

Academy for Talented Youth

SummercampMUN



Position papers UNGA

Climate-Induced Migration

Position papers for the UNGA on the topic of Climate-Induced Migration

Dear esteemed delegates

We hereby welcome you to the committee sessions in the United Nations General Assembly, here at the 2019 Academy for Talented Youth SummerCamp Model United Nations. During the sessions, you will be discussing the topic of Climate-Induced Migration.

To be well-prepared for the session you should at least have read the study guide, your own country's position paper and the Rules of Procedure. In addition, you are more than welcome to do further research. It can be helpful to read the other position papers to know what the discussion will centre around and to find possible allies. You can also read more on the topic or your country by using either the sources mentioned in the study guide (and position paper) or sources you find elsewhere.

Thank you and welcome.

Countries in the committee

1. People's Republic of Bangladesh
2. Republic of Chad
3. People's Republic of China
4. Republic of Costa Rica
5. Federal Republic of Germany
6. Hungary
7. Islamic Republic of Iran
8. Italian Republic
9. Republic of Kiribati
10. Federal Republic of Nigeria
11. Kingdom of Norway
12. Republic of Peru
13. Republic of the Philippines
14. The Russian Federation
15. Federal Republic of Somalia
16. United States of America

Position papers

1. People's Republic of Bangladesh

Worldwide, the People's Republic of Bangladesh is recognized as one of the most vulnerable countries to the impact of climate change and global warming. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, nearly 700,000 Bangladeshis were displaced on average each year, during the last decade, and about 1,6 million people were evacuated due to Cyclone Fani in May 2019.¹ This is due to unique geographic location, high population density, high levels of poverty, high risks of flooding, and because most citizens live only a few meters above sea level. Most of the migrants then arrive in urban slums, particularly in Dhaka², where there is evidence that the constant influx of migrants are contributing to rising crime, insecurity and instability in the slum areas.³

Most climate-induced migration in Bangladesh remains internal, however, cross-border movement cannot be dismissed, as Bangladesh was the largest single origin of migrants arriving in Europe in May 2017.⁴ Currently, legal and policy frameworks are not sufficient to govern climate-induced displacement, and several legal frameworks and instruments to govern refugees and stateless people are inapplicable and inappropriate. This makes climate-induced migrants an entirely unprotected category, which needs to be addressed by the UNGA.

When it comes to international agreements, Bangladesh is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention. Furthermore, it does not have any domestic refugee legislation. However, Bangladesh remains solidary with its neighbour states and welcomed approximately 725,000 stateless Rohingya refugees in 2017⁵. The government and the UNHCR are currently cooperating to strengthening the environment for refugees, ensure basic human rights and improve the living conditions for refugees in settlements. The government and IOM signed a Cooperation Agreement and the thereby established research centre in Dhaka has commissioned research projects on migration issues.⁶

In the committee, Bangladesh might argue that it is necessary for them to get better funding in order to provide for climate-induced migrants and the Rohingya Refugees, who risk further displacement due to climate change. Furthermore, they will argue that it is vital for the UNGA to encourage further development of technology to combat climate change and its effect on the socio-economic sectors in developing countries. The UNGA should also acknowledge that the goal should be to improve living conditions and thus avoid forced migration. Furthermore, it is necessary for the UNHCR to emphasize the importance of human rights for internal and international displaced migrants. Bangladesh might find allies

¹ <http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/bangladesh>

² <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/01/climate-change-drives-migration-crisis-in-bangladesh-from-dhaka-sundabans/>

³ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/dsd/resources/res_pdfs/ga-64/cc-inputs/Bangladesh_CCIS.pdf

⁴ <https://ejfoundation.org/reports/climate-displacement-in-bangladesh>

⁵ http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/2539#_ga=2.244487429.1859564714.1561034641-1208565862.1560673267

⁶ <https://www.iom.int/countries/bangladesh>

in other developing countries affected by climate change as Costa Rica, Peru, Somalia, and Kiribati.

2. Republic of Chad

Chad is one of the countries which climate change affects the most. It's one of the poorest in the world and its geographical position makes it very vulnerable to rising temperatures. Over the last 50 years, Lake Chad, which provided water to millions of people, has shrunk almost 90%, forcing the people depending on it to move to survive. This has crippled both the fishing and agricultural industry and is projected to worsen over the next years.

Chad has initiated the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), which seeks to revert the devastating changes to and around Lake Chad and the increasing number of climate refugees from the area.

Furthermore, Chad has launched the Chad National Adaptation Plan Advancement Project, which is a medium to long-term plan for adapting the country's development around the already existing climate change and reducing future changes to the climate.

To help the climate-induced migrants, it is important to first recognize them as climate refugees to secure their rights. Therefore, it should be the biggest priority to define climate refugees to be able to discuss other related topics.

As Chad, as well as many of the countries most affected by climate change, is extremely poor, the most effective way to bring down the number of climate-related migrants is to support and fund the developing climate-threatened nations. This will not only create sustainable economies and facilitate growth but save millions of people from hunger and danger. Chad believes that the developed countries that pollute the most should be held more accountable and encouraged to support the nations, most threatened by climate change.

Creating better living conditions will not only decrease the number of people who have to move in order to survive but also increase the number of people able to return home to their former lives. This is another reason why it's important to help the poor countries most affected by climate change develop.

3. People's Republic of China

With the signing of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the world put in place for the first time a system for defining refugees, setting out their rights, and granting them asylum. The People's Republic of China signed the deal along with the 1967 protocol⁷ on the 24th of September 1982, thereby committing to a binding, international responsibility. However, since these agreements were made during the second half of the 20th century, even the most prosperous and wealthy of Western countries have become increasingly less prone to live up to the responsibilities they took upon themselves. As a result, one might argue that China, being a 'mere' developing country, subconsciously doesn't feel inherently responsible for the failure in upholding the 1951 Convention.

For many years, China has been reluctant towards receiving refugees. This is partly due to the fact that most refugees in this period have fled from wars spun by primarily Western campaigns against dictators and dictatorships. The People's Republic of China obviously did not create this turmoil. The opposite, however, is true regarding the so-called "climate refugees". Being amongst the world's top emitters of carbon dioxide and, according to most studies, even surpassing enormous economies such as Russia, Canada and even the US, the PRC is very much responsible for any "persons displaced in the context of disasters and climate change". On top of this, China already suffers from climate impacts that result mainly from the OECD countries, such as themselves', industrialization. As so, China shares and acknowledges the responsibility for striving towards a 'greener' direction and, in doing so, living up to their international and indeed humanitarian responsibility.

Hindering this, however, is that the overwhelming majority of Chinese believe that their country shouldn't accept foreigners after 36 years of upholding the one-child policy meant to control the size of a vastly expanding population. Adding to this is a clear reluctance towards sacrificing economic growth in order to engage in climate mitigation. Conclusively, China recognizes the need for action but, although the countries' foreign policy is increasingly nearing that of many Western countries, the Republic maintains a hesitant approach towards accepting refugees within their own borders.

Instead of urging all countries to accept all refugees non critically, China proposes that financial contributions through UNHCR as well as arrangements for humanitarian aid with cooperative governments in the vulnerable areas should play the main role in restoring safety and stability in these countries. Furthermore, the PRC proposes that the UNGA advises all member and non-member countries to lift customs on imported articles from firms who verifiably make an effort to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, through its mandate to do so. In doing so, not only states but also private companies will be motivated to reduce the effects

⁷ Where the 1951 [United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees](#) had restricted refugee status to those "occurring before 1 January 1951" as well as "events occurring in Europe or elsewhere", the 1967 Protocol removed both the temporal and geographic restrictions on the definition of a refugee.

of climate change at the prospect of economic benefits, thereby minimizing the amount of “climate refugees” seeking asylum in the present countries.

4. Republic of Costa Rica

The Republic of Costa Rica is a country in Central America known for its rich and diverse nature. This is part of the reason why Costa Rica has been very keen on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In February of 2019, the government announced an ambitious goal of net zero emissions by 2050 as one of the first countries. This would have Costa Rica fulfil its obligations set out in the Paris Agreement. Recognizing Costa Rica only plays a minor role in reducing global emissions, the government is hoping to set an example for others to follow.

The plan is aiming to still have regular economic growth as this is important to improve the standard of living. To fulfil the goal Costa Rica will utilize their electric grid that is already powered by renewable energy sources. Today the transportation sector is responsible for around half of Costa Rica's emissions, but the plan is to electrify busses and cars and build a new system of electric trains within the capital of San José. New rules have been made requiring government bodies to consider the effect on climate change of all proposals. All this is mostly done to protect the fragile ecosystems within the country, but Costa Rica is also progressive in the field of migration.

The country has been especially active with the Nansen Initiative by being part of the steering group and hosting regional meetings. Recently the country has mainly been a host of migrants mainly from Nicaragua. The country strongly supports the goals set out in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. It is particularly important that a resolution passed in the committee takes its point of departure in the basic human rights and the security and protection of migrants.

In the committee, Costa Rica will likely partner with other developing nations to pressure developed nations. Costa Rica believes cooperation is important in order to improve the conditions for migrants. Many promises have been made, but now is time for action. It is also important to keep in mind that the primary objective is to improve living conditions for people in developing countries to avoid them being forced to migrate in the first place. To achieve this it is necessary to launch initiatives protecting them from the negative impacts of climate change.

Sources

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<https://www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/costa-rica>

5. Federal Republic of Germany

As part of the EU, the Federal Republic of Germany has seen a rise in people seeking refuge as a result of insurgency, unrest, natural disasters and permanent environmental displacement over the last decade. The EU does not formally recognize the term 'climate refugee' but has expressed growing concern and has taken action to support and develop resilience in the countries potentially affected by climate-related stress. Alternative statuses for such displaced individuals have been offered including 'permanently forced migration'⁸.

Germany is also a sponsor of the Marrakesh declaration, in which sponsors have agreed to take new measures in order to combat irregular migration. These measures include making legal migration and mobility easier as well as securing better protection for refugees. It also includes measures for more orderly repatriation of irregular immigrants. This shows Germany's willingness to make diplomatic and solidary solutions to the current migration problems without promising completely open borders⁹.

Germany has since the beginning of the new millennium largely recognized its role as a melting pot and has in its immigration policies largely focused on integration and recruitment, but since the Syrian refugee crisis in 2015 the political climate has changed, and Germany has adopted stricter refugee and immigration laws. They will likely be less accepting of climate-induced immigrants today than 10 years ago. Germany currently faces the challenge of balancing climate-induced migration, its safety and the liberal, democratic, and solidary values it holds dear¹⁰.

Germany might, therefore, want to focus attention on the prevention of further climate change and environmental destruction by way of renewable energy solutions and sustainable infrastructure solutions in vulnerable countries. Germany is a frontrunner in the renewable energy and engineering sectors and can offer help and know-how in future sustainable solutions¹¹.

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[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/621893/EPRS_BRI\(2018\)621893_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/621893/EPRS_BRI(2018)621893_EN.pdf)

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<https://www.eu.dk/da/spoergsmaal-og-svar-folder/forskel-paa-marrakesherklaering-og-fns-aftale-om-migration>

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https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/new-reality-germany-adapts-its-role-major-migrant-magnet?clid=Cj0KCQjwl6LoBRDqARIsABIIISaMlcVOZ6HB1-SJITdhK4Do44hEavFjL11Stlv82Z5vahy4TSayltcaAttIEALw_wcB

¹¹ http://www.sgi-network.org/2017/Germany/Environmental_Policies

6. Hungary

More than 80% of the population in Hungary experience climate change on a daily basis.¹² The government in Hungary has called for the country to take action and fight against climate change, where Hungary has taken measures to fight against the changing climate and thus climate-induced migration, as it cooperates with third world countries, in regards to development.¹³ Furthermore, government officials recognize that the effects of climate change, as drought, has contributed to violence, conflict and the arrival of 1,5 million people in Europe. Hungary is currently taking a leading role in regards to developments related to climate change in the Western Balkans. It has established a non-profit with the South Korean Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) in order to carry out climate protection activities in six countries, with the purpose of implementing the Paris Climate Accord.¹⁴

Despite its efforts to combat climate change and thus climate-induced migration, Hungary has one of the harshest refugee and migration policies in the EU - if not the harshest one.¹⁵ Ever since the European refugee crisis in 2015 began, the Hungarian EU-border has been very exposed to the refugee flow which has made the strictest European refugee policy even harsher.¹⁶ In order to keep the refugees out, Hungary has spent millions of dollars on a more than 100 kilometres long border fence which is holding out the refugees, who travel into the EU from the Serbian border.¹⁷

Hungary voted against The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and has not yet signed it, on the grounds that GCM is pro-migration and a human rights approach to migration is “dangerous”. Furthermore, they do not wish to see the GCM implemented, as the implementation of such a document might make them seem open to migration, which will provide a further incentive for migration.¹⁸ Hungary has also not signed or adopted the Marrakesh political Declaration, on similar grounds.

