



ECOSOC COMMITTEE STUDY GUIDE

**CLIMATE INDUCED
MIGRATION: SOCIO-
ECONOMIC IMPACTS
AND SOLUTIONS**

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ACADEMIC TEAM



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1. Introduction to the Topic

1.1 Defining Climate-Induced Migration

Climate-induced migration refers to the movement of individuals or communities who are forced to leave their homes due to environmental changes caused by climate change. Unlike traditional migration, which is often driven by economic opportunities or conflicts, climate migration is a response to environmental factors such as rising sea levels, prolonged droughts, extreme weather events, and desertification.

People who migrate due to climate-related factors often face **uncertain legal status**, as they do not fit into the conventional definition of a refugee under the **1951 Refugee Convention**, which requires individuals to flee due to persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. This legal gap makes it challenging for climate migrants to receive international protection and assistance.

1.2 Differentiating Climate Migrants, Refugees, and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Understanding the distinction between different categories of displaced persons is essential for formulating policies:

- **Climate Migrants:** Individuals who move voluntarily or involuntarily due to the adverse effects of climate change. They may cross borders or migrate internally within their country.
- **Climate Refugees:** Although often used in media and advocacy, this term is not officially recognized in international law. Unlike political refugees, climate migrants do not receive special legal protections under the UN Refugee Convention.
- **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** People forced to flee their homes due to climate-related disasters but remain within their own country. Since they do not cross international borders, their protection falls under national policies rather than international refugee law.

1.3 The Relevance of Climate-Induced Migration in the 21st Century

Climate change is no longer a distant threat—it is happening now, with real consequences for global migration patterns. The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** and **World Bank** estimate that **by 2050, over 200 million people** could be displaced due to climate change-related factors.

Key reasons why climate-induced migration is a **crucial** issue for global policymakers today:

- **Environmental Degradation and Natural Disasters:** Rising sea levels threaten small island nations such as the Maldives, Kiribati, and Tuvalu, while extreme heat and droughts are making parts of Africa and South Asia uninhabitable.

- **Economic Consequences:** Displacement due to climate change can lead to job losses, strained public services, and economic instability both in affected regions and in host countries receiving migrants.
- **Urbanization and Overpopulation:** Large-scale migration to cities can lead to overpopulation, slums, and inadequate infrastructure, exacerbating social inequalities.
- **Geopolitical Tensions and Security Risks:** Mass migration can create tensions between countries, leading to stricter border policies, social unrest, and conflicts over resources such as water and land.
- **Lack of Legal Protection:** Since climate migrants do not have a formal legal status under international law, they struggle to access asylum, aid, and resettlement programs.

1.4 Why This Issue is Relevant to ECOSOC

The **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** plays a critical role in **sustainable development, humanitarian aid, and global migration policies**. Climate-induced migration is closely linked to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly:

- **SDG 13: Climate Action** – Addressing the root causes of climate change to reduce forced migration.
- **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities** – Ensuring migrants and displaced persons receive equal opportunities and protections.
- **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities** – Managing urbanization challenges caused by climate migration.
- **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** – Supporting migrants in integrating into new economies and labor markets.

1.5 The Role of the International Community

Since climate change is a **global** challenge, no single country can address the issue alone. The international community must work together to:

- **Provide legal recognition and protection** for climate migrants.
- **Develop sustainable infrastructure** to accommodate displaced populations.
- **Support adaptation measures** in vulnerable regions to prevent forced migration.
- **Promote international cooperation** through agreements like the **Paris Climate Accord** and the **Global Compact for Migration**.

Conclusion

Climate-induced migration is a **pressing global issue** with economic, legal, and humanitarian implications. As climate change worsens, the number of displaced people will continue to rise, making it imperative for ECOSOC and the broader UN framework to establish **sustainable solutions and policies** to address the crisis effectively.

