



*American Model United Nations*  
**Human Rights Council**

HRC/II/2

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Human rights and climate change

SUBMITTED TO: The Human Rights Council

*The Human Rights Council,*

1 *Reaffirming* the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on  
2 Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights  
3 (ICCPR),

4 *Further reaffirming* the principles and goals of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
5 and the associated Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol,

6 *Noting* Sustainable Development Goals 3, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 13, which seek to promote good health and  
7 wellbeing, ensure the availability of clean water and sanitation, create access to affordable and clean energy, build  
8 resilient infrastructure and sustainable innovation, make sustainable cities and communities and take urgent action  
9 to combat climate change and its impacts,

10 *Applauding* the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme's Climate Change Adaptation Pro-  
11 gram in promoting climate change resilience in at-risk communities,

12 *Fully aware* that climate change has adverse effects on the fulfillment of the human rights to life, water and  
13 sanitation, housing, health, education and self determination,

14 *Further recognizing* that the short-term and long-term effects of climate change contribute to increased  
15 forced displacement or relocation and the need for international assistance and protection for groups experiencing  
16 these challenges,

17 *Acknowledging* that some regions are less equipped in their industrial ability to effectively handle issues in  
18 regards to climate change and mass migration,

19 *Recognizing* the need for Member States to collaborate and pursue a more detailed viewpoint of the com-  
20 plexities of the connection between climate change and refugee crises,

21 *Cognizant* of Member States' responsibilities to these groups in the context of cross-border migration, such  
22 as obligations to refrain from refoulement and ensure the protection of these populations' human rights,

23 *Mindful* of the importance of ensuring that migrant communities who may not be returned to their countries  
24 of origin are well and peacefully integrated into the social, economic and political life of their host communities  
25 according to the capabilities of their host countries and with due respect to national sovereignty,

26 *Observing* the spread of disease which commonly occurs during the movements of populations from one place  
27 to another, its impacts on displaced communities and the subsequent importance of access to clean water, food and  
28 shelter in every temporary encampment established for refugees displaced by climate change in ensuring the right to  
29 health,

30 *Noting* that many refugee and migrant communities reside in climate change hotspots and the importance  
31 of avoiding secondary displacement,

32 *Further noting* the current shortcomings in the United Nations apparatus concerning climate migrants and  
33 refugees, such as their lack of legal status or unique protections,

34 *Acknowledging* the importance of mitigating the severity of a future climate refugee crisis via improving  
35 access to renewable energy resources and sustainable infrastructure that reduce the effects of climate change today,  
36 particularly in rural areas,

37 1. *Calls for* a comprehensive reaffirmation of prior commitments to fighting climate change, including but  
38 not limited to the:

- 39 (a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- 40 (b) Kyoto Protocol;
- 41 (c) Paris Climate Accords;
- 42 2. *Emphasizes* the importance of international cooperation and coordination in addressing climate change,  
43 climate change-related migration and their subsequent impacts on the enjoyment of human rights;
- 44 3. *Encourages* biannual meetings amongst Member States through:
- 45 (a) Global conferences to address the issues of refugee populations displaced by climate change as  
46 they affect the world universally;
- 47 (b) Regional summits which will work toward reducing and resolving climate change issues on a  
48 regional level to better ensure the stability of both refugee populations and those remaining within climate insecure  
49 regions;
- 50 4. *Ensures* that advocacy groups, refugees displaced by climate change and severely affected nations are  
51 invited to be active participants within these conferences in sharing their experiences, struggles and success, pulling  
52 from three main segments:
- 53 (a) Refugees and migrants displaced by climate change permanently settled in host countries;
- 54 (b) Those in temporary settlements awaiting permanent settlement in their host country or any  
55 secondary host country;
- 56 (c) Those seeking repatriation;
- 57 5. *Encourages* Member States to consider and integrate displacement concerns into national climate change  
58 policies and strategies, which may address things such as enhancing migration and evacuation mapping, early warning  
59 systems, contingency plans, assessment of displacement risk and resilience building;
- 60 6. *Recommends* the establishment of the Carbon Redress Fund, funded by suggested donations of Member  
61 States proportional to their historical and current carbon emissions, that works to mitigate the effects of a future  
62 climate refugee crisis by:
- 63 (a) Providing a database updated with the most recent renewable energy technology from all willing  
64 Member States;
- 65 (b) Providing monetary and logistical support to implement the aforementioned renewable energy  
66 technology into Member States that should request it;
- 67 (c) Expanding access to clean energy alternatives to historically carbon heavy industries including  
68 power plants, factories, mining facilities and transportation; ;
- 69 7. *Suggests* regional actors and Member States partner with the World Bank Group and its International  
70 Development Association to build up Member States sustainable infrastructure with the goal of preventing mass  
71 migration and create safe transportation if migration were to occur through:
- 72 (a) Building rural roads and creating access to safe transportation for all citizens;
- 73 (b) Establishing electricity in all schools, houses and clinics;
- 74 (c) Training the general public on the implementation of these infrastructure additions;
- 75 8. *Recommends* the further specialization of programs such as the Global Protection Cluster and the Task  
76 Force on Displacement to address the specific needs of refugees and migrants displaced by climate change, which  
77 would ensure refugee facilities maintain:
- 78 (a) Guaranteed access to clean food and water;
- 79 (b) Protection of the right to healthcare;
- 80 (c) Protection of women, children, minorities and other vulnerable populations against human rights  
81 abuses;
- 82 (d) A self report system that allows individuals in the refugee camps to report human rights abuses  
83 to the aforementioned specialized body;

84 9. *Encourages* the United Nations to partner with healthcare organizations, such as the International Red  
85 Cross and Doctors Without Borders, in preparing for the inevitable health crisis of mass displacement due to climate  
86 change related events, which may occur either within their host countries or within the countries from which they  
87 left, by coordinating emergency response plans and the stockpiling of medical equipment;

88 10. *Calls upon* Member States to accept refugees displaced by climate change when they are unable to return  
89 to their home country due to significant risks caused by climate change;

90 11. *Supports* the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in fostering peaceful coexis-  
91 tence between host and migrant communities by:

- 92 (a) Implementing programs like healthcare and education that benefit the community as a whole;
- 93 (b) Supporting peaceful coexistence programs;
- 94 (c) Establishing community peace education programs;

95 12. *Encourages* Member States that are relatively sheltered from the impacts of climate change to develop  
96 resettlement schemes for refugees displaced by climate change that:

- 97 (a) Maintain the autonomy of the displaced groups;
- 98 (b) Are sheltered from the climate impacts that the refugees fled from in the first place;
- 99 (c) Have equitable access to resources that promote quality of life, such as clean water, healthcare  
100 access and public infrastructure;

101 13. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner conduct further research to fill gaps in the understanding  
102 and addressing of internal and cross-border migration resulting from the adverse effects of climate change.

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions