends* the creation of the new project *Pinpoint, Reinforce, Ensure, and Prepare* (PREP) on the resettlement of refugees and IDPs affected by climate change funded by the Green Climate Fund and voluntary contributions by Member States, which includes:
 - a. Setting up an independent board of experts (Land Bank Board) carrying out field research on housing, land, and property rights in cooperation with the non-governmental organization Displacement Solutions and evaluating participating Member States' territories regarding regions impacted by climate change;
 - b. Creating action plans based on the research of the Land Bank Board together with the respective government focusing on present and future internal resettlement options by

creating modern, specified infrastructure and improving national resilience to climate impacts;

- c. Encouraging the Member States to implement the Global Compact on Refugees multi-stakeholder action plan by the UNHCR and the OECD guiding governments and different stakeholders on how to foster economic inclusion of refugees and IDPs and to apply OECD strengthening collaboration between employers, refugees, governments, and civil society to improve refugees' and IDPs' employment opportunities;
2. *Further recommends* the repurposing and fortifying of old buildings and/or "ghost towns" within Member States, as has been done in Member States with the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Organization and the *Tempelhof Project* through:
 - a. Encouraging Member States who have pre-existing infrastructure to make the resettlement of IDPs and refugees into structurally fortified locations a priority;
 - b. Inviting Member States to utilize excess housing and buildings which are no longer in use in climate impacted regions to create resettlement options for IDPs and facilitate a swift return to self-reliance;
 - c. Emphasizing the positive effects of safe and secure housing on the mental health and self-sufficiency of displaced peoples that is enabled through secure housing instead of tent camps;
3. *Requests* the operational and geographical expansion of the Resilient Cities Initiative by the Climate Invest Fund, with the help of the UNHCR, which focuses on harnessing the benefits of rapid growth in small cities to assist transformative urban development, the initiative will use a participatory methodology and a toolbox to support climate resilience by the creation of local platform to assist governments;
4. *Promotes* the Integrated Landscape Management by UNDP, which focuses on the enhancement of long-term resilience of food production systems through a multi-stakeholder approach supported by the FAO and UNHCR, and establishes systemic monitoring, learning and knowledge management as well as strengthen institutional frameworks that foster sustainability in identified nations that require support;
5. *Calls upon* Member States to work closely together with relevant humanitarian and development organizations and to continue to support the organizations financially, focusing on FAO, UNEP, and UNFCCC, which specifically address:
 - a. Providing information to displaced persons in rural and urban areas and raising awareness for future climate change consequences;
 - b. Encouraging green loans for developing countries, who are fighting against climate change related issues and addressing the development of green deal proposals and activities;
 - c. Promoting gender equality, as well as protecting children by providing affordable access to public and multilingual e-Learning Centers;

6. *Further requests* the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons to be extended and applied to those displaced from beyond their countries borders to ensure the safety and continued development of those displaced due to climate change;
7. *Affirms* that the UNHCR supports defining the term 'Internally Displaced Persons' as outlined in the *Kampala Convention*, which includes persons displaced due to natural or human-made disaster;
8. *Encourages* Member States to integrate a conflict sensitive approach when they provide aid or support for those displaced due to climate change, especially in high-tension areas, taking the steps of understanding the context of conflict, making a plan of effective approaches, assessing the impacts on the local communities, and implementing the strategies, taking into account the Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Programming Guide and modeling its approach after the project Promoting Conflict-Sensitivity Aid led by UNHCR;
9. *Invites* Member States to model the program conducted by Women Refugee Route and European Network for Women Migrants and to apply a gender-sensitive approach concerning migration solutions which includes gender-friendly safe spaces, accommodation facilities and separate restrooms for the displaced women and girls to prevent SGBV;
10. *Requests* the participation of indigenous people in cooperation with the LCIPP at the next Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to include their needs and improvement ideas concerning the *Sendai Framework*;
11. *Calls upon* the continued support for the Climate Change, Environment and Migration Alliance, a global partnership that aims to bring together stakeholders that wish to address and tackle multiple aspects such as environment, migration, development, and humanitarian assistance, bringing policies and frameworks that hope to solve the aforementioned problems;
12. *Requires* the re-initiation and extension of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP) project data-base and studies to a global scale by building upon the IOM's Data Tracking Matrix which has initiated data collection with regional organizations and the United Nations Statistics Division, as well as accommodating a working group that helps access worldwide data on displacement due to climate change, implements data-based policies adapted to their specific context of their territories and discusses the efficiency of data-based policies implemented by Member States or regional actors;
13. *Suggests* using UNHCR's Kenyan Comprehensive Refugee Program as a model for other host nations to develop programs that use a multistakeholder approach to the collection of data regarding the challenges, opportunities, planned responses and knowledge gaps in current refugee establishments with the host government in the lead, emphasizing the need for the centrality of communities in the process.