¹² <https://klimavalasz.hu/en/climate-change-hungary>

¹³ <https://emerging-europe.com/news/hungarian-president-calls-for-fight-against-climate-change-to-reduce-migratory-pressures/>

¹⁴ <http://abouthungary.hu/news-in-brief/hungary-to-take-leading-role-in-global-climate-protection/>

¹⁵ <https://www.ft.com/content/ed663f40-12f4-11e7-80f4-13e067d5072c>

¹⁶ <https://www.ft.com/content/ed663f40-12f4-11e7-80f4-13e067d5072c>

¹⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLTcqd2Paig>

¹⁸ <https://theconversation.com/global-compact-for-migration-what-is-it-and-why-are-countries-opposing-it-106654>

In the committee, Hungary will argue for the importance of State sovereignty when it comes to its migration laws. Furthermore, Hungary will not support a pro-migration resolution, as the country already struggles with issues due to migration and refugees. They might find allies Italy and Iran who are hosting large numbers of refugees or in other countries who opposed the GCM.

7. Islamic Republic of Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran is no stranger to the struggles of harsh climate and has suffered through water droughts, sandstorms, as well as severe flooding. It is estimated by the Crisis Management Organization that because of flooding, Iran has had a financial loss of 1 billion USD up till the 7th of April, equaling half their health budget. These natural disasters are partly blamed on the poor management of the country's national resources, and lack of enforcement of the environmental laws. Due to the country's specific terrain, it is prone to droughts if the environment is not handled with proper care. Iran uses its water as a political instrument and by building dams, they hinder the rivers flowing into the neighbouring countries, like Iraq. Iran is the third biggest dam-builder after China and Japan. This meddling in the natural flows of water results in other places drying up and has had a negative influence on crops, wildlife and the frequency of sandstorms.

The Iranian authorities, however, refuse to accept responsibility for the countries poor water management and firmly claim that climate change is entirely to blame for the disasters. It is correct, that as climate change has worsened, the effects have been magnified, resulting in natural disasters occurring more often. Iran regards climate change as temporary and has therefore failed to take the proper political steps to accommodate these changes. This has led to crisis situations in several local areas and resulted in migration to the cities and massive urbanization. For this reason, several cities are overcrowded. It is feared that this development will end in migration to European cities too. There's noticeably little responsibility taken by the Iranian regime, that still doesn't recognize the magnitude of climate change. These issues are also interlocked with the social challenges of climate refugee-crises. As some locals face poverty and danger, they are politically neglected and face uncertainty and unrest. It also seems that the most under-prioritized and neglected areas are largely inhabited by religious and ethnic minorities. Because of the amount of corruption in Iran, it is uncertain whether international aid is reaching the intended areas.

Iran wishes to become a greater regional power and has chosen to focus on rapid development and infrastructure, over environmental regard. However, the country is largely viewed as safe and stable. The country already hosts one of the worlds' largest groups of immigrants (unrelated to climate change), primarily from Afghanistan. The country has had a progressive approach when adapting to these large refugee-counts and has allowed them to be part of the national health insurance systems and enrol their kids in public schools. The weakest refugees aren't able to pay for this insurance as of yet, and the school systems still struggle to develop the needed capacity for the larger number of students. The country also works on enhancing their refugee registration systems as well as offering better training programs, where refugees can learn to set up businesses and gain an independent economic foothold. These measures prepare the country better for handling a new migration crisis, though the country is still unprepared for migration on the foreshadowed scale. Iran calls for an international perspective in this case and greater shared, but voluntary, responsibility.

Sources:

<http://www.bic-rhr.com/research/iran-and-climate-refugees-alarming-situation> = this one's really good, especially the very last part, offering 6 key points of future action that needs to be taken.

http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/2527#_ga=2.114097152.62595242.1561029389-232371144.1561029389

8. Italian Republic

As part of the EU, the Italian Republic has seen a rise in people seeking refuge as a result of insurgency, unrest, natural disasters and permanent environmental displacement over the last decade. The EU does not formally recognize the term ‘climate refugee’ but has expressed growing concern and has taken action to support and develop resilience in the countries potentially affected by climate-related stress. Alternative statuses for such displaced individuals have been offered including ‘permanently forced migration’¹⁹. The Italian Republic has, however, extensively criticized the EU for its too welcoming refugee policies. Italy has taken the brunt of the irregular immigrants and refugees and feels a need for stricter policies as well as a more solidary approach from the rest of the EU²⁰.

