



Summary Report for the Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

1. Addressing the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples
2. The Rights of Those Displaced Due to Climate Change

The session was attended by representatives of 39 Member States and no Observers.

On Friday, the committee adopted the agenda of 1, 2 beginning discussion on the topic of “The Rights of Those Displaced Due to Climate Change.” By Sunday, the Dais received a total of two proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics on establishing a defining term for those displaced by climate change; education for those displaced by climate change; climate change and those displaced by climate change; access to healthcare, water, housing and other resources; financial assistance; and vulnerable groups being displaced by climate change. The committee worked collaboratively to discuss and debate the issues. The tone was serious as delegates understood the gravity of the situations those displaced by climate change face.

On Sunday, two draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, none of which had amendments. The committee adopted one resolution following voting procedure, which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including defining the term environmentally motivated evacuees; guidelines protecting the rights of those displaced; creating an expert mechanism; financial assistance; climate-resistant infrastructure protecting human rights; standard of living; and education about the impact climate change has on people. The committee worked collectively and with dedication to the topic.



Code: HRC/1/1

Committee: United Nation Human Rights Council

Topic: The Rights of Those Displaced Due to Climate Change

The United Nations Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Human Rights Council (HRC) mandate, General Assembly resolution 60/251, Human Rights Council (2006), in the promotion and protection of human rights for all, and the need for coalition among Member States to address the rights of those displaced due to climate change,

Realizing that sustainable economic development is needed to ensure rights to those displaced by climate change and lack of action taken towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 (no poverty), SDG 4 (quality education) target 7 on sustainability through infrastructure and changes in lifestyles, SDG 8 (good work and economic development) and SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), and SDG 3 (good health and well-being),

Cognizant that many emergency response forces are underprepared for the increasingly more extreme natural disasters exacerbated by climate change,

Deeply concerned by the lack of representation and maintenance of rights of marginalized groups, including women and children, indigenous peoples, and displaced peoples who are disproportionately impacted by climate change,

Highlights Article One, Section 3 of the Charter of the United Nations (1945), which calls for international cooperation among Member States to encourage respect for human rights,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)(1948), which requires provisions for an adequate standard of living that includes healthcare, food, clothing, housing, and vital social services as well as, United Nations (UN) recognition of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, and the right to security of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, and old age, regular migration which acknowledges the urgent situation of migrants that are forcibly displaced by the negative effects of climate change,

Recalling also the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees defines a refugee as a person with a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group, but which excludes any definition of those forcibly displaced by climate change,

Keeping in mind the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and its G20 Infrastructure Initiative which provides support for Member States with disaster risk, governance, resilience, and response as well as strengthening infrastructure to expand Member States' capacities to prevent and mitigate climate-related disasters,

Noting with approval the need for the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in order to facilitate proper funding,

Calls attention to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) expert Essam El-Hinnawi and his comments on the reasons for forced migration and the circumstances by which people can be displaced by climate change: "marked environmental disruption that jeopardized their existence and/or seriously affected their quality of life,"

Distressed that more than 20 million people who the World Bank estimates to be displaced per year due to climate change and climate-related disasters,

Deeply alarmed by the 13.7 million deaths attributed to harmful environmental factors, according to the World Health Organization (WHO),

Emphasizing the prevalence of deforestation, industrialization, pollution, rising sea levels, and the removal of indigenous peoples from their lands as the proximate cause for peoples to flee their lands of residence,

Affirming its commitment to fulfilling SDG 1, so that less of the global population is vulnerable to climate change disasters,

Highly aware of the estimation according to the Individual Education Program (IEP), by 2050, 1.2 billion people could be affected and displaced due to climate change,

Convinced that there are secondary and tertiary problems, including violence, and food insecurity, among many others, that ensue because of forced migration due to climate change that threaten vital human rights outlined in the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR),

Concerned by the lack of educational infrastructure and curriculums that provide knowledge about climate change,

Appreciating mitigation measures of the *Sendai Framework* for 2015-2030 to reduce the influence of climate change on rising internally displaced people (IDP) trends,

Recognizing the United Nations' Educational, Scientific, and Cultural (UNESCO) mission to utilize education to reduce poverty, and create a sustainable environment for collaboration as the body estimated over 244 million children have been unable to access education in 2022,