Code: UNHCR/1/3

Committee: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Forced Displacement Due to Climate Change

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Acknowledging the urgency of climate change, as presented in the IPCC Report (AR5 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2014), and its effect on populations vulnerable to natural disasters and weather-related incidents, and that many climate-related incidents have long-term impacts on vulnerable populations and the agriculture of Member States,

Having examined that, as of 2019, 5.1 million people worldwide were displaced due to climate change, with an increase to 9.8 million displaced in 2020,

Drawing attention to the Paris Agreement (2015) and the call to action on mitigation and adaptation,

Cognizant of the fact that Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are the most vulnerable on both social and economic levels,

Recognizing that at the international level there is not a legally codified definition for those displaced by climate change, limiting the protections available to them at the international level,

Viewing with apprehension that the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) definition of refugees displaced due to climate change is a foundational understanding but lacks the depth and expertise appropriate for an accurate definition,

Noting with deep concern that the geographical and historical context of Member States from the Global South affects the ability to adequately host displaced persons and the ability to finance the ability to promote disaster risk reduction measures,

Emphasizing the importance of collaboration and responsibility-sharing among Member States to offset the number of displaced persons due to climate change,

Welcoming the development of effective disaster risk reduction programs on a regional level to meet the unique challenges climate change poses for each Member State,

Having examined the importance of sustainable energy to reduce negative impacts on the environment and grant,

Viewing with appreciation the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* with the balance of responsibility for the implementation of actions preventing loss of life, livelihoods and health within communities and countries and access to vulnerable population,

Recalling the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM Excom) and Task Force on Displacement, which promotes the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage related to climate change effects by strengthening dialogue and coordination among stakeholders,

Noting with interest the Nansen Initiative (2012) as a state-led consultative process to build consensus on the needs of those displaced by disasters and climate change to build better practices as well as a larger knowledge base,

Bearing in mind paragraph 12 of the Global Compact on Refugees (2018) which states that external forced displacement resulting from sudden-onset natural disasters and environmental degradation, present complex challenges for affected States, and may seek support from the international community to address them,

Taking into consideration that with climate change worsening, Member States will be facing a dramatic increase in crop failure, livestock mortality, water shortage and vector-borne diseases threatening health, prosperity, and stability in affected regions, due to increasing periods of drought, desertification, floods and bushfires,

Alarmed that agriculture in many developing Member States is the employer of more than 80 % of the population contributing to more than half of the GDP, meaning if no measures are taken, climate change will reduce the GDP of those developing Member States up to 10 % by 2045, thereby intensifying forced migration,

Acknowledging that existing sanctions plummeting Member State economies affect the ability to promote preventative and responsive climate initiatives and the ability to host displaced persons uprooted by climate change,

Aware of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) Guidance on Protecting People from Disasters and Environmental Change Through Planned Relocation, which states the principles, legal frameworks, and implementation strategies of planned relocation,

Reaffirming that planned relocation should be the last resort tackling the disaster-induced displacement, following the other mitigation efforts, and it is a highly effective way to the displacement,

Expresses its appreciation for livelihood diversification including the protecting of existing livelihood systems, diversifying of existing sources of income, changing of livelihood strategies to include non-traditional income generation opportunities and therefore focus on a shift from primary and agricultural sector towards an increasing number of employees in secondary and tertiary sector as part of the economic development of Member States with focus on inclusive and sustainable industrial development as the basis for sustained economic growth as fostered by the Lima Declaration of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), mainly achieved by offering education and skill training programs to local, agricultural population to allow occupational re-training,

1. *Encourages* enhancing the capabilities of regional actors to protect those displaced by climate change, by supporting existing programs already working on a regional basis;
2. *Further invites* supporting the United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and its mandate to assist Member States in developing and delivering services that are directed at protecting lives, livelihoods, and property from natural hazards in a cost-effective, systematic, and sustainable manner through:
 - a. Tracking of previous weather-related disasters and ranking the extent to which populations were displaced in the context of climate change by utilizing the Regional Vulnerability Formula (RVF) to determine which Member States will be most affected in the event of a natural disaster as a means to better allocate resources:
 - i. With the use of the RVF which is $(GDP)(Population) / \text{number of countries in the region} = \text{Priority Ranking of Vulnerability}$;