2. Background Information

This section provides historical context, key environmental drivers, socio-economic impacts, and real-world case studies of **climate-induced migration**. Understanding the past and present trends helps policymakers, diplomats, and researchers develop **sustainable solutions** for affected populations.

2.1 Historical Context of Climate-Related Migration

Climate migration is not a new phenomenon. Throughout history, humans have migrated in response to environmental changes. However, in the **21st century, climate change has accelerated this process**, making migration less of a choice and more of a necessity.

Historical Examples of Climate-Induced Migration:

1. **The Dust Bowl (1930s, USA)**: Severe drought and poor agricultural practices led to massive displacement in the U.S., with millions of people from the Midwest migrating to California in search of work.
2. **The Sahel Drought (1968–1984, Africa)**: One of the most devastating droughts in history, affecting regions in Chad, Niger, and Sudan, led to mass famine and displacement.
3. **Cyclone Bhola (1970, Bangladesh)**: One of the deadliest tropical cyclones on record, killing over 300,000 people and forcing thousands to migrate internally.
4. **Rising Sea Levels in the Pacific (20th-21st century)**: Countries like **Tuvalu and Kiribati** have been witnessing increasing out-migration due to rising sea levels threatening their existence.

These historical examples show how **environmental stressors** have been a persistent factor in migration, but **modern climate change is intensifying the scale and urgency** of displacement.

2.2 Key Environmental Factors Driving Climate Migration

Several **climate-related factors** contribute to forced migration. These factors not only **disrupt lives and livelihoods** but also have **economic, social, and political implications**.

2.2.1 Rising Sea Levels and Coastal Erosion

- **Cause**: Melting glaciers and ice caps due to global warming cause oceans to rise.
- **Effect**: Flooding and erosion threaten **low-lying coastal areas**, forcing communities to relocate.
- **Examples**:

- The Maldives, Tuvalu, and Kiribati are at risk of becoming uninhabitable within the next 50 years.
- **Jakarta, Indonesia**—a city sinking so fast that the government is planning to move its capital to **Nusantara**.

2.2.2 Extreme Weather Events (Hurricanes, Cyclones, and Floods)

- **Cause:** Climate change intensifies the frequency and severity of extreme weather events.
- **Effect:** People are displaced due to destruction of homes, infrastructure, and agricultural lands.
- **Examples:**
 - **Hurricane Katrina (2005, USA)** displaced over 1 million people in New Orleans.
 - **Cyclone Idai (2019, Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe)** forced over 400,000 people into displacement.

2.2.3 Droughts and Desertification

- **Cause:** Rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns lead to **water scarcity** and degradation of arable land.
- **Effect:** **Agricultural failures, food shortages, and loss of livelihoods** drive rural populations to migrate to urban centers or other countries.
- **Examples:**
 - **The Sahel region in Africa** (Mali, Chad, Niger, Sudan) is experiencing increasing desertification, pushing people toward North Africa and Europe.
 - **California (USA)** has seen mass displacement due to persistent droughts and wildfires.

2.2.4 Wildfires

- **Cause:** Hotter temperatures and drier conditions lead to more frequent and intense wildfires.
- **Effect:** Loss of homes, infrastructure damage, and economic devastation force people to migrate.
- **Examples:**
 - **Australia's 2019–2020 wildfires** caused mass evacuations and economic losses.
 - **The 2023 Maui wildfires** in Hawaii displaced thousands.

2.2.5 Resource Scarcity (Food and Water Insecurity)

- **Cause:** Climate change **reduces water availability** and **damages crop production** in many regions.
- **Effect:** Food shortages, rising prices, and malnutrition lead to large-scale displacement.
- **Examples:**
 - **Syria's 2006–2010 drought** was one of the factors contributing to the civil war and subsequent refugee crisis.

- **India and Pakistan** face increasing water shortages that could trigger migration.
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2.3 Socio-Economic Impacts of Climate Migration

Climate-induced migration has **far-reaching economic, social, and political consequences** for both the **migrating communities** and the **host regions** that receive them.