Expressing satisfaction with the work completed by the non-governmental organization (NGO), Save the Children in reaching 183 million children in 2021,

Expressing appreciation for the NGO, Trident Foundation's work on providing vocational training programs,

1. *Recognizing* the term Environmentally Motivated Evacuees (EMEs), separate from the 1951 Refugee Convention, as people forced to leave their land of residence due to environmental disruption by:
 - a. Recognizing cases of environmentally motivating displacement situations caused by:
 - i. Flooding, desertification, droughts, pollution, and contamination (land, air, and water), fire, sandstorms, deforestation;
 - ii. Pollution or land loss resulting from industrialization or corporate initiatives;
 - b. Accounting for internal displacement within the political boundaries of a single Member State;
 - c. Supporting Member States' rights to maintain their sovereignty in deciding how to implement these guidelines at the domestic level;

2. *Urges* UNHCR to adopt a new guideline that expands the concept of an EME, as well as acknowledging an evacuee as a temporary title with an end goal of ensuring populations are able to return to their origin places, and:
 - a. Recommends cataloging the reason for the evacuation of EMEs in order to better assist in their relocation to their place of residence once possible;
 - b. Advocates states to adopt efforts to return EMEs to their place of residence once possible;
 - c. Recognizes Displaced Peoples as those that have become permanently displaced from their place of residence without the ability to return;
3. *Supports* the expansion of the UNHCR Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, Global Protection Cluster (2010) that will maintain the rights of internally displaced communities in the face of climate change displacement followed by the creation of *Declaration on the Rights of Those Displaced by Climate Change* (DRDCC), especially marginalized peoples by:
 - a. Institutes specialized programs for those most marginalized on an internal, regional, and community level to promote self-sustainability and preservation to mitigate displacement of marginalized persons due to the hazards of climate change that include:
 - i. Agricultural and food insecurity;
 - ii. Lack of resource and infrastructure access;
 - b. Ensuring accountability within this program through cooperation with the Special Procedures of the HRC;
 - c. Promoting the representation of EMEs in governments in order to give a voice to marginalized peoples to ensure their needs are met through legislation in local communities;
 - d. Working in concert with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPF) to allocate funding for such programs;
4. *Creates* an Expert Mechanism on the Rights of those Displaced Due to Climate Change upon adoption of the DRDCC, consisting of a panel of ten experts, that would provide representation of EMEs in Member State governments' climate change response plans via mediation by:
 - a. Providing research-based expertise and training to these groups and governments on how best to implement the doctrine of the DRDCC;
 - b. Compiling an annual review of the current situation of forced climate change displacement both internally and externally within the parameters of this periodic review the HRC acknowledges the importance of Member States' sovereignty regarding procedural measures in addressing an influx of EMEs and displaced peoples in relation to climate change which will allow Member States to retain the sovereign rights of Member States to declare people as EMEs or displaced peoples at their own discretion and support their right to accept or deny EMEs and Displaced Peoples according to their own domestic process;

- c. Supporting NGOs that specialize in infrastructure development, food and agricultural security, clean water accessibility, and education, including but not limited to the UN World Food Programme and the NGO Committee on Migration;
 - d. Communicating the specific needs and challenges faced by internally displaced populations in relation to access to state resources;
- 5. *Encourages* the General Assembly to adopt an international agreement between willing Member States to hold an annual conference with the purpose of educating the existing emergency response forces of these Member States which aims to:
 - a. Form specific methods to better handle operations and avoid human rights abuses during natural disasters;
 - b. Educate on how to avoid common missteps in the handling of marginalized groups of Displaced Peoples due to climate change with regard to human rights abuses;
 - c. Encourages Member States to develop a series of educational programs for national and local governments on how to accommodate those displaced and to respect their human rights;
 - d. Encourage Member States of this agreement refer to the following guidelines for said educational curriculums, to which:
 - i. Advocates for governments and organizations to recognize the reality of EMEs;
 - ii. Suggests governments and organizations be transparent and effective in allocating funds for protecting those internally displaced due to the effects of climate change;
 - e. Help Member States spread these created education programs targeted at local governments and organizations to help them be able to properly and efficiently accommodate internally Displaced Peoples during and after extreme climate events;
- 6. *Fulfilling* proper funding for Member States and NGOs working to provide assistance and ensure the rights of those who are displaced due to climate change with the recommendation of a specialized budget from ECOSOC to jumpstart the efforts to ensure the rights of those displaced due to climate change, and also suggests working alongside ECOSOC to utilize the Financing for Development Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) in order to facilitate top-down sustainable economic development, both internally and externally, for states with people most displaced by climate change in order to protect access to basic rights and create infrastructure for displaced peoples, working alongside the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank Group, World Trade Organization (WTO), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), and Multilateral Investment Association (MIA);
- 7. *Encourages* Member States to focus on the construction and maintenance of climate-resistant infrastructure alongside the UNDP G20 Infrastructure Initiative for emergency preparedness and resistance of vital services that are necessary for the protection of human rights and livelihoods, such as:

- a. Water, transportation, power, and healthcare to ensure an efficient and effective emergency response;
 - b. Supporting climate-friendly agricultural methods and technologies which increase the crop yield. Irrigation reforms (hydroelectric dams) which protect the people in agricultural sectors in times of drought or floods;
 - c. Building up of natural infrastructure protections such as mangroves, sand dunes and others that help to protect peoples from climate related disasters;
 - d. Incorporating NGOs such as Amnesty International as well as incorporating efforts from the UNDP to help fund and support Member States' development of climate-resistant infrastructure;
8. *Recommends* a framework for a funding program designated for Member States affected by the effects of environmental disruption to the United National Environmental Assembly (UNEA), and:
- a. Calls upon the Official Development Assistance (ODA) to assist in allocating funds to developing countries affected by environmental disruption;
 - b. Looks to enhance and continue efforts initiated by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to work alongside national authorities' efforts to foster compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL), provide basic water and health services, distribute food and household items to people that have fled their homes, and supply rural communities with the means to grow their own food;
9. *Recommends* a framework to Member States struggling with displaced persons and EMEs for a funding program designated to the acceptance of permanent displaced persons and temporary EMEs, as to:
- a. Support their acceptance of EMEs by promoting their development through the creation of educational and infrastructural initiatives to support incoming Displaced Peoples and EMEs through:
 - i. Government funded programs in order to provide aid to marginalized communities and the individuals within the communities that have been adversely affected;
 - ii. Shelters to those that are seeking housing for their survival;
 - iii. Ensuring equitable access to all vital resources including water and food, education, medical care, and the guarantee of peace within communities;
 - b. Ensure the protection of the social and legal rights of displaced peoples and EMEs within their host countries, while:
 - i. Emphasizing that all citizens are entitled to receive the same equitable access to resources regardless of their socio-economic status;
 - ii. Recommending that other Member States to facilitate inclusive living conditions in which other groups of people will not suffer from any forms of discrimination or exclusion;
10. *Endorses the call* for ethical and sustainable acclimatization of EMEs and Displaced Peoples into the workforce of a Member States which:

- a. Involves NGOs in the process of educating communities that have ethically received EMEs and displaced peoples for the purpose of building understanding;
 - b. Encourages community-led initiatives to educate these EMEs and displaced peoples in ways of involving themselves in a community's workforce;
 - c. Implements a NGO-led training programs for those who are receiving EMEs and displaced persons to ensure proper acclimation;
 - d. Ensures that both host Member States and those peoples displaced are recognized for their labor in line with SDG 8;
11. *Suggests* that the General Assembly recommend discussion on aid for EMEs in order to ensure a high standard of living by providing them with shelter and other vital resources for their survival including:
- a. Government funded programs in order to provide aid to marginalized communities and their individuals that have been adversely affected, including the establishment of health and safety centers in areas that have high populations of people displaced due to climate change, which:
 - i. Reside in areas with large populations of EMEs, inaccessible areas for such persons;
 - ii. Guarantee adequate health and medical services, especially in areas where these needs struggle to be met;
 - iii. Provide mental health resources, especially for those in crisis;
 - b. Shelters provided to those that are seeking housing for their survival;
 - c. Equitable access ensured to all vital resources including water and food, education, medical care, and the guarantee of peace within communities;
 - d. An emphasis that all citizens are entitled to receive the same equitable access to resources regardless of their socio-economic status;
 - e. Recommends that other Member States facilitate inclusive living conditions in which other groups of people will not suffer from any forms of discrimination or exclusion;
 - f. National policy measures are to be discussed to ensure healthy environments that allow vulnerable people to receive rights to well-being must be implemented;
12. *Expanding upon* the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) ensuring that those displaced due to climate change are provided resources, including education, by Member States, to properly redevelop their communities while also preserving their respective culture through:
- a. Workshops that provide fundamental knowledge on the causes and effects of climate change with an emphasis on natural disasters, including:
 - i. Formation of evacuation, resources acquisition, and redevelopment plans;
 - ii. Construct individual level curriculums which highlight climate change in order to strengthen civilians' understandings of the effects of climate change and how it adversely impacts the people of the world;
 - iii. Provide education to those in areas more susceptible to being impacted by extreme climate related events on how to act in case of emergency;

- iv. Ensure EMEs have access to this education in the areas in which they are displaced;
 - b. Recommending assistance programs that uphold the values of efficiency, integrity, and equity as listed in the HRC/A/Res/5/2 “*Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-holders*” (2007) and further includes the principles of accessibility and intersectionality by:
 - i. Paying particular attention to marginalized communities as they are among the first to experience the direct effects of climate change;
 - ii. Meeting the needs of those experiencing intersections of discrimination and violence;
 - iii. Ensuring all services are accessible and accommodating of disabled individuals;
 - iv. Protecting the freedom, safety, and welfare of displaced individuals by ensuring the equitable enactment of legislation that will not undermine the rights of those that are vulnerable;
 - v. Diversity, equity, and inclusion training in communities that are in reference to people displaced due to climate change;
 - vi. Youth programs that host bi-monthly meetings concerning topics that aid in individuals adapting to new environments;
 - c. Voluntary informative visits by professionals and experts within the field of climate change on the development of sustainable institutions in rural communities, including water harvesting methods via rainfall collection and adequate water supply institutions and alternatives to traditional fossil fuels include the utilization of wind and solar energy, because of its renewability and sustainability, in specific spaces;
13. *Strongly encourages* Member States to work alongside UNESCO to establish a global educational network that would:
- a. Ensure children affected by climate change will have equal access to education;
 - b. Increase the focus on providing access to education for women;
 - c. Allow those persons able to work have access to community-based vocational training programs funded by Member States and NGOs, such as Save the Children, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Trident Foundation, respectively;
 - d. Achieve SDG 4;
14. *Recommends* strengthening the relationships established by the Santiago Network, a product of the 2021 Glasgow Climate Pact from the 26th annual United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Decision 19/ CMA.3), which connects vulnerable Member States with providers of assistance, technology, and aid, and:
- a. Recommends the extension and strengthening of this network by increasing funding from participatory Member States, developing policy, and ensuring collaboration;
 - b. Looks to extend initiatives to ensure basic human rights according to the UDHR in order to develop basic infrastructure, providing education, and disaster relief; using technology to further aid displaced peoples.

Annex

1. *Recommends* the General Assembly aim to establish the *Declaration on the Rights of Those Displaced by Climate Change (DRDCC)* during the 78th session of the General Assembly (2023) whereby the Declaration shall, inter alia:
 - a. Universally recognize the inalienable human rights of those specific people who have been forced to leave their land of residence, temporarily and permanently, as a result of environmental disruption whereby:
 - i. Land of residence refers to the country of residence at the time of displacement;
 - ii. Environmental disruption is climate-induced or exacerbated disasters and slow-onset negative effects of climate change such as rising sea levels, famine, and natural disasters, which disrupts access to fundamental human rights;
 - b. Establishes the rights of these people as those expressed in the UDHR with respect to Member States' sovereignty;
 - c. Identify categories of most vulnerable groups, short and long term, such as but not limited to: internally displaced people, externally displaced people, indigenous people, women, and children;
 - d. Recognizes the circumstances that qualify these persons as displaced people such as:
 - i. The exhaustion of natural resources through processes such as deforestation, pollution of lands and drinking waters, droughts, and drying up of major water sources, among others;
 - ii. The loss of land and property due to natural and manmade causes, including industrialization, rising sea levels, desertification, and other disasters.