- ii. Utilizing the RVF would serve to enhance the data collection methods already employed by UNDRR for equitable allocation of resources to disaster zones;
 - b. Respect to the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, allocating funds to both soft and hard interventions in active disaster zones;
 - c. Providing guidance to regional actors on how to mitigate risk consistent with regional necessities;
 3. *Recommends* Member States invest in infrastructure that can detect early warning signs in regions that are seen as hotspot locations for climate change and natural disasters that can prevent and protect citizens from forced displacement and can aid to the relocation process by:
 - a. Implementing disaster management techniques that are mentioned explicitly within the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* can help identify different levels of risk and can help assess a state's national capacity when a disaster strikes that can have an adverse effect on the number of people affected that are displaced;
 - b. Implementing such infrastructure as a pathway to a long-term solution towards climate change and assisting with UNDRR's aim to have an integrated approach that can be utilized by communities and governments where such hotspots are created;
 4. *Recommends* Member States look toward long-term situations of people suffering climate displacement by following the Step By Step protocol, focusing in hotspots, as providing them an evacuation plan, a displacement local point, assuring them access to basic services and continuously examinations, to see the effectiveness of the protocol, in assistance of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to ensure safe mobilizations from the disaster zone by:
 - a. Identifying areas that are likely to be affected by natural disasters, by:
 - i. Marking possible emergency routes;
 - ii. Determining checkpoints for short-term safety by OCHA;
 - iii. Using experts of OCHA to guide vulnerable groups towards checkpoints to assist, respond and determine future shelter for displaced people;
 - b. Determining safe areas suitable for resettlement or planned relocation;
 - c. Having adopted all past actions, a group of UNHCR experts will realize an examination for vulnerable groups left behind;
 5. *Emphasizes* the importance of sustainable infrastructure and energy to support displaced persons and recommends:
 - a. Supporting fully SDG 7, which promotes universal access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy, for the purpose of both powering settlements for displaced persons as well as preparing other resettlement areas for newer influxes of peoples displaced by climate change induced- natural disasters and weather-related incidents;

- b. Improving infrastructure within hospitals and medical centres near settlements for displaced people to expand access to medical care, respond to the spread of infectious diseases, and ensure emergency care is available in the case of a natural disaster or weather-related incident by:
 - i. Identifying which areas are most at risk of a natural disaster or weather-related incident, and improving said area's infrastructural integrity by working with local authorities to prepare local hospitals and medical centers for emergency response as well as building new resettlement areas in advance;
 - ii. Working with local authorities to ensure resettlement areas and hospitals are equipped to handle an influx of peoples displaced by an imminent disaster, and preparing routes of transportation to said hospitals;
 - iii. Cooperating with both regional and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as ensuring they are in consensus with local, regional, and state authorities to enhance first aid and emergency efforts;
 - iv. Ensuring settlements for displaced persons are in communication with local hospitals and aid-focused NGOs so that they are equipped with medical workers, personal protective equipment, first aid supplies, and proper transportation to nearby hospitals in the case of a disaster;
6. *Recommends* the creation of regional infrastructure programs into areas where displaced people due to climate change are going that support the installment of renewable energy, recognizing that this will not only provide safe clean energy but also allow for development of work programs for refugees by:
 - a. Recommending regional organizations to implement regionally appropriate energy sources and policies to support the infrastructure program and recognizing the benefits of diversifying energy sources, thereby reinforcing SDG 9;
 - b. Encouraging that these programs be put into place in areas in accordance with vulnerable areas identified by the organizations referenced in clause two;
 - c. Endorsing the study and potential usage of blue hydrogen as a cheaper renewable source for settlements for displaced persons;
 - d. Ensuring that these programs provide appropriate knowledge and training to refugees so that they may be able to safely work on this project, as well as emphasizing the importance of maintaining equal working rights, conditions, and opportunities for displaced people entering these areas;
 - e. Emphasizing engagement with local communities to foster inclusive atmosphere;
 - f. Supporting projects with experts from relevant Member States to create an environment focused on sustainable energy;
7. *Further recommends* fostering resilience in refugee settlements and host communities allowing local adaptation with a focus in regard to water and land management and utilization by:

- a. Increasing knowledge transfer between development agencies, NGOs and the civil society towards UNHCR;
 - b. Making recommendations based on the current water management practices to prevent and adapt to various scenarios of water scarcity;
 - c. Following-up on these recommendations to support the implementation of better natural resources management in settlements while involving the refugees themselves in the process;
8. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure all programs and initiatives aimed at assisting those displaced by climate change-induced natural disasters and weather-related incidents are proportionally accessible and fairly disbursed, such as allocating financial resources from the Green Climate Fund in assisting host nations of the Global South;
9. *Urges* Member States to create socio-technologic programs to establish awareness of the positive impact and access to sustainable energy for those displaced by climate change, through:
 - a. Projects to install electrification pathways near borders and migrant communities who have been uprooted from their home of origin due environmental catastrophes to permit them to cook, to heat and to have light at night;
 - b. Plans to diversify energy sources such as hydropower, wind, solar depending on the regions who need in order to prevent future greenhouse gas emission which increase global warming;
 - c. Financial collaboration and support from organizations such as Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) and World bank to promote the energy transition;
10. *Underlines the concern* that agriculture affects climate change and for that we recommend working on providing more information and statistics on how agriculture affects climate change by:
 - a. Collecting and analyzing data on environmental migration in order to fill the existing data gap by the IOM and creating a single globally accessible, virtual source to integrate and share vital data and statistics on climate change and refugee flows administered by the UNHCR;
 - b. Gathering data of how forms of agriculture can affect the environment and further cause harm on refugees and the environment in cooperation with national authorities such as Ministries of Environment and Agriculture, NGOs, and local initiatives;
 - c. Intensifying international partnerships between different Member States, following the example of the Lima Declaration including cooperation between, Ethiopia, Norway, the United Kingdom, Denmark, the European Union (EU), France, Germany, Sweden, and the United States of America, focusing on preventing deforestation, strengthening adaptation capacity in agricultural and pastoral communities, and supporting disaster risk management by exchanging information, knowledge, and technologies;
 - d. Following the principle “there is no one-size-fits-all approach to integrating climate change adaptation activities for all on equitable basis”, with the help of collected and

centralized statistical data on climate change and agriculture, analysis of probable consequences for the development sectors such as food production and water availability shall allow the effective adaptation of planning and implementation of risk assessments that identify the specific impacts to food security that may be induced or exacerbated by increased climate variability, making it possible to prioritize responses to climate change and to compare them objectively to other risks based on resource availability and cost;

11. *Acknowledges* the work of leading humanitarian organizations fighting hunger, such as the World Food Programme, helping the world strive towards SDG 2 to achieve zero hunger by promoting sustainable agriculture;
12. *Invites* Member States to investigate the implementation of alternative forms of agriculture by working collegiately to create a Programme for Learning Agriculture through New Technologies (PLANT) for a sustainable future for this forced migration in search of integration by:
 - a. Developing alternative forms of vertical farming such as stack farming, while carefully managing available agricultural land and undertaking measures against landslide, erosion and loss of fertile soils as well as improving crop and livestock production practices for food security and farmer income through intensification and restoration of degraded lands;
 - b. Avoiding yield reduction, crop failure and livestock mortality also using less fertilization and pursuing different methods to ensure minimal impact on the environment Changing the selection of crops towards the more drought- and heat-resistant species;
 - c. Fostering disaster risk reduction and resilience-building activities in the agricultural sector by implementing efficient irrigation systems adapted to local needs and improving water saving capacities such as dams and reservoirs as well as flood managing systems;
 - d. Encouraging fellow Member States to financially support energy and financial constrained countries most at risk of severe climate change and resource scarcity with long term, already existing agricultural projects like PLANT through multi stakeholder engagement joining regional governments, United Nations (UN) bodies, and NGOs such as the Agronomists and Veterans Without borders who are already engaged in supporting small scale farming in developing countries;
13. *Recommends* that Member States adopt and expand upon the Flood Early Warning System (FLOEWS) that works in Nigeria as a dematerialized, demonetized, democratized & self-manageable Flood Disaster Early Warning System, and can be utilized in other states to identify various disasters by its use of accessible forms of communications such as radio, flood warning maps, their internet website, and the specialized cloud-database FLOEWS-AS-A-SERVICE;
14. *Urges* Member States to emulate IOM's program, which part of the Progressive Resolution of Displacement Situation (PRDS) Framework to rehabilitate boreholes in Nigeria to ensure that displaced refugees have safe and accessible drinking water upon their return back home through:
 - a. Drilling, installation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of boreholes to give increased access to safe water, as well as educating the users on how to maintain and repair them;
 - b. Powering all of these aforementioned facilities with solar energy as a sustainable energy source;