Italy is also a sponsor of the Marrakesh declaration, in which sponsors have agreed to take new measures in order to combat irregular migration. These measures include making legal migration and mobility easier as well as securing better protection for refugees. It also includes measures for more orderly repatriation of irregular immigrants. Italy was reluctant to join the agreement and deferred its decision several times²¹. This shows Italy’s ability to make diplomatic solutions to the current migration problems in the world while still demanding solutions to the existing problems in Europe²².

The Italian Republic has had massive troubles dealing with continuous streams of immigrants and refugees from several regions, which has led to very strict immigration policies and a shift in discourse towards a more protectionist approach. Italy will likely not accept climate-induced immigrants as refugees²³ but will be more likely to call for action in the neighbouring areas to affected regions as well as repatriation after any disaster has passed.

¹⁹[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/621893/EPRS_BRI\(2018\)621893_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/621893/EPRS_BRI(2018)621893_EN.pdf)

²⁰<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/03/04/italy-and-the-eu-a-tense-relationship-helping-matteo-salvini.html>

²¹<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/ga12113.doc.htm>

²²<https://www.eu.dk/da/spoergsmaal-og-svar-folder/forskel-paa-marrakesherklaering-og-fns-aftale-om-migration>

²³<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/emigration-asylum-destination-italy-navigates-shifting-migration-tides>

9. Republic of Kiribati

The Republic of Kiribati is greatly concerned with the impacts of climate change on its population. Being located in the Pacific Ocean rising sea level and more frequent storms pose a threat to the well-being of the country like it does to many other small island developing states. (SIDS)

Kiribati is a party to many agreements on the subject of climate change including the Paris Agreement. However, the goals set out in the Paris Agreement will not hinder the negative impacts that climate change has on Kiribati. If nothing is done to mitigate the impacts of climate change on Kiribati the country will eventually become totally uninhabitable and the population will be forced to migrate to another place.

Already now, rising ocean water is shrinking the land area, ruining fresh water supply, destroying crop lands and displacing people because their houses are flooded. This displacement is putting an extra burden on the main island of the nation called South Tarawa. By now more than half of the countries population of around 100,000 is living on South Tarawa. The population has a low standard of living and thus not the necessary funds to combat the impacts of climate change.

On a national level, Kiribati has taken several steps to develop its economy including raising the revenue gained from fishing licenses and tourism. However, the impact of climate change has been estimated to cost around 35 per cent of the country's GDP. Kiribati has also tried to lower its greenhouse gas emissions by investing in solar power and reducing the import of fossil fuels. The country is striving to reduce its emissions by 60 per cent by 2030.

Recently Australia has provided funds for the Kiribati Road Rehabilitation Project. This economic infrastructure investment has been a great success providing a substantial lift to the standard of living on the main islands of South Tarawa.

In all projects aiming to mitigate the impacts of climate change, the government has focused on coordinating efforts between different government bodies, NGOs and businesses. It has been prioritized to consult and include local communities in the projects and to utilize the knowledge of the best practice. Kiribati would like to see these principles included in a resolution passed by the committee.

In the committee, Kiribati will likely seek allies in other developing countries impacted greatly by climate change including Somalia and Bangladesh. Kiribati will seek to have developed countries contribute more with funds, expertise and technology to protect the livelihood of the population and to support those forced to migrate because of climate change impacts, both internally and internationally.

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https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Kiribati/1/INDC_KIRIBATI.pdf

<https://www.climatehotmap.org/global-warming-locations/republic-of-kiribati.html>

10. Federal Republic of Nigeria

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is among the nations that suffer the most from the recent changes in the global climate. The diverse environment of the nation is unstabilized in many different ways with drought around the Chad basin, severe flooding in the riverine and heavy rainfall, rising sea levels and storms in the coastal region²⁴. This, among other factors, has caused serious internal displacement, and the Northern regions of the country are currently receiving more displaced North Africans than all of Europe combined²⁵. After failed harvests, evacuations and general unrest, more than 4.5 million people in Nigeria remain food insecure²⁶, and the other members of the UN have largely failed to help and UN funding in the region is still around 60% short of its target²⁷. This has made the situation in all of Nigeria very difficult, and the country needs the assistance of the international community in tackling the current hardships.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is likely to call for immediate action by more economically developed countries on the issue of climate as well as accommodating those displaced by climate-related problems. Furthermore, they stress that climate change act as a multiplier of the issues already faced by developing nations, and that these most vulnerable peoples will suffer the hardest from the climate changes largely created by more economically developed countries. It is of the opinion that the more economically developed countries must bear their part of the burden currently weighing most heavily on developing nations²⁸.

²⁴ <https://schools.leicester.gov.uk/media/3640/justin-udie-climate-change-in-the-niger-delta.pdf>

²⁵

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/26/boko-haram-nigeria-famine-hunger-displacement-refugees-climate-change-lake-chad>

²⁶ <https://www.unhcr.org/nigeria-emergency.html>

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<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/26/boko-haram-nigeria-famine-hunger-displacement-refugees-climate-change-lake-chad>

²⁸ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13417.doc.htm>

11. Kingdom of Norway

As co-chairman and co-founder of The Nansen Initiative which is an intergovernmental process that addresses the challenges of cross-border displacement in the context of climate change and disasters, Norway believes that climate change is likely to increase and therefore national and international responses to this challenge is insufficient and protection for affected people remains inadequate.²⁹ Norway recognizes climate-induced migration, displacement and relocation as an adaptation challenge that needs to be solved on an intergovernmental level and therefore Norway believes in: “building consensus on the development of a protection agenda addressing the needs of displaced people.”³⁰

The number of environmentally displaced persons – people who have been forced to flee their homes because of climate change or natural disasters – is growing all the time. The number varies dramatically from year to year, and it is difficult to establish with any certainty. According to estimates by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), around 185 million people were displaced by disasters in the period 2008–14. The majority of these were internally displaced and could return to their homes after a short period of time. Norway believes that: “recognition of the substantial regional differences in terms of the challenges that people face is an important guiding principle for the work that is being done. This must be reflected in the response, and applies to all areas, including climate change adaptation, humanitarian efforts and provisional protection measures”³¹ Therefore does Norway feel that developed countries - such as themselves - and foreign aid agencies have not done nearly enough to combat climate-induced migration in developing countries. This is the reason that Norway, along with other countries, will be willing to provide aid and technology to developing countries greatly affected by climate change. (mangler kilde)

²⁹ <https://www.nanseninitiative.org/secretariat/>

³⁰ <https://unfccc.int/news/world-needs-to-prepare-for-climate-displacement>

³¹ <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/foreign-affairs/humanitarian-efforts/environmentally-displaced/id2358428/>

12. Republic of Peru

The Republic of Peru became a member state of the International Organization of Migration (IOM) in 1969. Since then, the IOM has provided technical assistance and advice to the Peruvian Government. The IOM has helped The Republic of Peru, as the Republic has been pressured by a large stream of immigrants from Venezuela for a long time.

Now, the climate changes can no longer be denied, and we, the Government of Peru, share a fear for the future of our Republic. There is no future in letting the developing countries take environmental migrants, and let these countries be pressured even more. It will only lead to more chaos and more migration. Already this has seen the light of day in our Republic as people also are emigrating from the Republic of Peru, as others immigrate into our country. We cannot let environmentally endangered countries stand alone. As the UN and the committee of the General Assembly, we are here to unite our countries, and share the burden that we as humans have put upon ourselves. Therefore, we call upon the developed countries to act. To simply lift their part of the burden. The act starts with environmental sustainability and helps migrants all over the world. Therefore, to be against migration is to be against the survival of our fellow men and women all over the globe, who suffer from the problems which the developed countries have caused in the last 100 years. The Republic of Peru acknowledges that any solution needs the developed countries to stand up to their responsibility. Only then, can all the displaced climate-induced migrants all over the world, find there way home.

This final step, of reintegration, is important to address as well. In our Republic, the UNHCR has previously helped with this specific topic, but it was not entirely successful. The problem was that even though the UNHCR provided additional staff to the borders and computer-equipment, the funding was still low when it came to ensuring sustainable wealth and the well-being for the return of migrants after they successfully have crossed the border.

Therefore, we the UNGA, need to consider the most effective usage of our resources, to ensure a successful reintegration, if there shall be any hope for a safe return of internal or international displaced climate-induced migrants.

13. Republic of the Philippines

The Republic of the Philippines is particularly vulnerable to extreme weather due to its location in the meteorologically turbulent western Pacific Ocean. The Global Climate Risk Index 2015 listed the Philippines as the number one most affected country by climate change³². In recent years the nation has suffered from several serious natural disasters, including the Haiyan typhoon, which cost more than 6300 lives and left more than 4 million people displaced³³. Due to climate change, the waters around the Philippines is going to get even warmer, which will likely lead to stronger and more unpredictable storms and other extreme weather phenomenons.

The Republic of the Philippines has a clear stance on migration, previously stating that the notion, that migration is bad, has been defeated with facts and that migration is a shared responsibility of sending, receiving and transit countries and no one nation can address the challenges alone and going as far as to say that illegal immigrants cannot be viewed as criminals, as there is nothing criminal in wishing for something better and doing something about it³⁴.

The Republic of the Philippines is likely to call for immediate action by more economically developed countries on the issue of climate as well as accommodating those displaced by climate-related problems. Furthermore, they stress the importance of state sovereignty in any emergency climate-related or infrastructural aid, pointing out that assistance should never be used as a pretence for intervening in a challenged state's internal affairs³⁵.

³² <https://www.climaterealityproject.org/blog/how-climate-change-affecting-philippines>

³³ <https://www.unhcr.org/ph/11069-climate-change-displacement.html>

³⁴ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/ga12113.doc.htm>

³⁵ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/gal3586.doc.htm>

14. The Russian Federation

Nearly 200 countries, including Russia, have signed the Paris Agreement, which commits members in limiting global warming to “well below 2C”. Still, important action is lacking from all signatories, temperatures are continuously on the rise and soon, and issues regarding the environmental crisis aren’t only to be felt below the equator but also above. This is especially true in regard to the escalating numbers of climate-induced migrants approaching more northern borders. Confronted with the seriousness of these prospects, the economic prosperity currently dominating many Western countries as well as People’s Republic of China and Russian Federation might be threatened by the risk of throwing everything overboard in order to minimize the effects of climate change. This is by the Russian Federation, however, not regarded as a long-lasting solution.

The Russian Federation acceded to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol in 1992 (hereinafter jointly referred to as the 1951 Convention) in 1993 but has not accepted the 1954 nor the 1961 Convention relating to the Status of and reduction of Stateless Persons. Russia adopted a Federal Law on Refugees in 1993 thereby establishing the Federal Migration Service (FMS) that dealt with asylum and nationality issues up until April 2016, where the FMS was abolished, and its functions were transferred to the newly created General Administration for Migration Issues. With a recognition of the need to harmonize the current law on refugees with international norms, a new Federal Law on Asylum has been in process since 2010-2011 but is yet to be passed. The latest available version dates back to August 2015 and does not include most of what UNHCR has suggested it should - including aligning the ground of exclusion as well as non-refoulement with the 1951 Convention, improving access to asylum, and ensuring integration for asylum holders.

As of the 30th June 2017, there were only 589 refugee status holders, the largest portion of them being Ukrainians primarily from the conflict in 2014-2015. The Government of the Russian Federation has allocated substantial resources to meet the international protection and assistance needs of Ukrainian nationals, passing several legislative and administrative measures to regularize their status and facilitate their integration. For Syrians, however, of whom Gannushkina estimated there are currently 5,000-6,000 seeking refugee status in Russia, the process is much harder. While Ukrainians form the biggest refugee group, UNHCR’s primary concern lies with non-Ukrainian refugees, as they do not enjoy the same protection as Ukrainian refugees. As so, the UNHCR submitted a list of recommendations to the Russian Federation in May 2018 in order to reinvigorate constructive dialogue and cooperation with the Government on the matter of refugees.

On the issue of climate change, Russia has been hesitant towards passing legislation in order to live up to the Paris Agreement, even though the country’s environmental ministry in the autumn of 2018 published a report that paints an apocalyptic future for the country due to climate change, with consequences including epidemics, drought, mass flooding and hunger. This might be due the fact that studies have found that Russia along with Belarus, the Baltic states, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan would benefit with a 0.83 per cent increase in per capita

output, if the temperatures rise 1 C. On top of this, a Russian official recently stated, that refugees should be assisted in their home countries rather than in the Russian Federation as asylum-holders. Many countries have in previous sessions expressed an interest in the idea of developing a ‘global guiding framework on climate change-related displacement’. Only the Russian Federation along with India have sounded a note of caution, the former arguing that the international protection regime should continue to be regulated by the 1951 Convention and that its 1967 Protocol and that UNHCR’s mandate should not be changed.

Conclusively, the Russian Federation proposes that the committee should continue to debate and process the issue of climate-induced displacement, but it remains of uttermost importance that the countries aren’t robbed of their freedom to govern themselves. The Russian Federation would be in favour of any propositions treating the vulnerable areas and thereby hindering a sudden rise in the so-called “climate-refugees” rather than any propositions on how the present countries ought to accept asylum seekers.

15. Federal Republic of Somalia

The Federal Republic of Somalia suffers from severe droughts and famines, and thus climate-induced migration. It is emerging from a difficult and long period of instability, civil war, and conflict. The Somali government has publicly stated that it does not wish to see its citizens threatened by the devastating impacts brought about by flash floods, droughts and famine. This constant risk of flooding and drought has led to a massive number of both internal and international migration. And as of mid-2018, about 2,65 million people remain internally displaced in Somalia, and a further 820,000 Somalis currently reside in other countries.³⁶

The impacts of climate change on Somalia are extensive. Furthermore, potential future impacts may worsen if nothing is done to help the most vulnerable populations. The political instability and the frequent cases of famine and disease have both made the country difficult for investments to make a difference in the lives of Somalians and contributed to the ongoing migration crisis. It is necessary to scale up the development of infrastructure and of basic services to build or restore infrastructure systems to support the reintegration of displaced communities. Therefore, it is vital for Somalia to get better funding in order to combat climate change and stabilize the country, and thus create better lives for its people.

The government has adopted the National Adaption Programme of Action (NAPA). The programme is committed to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change and provides a critical basis for addressing the risks associated with climate change in Somalia. Already, the UNDP works with government partners, local authorities, civil society communities and organisations to help the Somalian people to adapt to the impacts of climate change, reduce the risk of disaster and give them access to clean water and energy.

Additionally, the federal government works with the UNHCR to secure the reception and reintegration of refugees and internal or international migrants and works to expand access to basic services and livelihood opportunities.

In the committee, Somalia will probably find consensus with other developing countries. It might argue for further sharing of resources and technology, as this is vital for their development and the technological development in regards to climate change. In addition, they might encourage the UNGA to emphasize the need for knowledge sharing and developing the necessary technology. Furthermore, Somalia might argue that the UNGA should encourage funding to help combat climate change in countries affected the most, and thus minimize climate-induced migration. Lastly, they might argue that the UNGA should emphasize the importance of reintegration of internal and internationally displaced migrants.

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http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/2550#_ga=2.121740811.1859564714.1561034641-1208565862.1560673267

16. United States of America

The United States is the largest single provider of humanitarian assistance worldwide. In total was the U.S. humanitarian assistance worldwide more than \$8 billion in the fiscal year 2018, including funding from the State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) and the U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance. The primary goal of U.S. humanitarian assistance is to save lives and alleviate suffering by ensuring that vulnerable and crisis-affected individuals receive assistance and protection. U.S. funding provides life-saving assistance to tens of millions of displaced and crisis-affected people, including refugees, worldwide.³⁷ The U.S. feels that it is important to support at-risk populations and therefore did the PRM “stresses the need to make extra efforts and invest additional resources to ensure that these at-risk populations are present in, engaged in, participating in, and contributing to humanitarian programming and the way the international community responds to emergencies.”³⁸

The State Department identified in early 2017 that migration is a risk in one of its climate change risk assessments. However, the State Department later changed its approach and no longer provides clear guidance to its staff on how to assess climate change risks. This may prevent it from identifying and addressing climate change as a factor in human migration. Which means that the U.S. does not treat climate change as a reason for migrating.³⁹ The U.S. does not have a clear definition on a Climate-induced migration and would perhaps one day extend a resolution so that the law would become more clear on this issue, but as our President Donald Trump addressed it to the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly: “We recognize the right of every nation to set its own immigration policy in accordance with its national interests (...) Migration should not be governed by an international body unaccountable to our own citizens.”⁴⁰ The U.S. believes that it is the sovereign state or country that dictates its own immigration policy. Therefore, On June 1st, 2017, announced United States President Donald Trump that the U.S. would cease all

³⁷ <https://www.state.gov/policy-issues/refugee-and-humanitarian-assistance/>

³⁸ <https://www.state.gov/other-policy-issues/at-risk-populations/>

³⁹ <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-19-166>

⁴⁰ <https://www.state.gov/other-policy-issues/international-migration/>

participation in the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change mitigation. Trump stated that "The Paris accord will undermine (the U.S.) economy," and "puts (the U.S.) at a permanent disadvantage."⁴¹ During the presidential campaign, Trump had pledged to withdraw from the pact, saying a withdrawal would help American businesses and workers. Trump stated that the withdrawal would be in accordance with his America First policy.⁴²

⁴¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_withdrawal_from_the_Paris_Agreement#cite_note-1

⁴² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_withdrawal_from_the_Paris_Agreement#cite_note-1