15. *Requests* Member States to support the Nansen Initiative and its Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change, which has the goal to alleviate the process of relocation for those displaced by climate change induced natural disasters and weather-related incidents through:
 - a. Enhancing the understanding of the needs of forcibly displaced persons due to climate change;
 - b. Providing a conceptual framework for addressing these individuals' legal needs;
 - c. Identifying practices for the strengthening of protection of individuals forcibly displaced due to climate change;
 - d. Conducting multilateral regional forums to facilitate best practice sharing;
16. *Designates* Member States, posterior to the relocation, to:
 - a. Provide persons of relocation with support to protect their fundamental human rights, including the freedom of movement;
 - b. Avoid at all costs the disadvantage of persons of relocation in the resettlement place brought by:
 - i. Lack of housing;
 - ii. Insufficient basic resources;
 - iii. Lack of employment opportunities;
 - iv. Less access to social welfare system;
 - v. Lack of healthcare systems, including those for psychological health;
 - vi. Racism, sexism, and religious intolerance;
 - c. Make efforts to improve the livelihood of persons of relocation, if possible, through:
 - i. Supporting its continued conduct of former traditions;
 - ii. Helping acquire new skills or knowledges required to be self-fulfilling in the resettlement place;
 - d. Identify and mitigate the risks of conflicts caused by the tension between persons of relocation and other affected population including:
 - i. Persons who do not participate in the relocation;
 - ii. Host communities;
 - e. Support the activity of private sector and other NGOs contributing to the improved livelihoods of persons of relocation;
17. *Encourages* Member States to partner with UN-SPIDER to:

- a. Ensure climate data is collected, shared, and analyzed between regional partners to increase knowledge, understanding and facts on displacements across borders;
 - b. Develop technical capacity to carry out this research and set up vulnerability profiles of the climate change prone areas and mitigation;
 - c. Inform the implementation of common policies, and responses to address forced displacement due to climate change;
18. *Recommends* Member States conduct independent review of the Supply Management Service (SMS) Distribution Management Plan to highlight inefficiencies in the supply chain strategy enabling more efficient delivery of initial relief supplies to vulnerable populations following dislocation:
 - a. Identifying ideal locations within existing distribution networks that would serve as distribution nodes within the relief network;
 - b. Enabling expedited relief efforts to chiefly affected regions through identified hubs for projection of global relief efforts;
 - c. Further calling attention to the effect of political tensions and economic pressures upon regional economies which limit the implementation of supply chain management solutions by host nations;
19. *Further recommends* strengthening the independence of IDPs according to the Global Compact on Refugees (2018) by:
 - a. Investing in entrepreneurial schemes aimed at displaced persons would effectively strengthen their financial situation and long-term economic well-being;
 - b. Adding a sub-summit under the Global Compact for Refugees Forum:
 - i. Focusing on sharing best practices on resilience building activities and programs in order to enhance durable solutions for climate refugees;
 - ii. Including stakeholders as in experts from developed and developing Member States;
 - iii. Holding annually to support the quarterly frequency of the Global Compact for Refugees Forum;
20. *Calls upon* Member States to invest and develop national programs that oversee policies, funding, and resettlement process of forcibly displaced persons due to climate change by:
 - a. Devising policies concerning displaced households and communities, land allocation, and subsidies received by the affected;
 - b. Determining which households need to evacuate and provide physical assistance for the process;
 - c. Strengthening resettlement communities by:

- i. Providing social services with reliable access to childcare, workforce placement, and mental health resources;
- ii. Creating education programs for children and young adults to strengthen independence;
- iii. Accommodate refugees with special needs through community and rehabilitation centers;

21. *Considers* the Refugee Health Screener-15 (RHS-15) for common mental disorders (CMD) leading to trauma for vulnerable groups, facing forced displacement due to climate change by:

- a. Urging Member States to expand on RHS-15 and its uses and applications in refugee communities by partnering with regional initiatives such as the Papyrus Project to protect communities as well as to correct the failures to appropriately address the psychological health of those displaced by climate change;
- b. Encouraging the addition of an international fund such as the Asylum, Migration and integration Fund and the US AID fund to help mitigate the costs for such initiatives aimed at improving the psychological health of refugees displaced due to climate change and disaster;
- c. Creating a joint task force with NGOs and IGOs such as Oxfam International to provide training for specialists in the field of psychological health to enter host communities and Member States affected by climate change forced displacement;
- d. Working within the UNHCR, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and Member States to use established programs to increase knowledge base and statistical tracking the mental health Refugees.



Code: UNHCR/1/4

Committee: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Forced Displacement Due to Climate Change

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Guided by Article 1 the Charter of the United Nations (1945) which outlines international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character as one of the main purposes of the United Nations (UN),

Recalling to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) which recognizes the rights of those who are seeking asylum outside of their own state, especially, its Article 14 stating that everyone has the right to seek asylum from persecution,

Highlighting the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and its 1967 Protocol which determines the main characteristics of refugees and determined the legal basis for their protection and rights provided by Member States,

Keeping in mind the Kyoto Protocol (2005) operationalizing UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by committing industrialized countries and economies in transition to limit and reduce GHG in accordance with agreed individual targets,

Taking into account the Cancun Adaptation Framework (2010) endorsed by the UNFCCC in 2010 which expressed the need for adjustment strategies, particularly, planned relocation aimed at voluntary resettlement to a new location with governmental support,

Acknowledging the Paris Agreement (2015) produced by the UNFCCC focusing on strengthening global efforts to the threats of climate change by maintaining the global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius,

Underscoring the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 that aims to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries,

Reaffirming the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (2018), in particular its emphasis on the sharing of climate change information, developing adaptation and resilience strategies, and increased humanitarian assistance,

Calling attention to the importance of the Mapping Report formed by the Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 19/10 adopted in 2012, which contains statements on the human rights obligations relating to the environment,

Recognizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly resolution 70/1 in 2015 as a landmark document within the UN agenda,

Recalling the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.d in its focus on strengthening “the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks” and SDG Goal 13 “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”,

Recognizing the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) established in 1972 responsible for coordinating responses to environmental issues through providing leadership and encourage partnership by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations,

Noting the Peninsula Principles on Climate Displacement within States (2013), established by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to promote climate change resettlement of people at risk,

Stressing the UNHCR Guidance on Protecting People from Disasters and Environmental Change Through Planned Relocation (2015) elaborated in cooperation with the World Bank and UN University presenting the principles of planned relocation of livelihoods,

Recalling to the 2012 Nansen Initiative for emphasizing the catastrophic, overlapping impacts of natural disasters, climate change, and environmental degradation as well as the centrality of prevention and preparedness,

Cognizant of the Green Climate Fund, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (UNCERF), and the Global Environment Facilities, all of which invest in global responses to climate change by allocating resources to low-emission solutions, disaster risk management, and climate-resilient development,

Realizing the hesitation of Member States, both developing and developed, to firmly commit to hosting stateless, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and refugees based on economic, social, or political restraints,

Recognizing the efforts of the World Food Program (WFP), UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in their attempts to support developing states through capacity building and strengthening infrastructure especially in regard to food security and economic stability,

Reminding the need to assist the most vulnerable communities in their mitigation and adaptation efforts against climate change and its impacts following the guidelines highlighted by the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2016, on the principles of shared responsibility and solidarity,

Noting the International Emissions Trading Association established in 1999 which focuses on trading greenhouse gas emission reductions through implementing the International Emissions Purchase Agreement to globally reduce and limit the amount of carbon dioxide emission,

Appreciating the Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios Project launched by the European Commission on the period of 2007-2009 to explore and describe the causes of forced migration in relation to environmental change and to provide plausible future scenarios of environmentally induced forced migration,

Notes with approval the Global Internal Displacement Database by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre for providing an interactive and customizable platform with disaster-related displacement data that relevant stakeholders can analyze to develop actionable, context specific solutions,

Acknowledging the efforts of the African Union (AU) to recognize the impacts of the forced displacement due to climate change in Africa through the creation of the 2063 goals,

Taking into account the definition of IDPs established in the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons, and further noting that extant definitions are insufficient to address the needs of all people displaced by environmental causes,

Deeply Concerned that 1,900 disasters triggered 24.9 million new displacements across 140 countries and territories in 2019 as stated in the IDMC Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2020,

Highlighting that according to the Migration Data Portal of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), 5.1 million people in 95 countries were displaced because of natural disasters in 2019 and previous years with only seven states which planned the relocation,

Noting that altogether, more than two-thirds of all refugees worldwide come from just five countries and the effect that disproportionate burden-sharing has on these countries,

Realizing the need of expanding climate change programs and working with host countries and communities to develop durable solutions and inclusions for the 2021 Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts,

Emphasizing the importance of recognizing the need to distinguish between slow and fast-onset environmental stressors by responding accordingly,

Recognizing the destructive effects of climate change and the need for Member States to prepare for the possibility of natural disasters in order to limit the consequences of these disasters on refugees and IDPs,

Underlining the climate change's role in introducing global health concerns and spread of diseases, illnesses, and increasing likelihood of pandemics in correlation with rising average temperatures,

1. *Strongly recommends* Member States to classify natural disasters that are most likely to occur according to their territory's topography and geographical location in order to prepare in advance for the eventual forced displacements by:
 - a. Collaborating with Member States, the UNHCR, the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* and other relevant associations such as the Institute for Environment and Human Security to implement better relocation strategies;
 - b. Presenting the classification to the UNHCR for verification before the end of 2026;
2. *Encourages* Member States to take responsibility for environmentally displaced persons and to collaborate towards the creation of regional agreements that legalize the immigration status of forcibly displaced persons in environmental change hot zones in order to minimize those displaced persons who find themselves in uncertain legal status and encourages both:
 - a. Pursuing action through the *Paris Agreement (2015)*;
 - b. Reconsidering action proposed by the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*;

3. *Reinforces* the need for Member States to recognize the importance of designating sustainable resources for refugee camps located in post-disaster regions to aid host countries with the costs of these camps, through methods including:
 - a. Recommending that Member States that currently have sustainable renewable energy resources participate in assisting less adept regions with technology needed in post-disaster regions;
 - b. Recommending the creation of inclusive, creative partnerships that unify local NGOs and refugees to address energy sector challenges and provide vocational training for the maintenance of renewable energy infrastructure;
4. *Requests* UNEP consider designating a maximum amount of carbon credits high emitting Member States are eligible to purchase in addition to joining the Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement under the International Emissions Trading Association in hopes the collected funds would aid to environmental IDPs and refugee projects focused on relocation as well as reducing the saturation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere;
5. *Calls upon* all Member States to commit to funding refugee projects in states who face the brunt of the consequence of global climate change by:
 - a. Remaining cognizant of sharing equitable and predictable burden and responsibility;
 - b. Recommitting to the Green Climate Fund, the UNCERF, and the GEF with expertise or annual financial contributions;
 - c. Working with global economic forces such as ECOSOC and the World Bank to support Developing States;
6. *Further recommends* Member States to develop an analogous platform titled "Satellites in Solidarity" that coalesces data on climate and disaster related cross-border displacement, further:
 - a. Encouraging a coalition of Member States to promote a digital platform that will monitor climate hot zones as well as generate a risk model and customization filters to inform emergency preparedness measures by:
 - i. Recommending Member States that possess polar orbiting and geostationary satellites to voluntarily contribute a bi-annual submission of data to indicate shifts in weather patterns that could result in disasters;
 - ii. Providing developing nations with a universal database of information that includes long-term preventive measures for a period of five years between 2021 to 2026;
 - iii. Integrating case studies, such as those available by the Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps, to update the database with post-disaster actions and solutions that may be adapted elsewhere;
 - b. Emphasizing the importance of creating a committee in partnership with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA) tracking vulnerable populations who are susceptible to climate-induced disasters and displacement;

7. *Requests* Member States in vulnerable areas prone to displacement due to climate change adhere to disaster relief plans and conduct education of vulnerable populations about the damaging effects of climate change, given that there are significant populations without appropriate civil documentation that are not protected by the frameworks of the *1951 Refugee Convention* and the 1969 Organization of African Unity;
8. *Recommends* Member States include displaced people into the development of climate change solution proposals by:
 - a. Establishing a UNHCR overseen Displaced Persons Regional Climate Forum in which refugees, climate migrants and IDPs can include the insight of lived experience in the prevention of climate change, to which it will:
 - i. Create a space for migrants who were impacted by climate change to speak with professionals concerning personal experiences with climate change as well as possible solutions to region specific climate action;
 - ii. Be sponsored by the UNHCR, the UN Environment Assembly, and the UN Economic and Social Council;
 - iii. Assist financially by the continued financial support of international non-profit and non-governmental bodies;
 - iv. Occur once every other year for a one-week period located within sponsored Member States located within each region to allow for specific solutions to be addressed;
 - b. Suggesting Member States to include migrant insight into national information gathering about vulnerable sectors including, but not limited to water, agriculture, forestry, and health sectors;
9. *Recommends* the widespread adoption of the Nansen Initiative into the UNHCR in order to compose a careful and timely response plan for those facing relocation due to climate disasters by:
 - a. Implementing the Protection Agenda as a comprehensive framework for addressing cross-border displacement;
 - b. Utilizing existing regional consultations to build consensus and facilitate cooperation;
10. *Encourages* outreach between Member States particularly burdened with economic and social hardships resulting from hosting an influx of IDPs and refugees by:
 - a. Fostering partnerships with ECOSOC, WFP, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to provide monetary subsidies and food assistance to accommodate larger populations living in resettlement camps;
 - b. Restructuring the Refugee Population Statistics Database to include tracking of region of resettlement, refugee status, and vulnerabilities allowing for Member States to relocate individuals if needed;

11. *Firmly recommends* the enlargement of the UNHCR's *Youth Education Programme* to add a subprogram informing populations at risk of climate disasters, particularly adults and young adults, on evacuation processes, as well as the impact of climate change on these displacements by:
 - a. Identifying communities most at risk of being victims of displacement due to the typology of their territory and the risks associated to climate change;
 - b. Conveying an evacuation plan to specific zones in case of a natural disaster;
 - c. Sharing with refugees the impacts of climate change regarding their forced displacements as well as the global situation;
 - d. Recommending to refugees the means they can put in place collectively and individually to contribute to the fight against climate change, subsequently to their displacement;
12. *Insists* Member States to consider the Task Force on Displacement's (TFD) good practices and lessons to avert, minimize, and combat risk reductions by:
 - a. Enhancing knowledge;
 - b. Strengthening coherence and synergy;
 - c. Enhancing action and support;
13. *Calls upon* Member States to sign and ratify treaties and protocols which protect those displaced due to climate change, particularly General Assembly resolution 73/195, The "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration", *The Paris Agreement (2015)*, *The Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (1988)* and *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*;
14. *Suggests* current Member States and regional blocs to create goals surrounding the development of solutions to climate change in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change on environmentally displaced persons and environmentally displaced migrants by:
 - a. Developing plans to combat environmental climate changes to prevent the displacement of environmentally displaced persons and migrants;
 - b. Strengthening efforts to develop environmentally sustainable economies through the development of proper natural resource management and the development of sustainable energy;
 - c. Integrating disaster preparedness, prevention, and intervention plans into the present legal framework of Member States;
15. *Recommends* fellow Member States adopt local policies similar to the United Kingdom's Climate Change Risk Assessment that takes place every five years with the latest reports on climate change in order to make adjustments to its approach on possible climate disaster risks;
16. *Encourages* Member States most vulnerable to climate change to elaborate National Relocation Plans (NRPs) with the following steps:

- a. Identification by the WMO Commission for Climatology by August 2021 of the 10 countries mostly exposed to climate risk based on the impact of the extreme weather and the socio-economic losses due to climate change;
 - b. Research by the CCI on the forecast of climate change scenarios in 10 chosen states by the end of 2021;
 - c. Elaboration by national governments of their NRPs in accordance with the WMO research results under the observation of the UNHCR;
 - d. Design of relocation-training programs by the UNHCR and the World Bank for the population of the selected states upon completion of NRPs at the end of 2022;
 - e. Practice of the World Bank training during the semiannual period and its finish in 2023;
 - f. Repeat the training by national governments twice a year with a subsequent report to the UNHCR;
17. *Encourages* Member States to recognize the impact of climate change on health concerns, especially concerning refugees and IDPs, and advancing the collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) by:
- a. Creating a task force to monitor the spread and cases of malaria due to increased temperatures and shifts in weather patterns caused by the migration of malaria carrying mosquitos that are consistent with reports from participating Member States and its effects on refugees and resettlement camps;
 - b. Suggesting the increased assistance from UNAIDS on vulnerable populations;
 - c. Recommending UNHCR to work towards eliminating the preventable diseases, such as cholera, diphtheria, measles, and dengue fever as a result of the lack of proper infrastructure and sanitation in consequence of the climate change;
 - d. Urging the establishment of a task force in partnership with WHO stationed to oversee safety implementations in regard to future pandemics in resettlement camps:
 - i. Supply resettlement camps with instructions on sanitary measures;
 - ii. Develop a plan of action for prevention, early warning signs of disease, outbreak, and isolation;
18. *Welcomes* further initiatives.