2.3.1 Economic Consequences

- **Job Loss and Economic Displacement**
 - Farmers and fishers lose their livelihoods, leading to unemployment.
 - Migrants often struggle to find work in host communities, creating economic stress.
- **Strain on Urban Infrastructure**
 - Rapid urbanization due to migration **overburdens housing, healthcare, and public services**.
 - Slum formation increases in cities already struggling with poverty.

2.3.2 Social Consequences

- **Cultural Disruptions**
 - Indigenous and traditional ways of life are lost when people are forced to move.
 - Language barriers and discrimination in host regions create integration challenges.
- **Health Risks**
 - Migrants often live in poor conditions with **limited access to healthcare**.
 - Higher risk of disease outbreaks due to overcrowding in refugee camps.

2.3.3 Political Consequences

- **Border Tensions and Refugee Crises**
 - Increased migration can lead to **strict border policies and anti-migrant sentiments**.
 - Examples: The **EU migrant crisis (2015–2016)** saw many **climate refugees from Africa and the Middle East** face opposition.
 - **Security Concerns**
 - Mass displacement can create **political instability**, leading to conflicts over land and resources.
 - The **Lake Chad crisis** has led to clashes between local populations and displaced migrants.
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2.4 Case Studies of Climate Migration

To better understand how climate-induced migration plays out in different parts of the world, here are some **real-world case studies**:

2.4.1 Bangladesh: The World's Most Climate-Vulnerable Country

- **Problem:** Rising sea levels and frequent floods displace **over 1 million people annually**.
- **Impact:** Many climate migrants **move to Dhaka**, leading to slums and poor living conditions.
- **Future Risks:** By **2050, 20% of Bangladesh's land** could be underwater.

2.4.2 The Pacific Islands: Nations at Risk of Disappearance

- **Problem:** Small island states like **Tuvalu, Kiribati, and the Maldives** face **existential threats** due to rising sea levels.
- **Impact:** Governments are negotiating migration agreements with **New Zealand and Australia** to relocate their populations.
- **Future Risks:** Entire **nations may become uninhabitable within decades**.

2.4.3 Sub-Saharan Africa: Drought and Desertification

- **Problem:** The **Sahel region** is experiencing **prolonged droughts and land degradation**.
- **Impact:** Millions of people migrate to **West Africa, Europe, and North Africa**, creating economic and social challenges.
- **Future Risks:** Water scarcity may **spark conflicts between farmers and herders**, increasing political instability.

Conclusion

Understanding the **historical context, environmental factors, and socio-economic impacts** of climate migration helps shape **effective policies**. Climate-induced migration is no longer a **future threat**—it is a **present reality** affecting millions.

Governments, international organizations, and policymakers **must act now** to provide **legal protections, economic opportunities, and climate adaptation strategies** to address this crisis.

3. Current Situation and Statistics

This section provides a **comprehensive analysis** of the present state of **climate-induced migration**, including **global migration trends**, the **regions most affected**, and the **economic and social impact** of displaced populations. Understanding the **current scope** of the problem helps policymakers, researchers, and delegates develop **informed solutions**.

3.1 Global Trends in Climate Migration

Climate-induced migration is **increasing at an alarming rate** due to the **intensification of climate change**. The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** and the **World Bank** have identified it as one of the most significant migration challenges of the 21st century.

Key Global Statistics (as of 2024):

- **Over 21.6 million people** are displaced **each year** due to climate-related disasters (**Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre - IDMC, 2023**).
- **More than 200 million people** could become **climate migrants by 2050** if global temperatures rise by **1.5°C - 2°C** (**World Bank, 2021**).
- **90% of climate-induced displacement** occurs in **developing countries**, particularly in Africa, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands (**UNHCR, 2022**).
- **Coastal flooding alone could displace 300 million people** by 2050 if no adaptation measures are taken (**Climate Central, 2020**).

Climate migration is **expected to surpass conflict-induced displacement** in the coming decades, making it a **major challenge for governments, humanitarian organizations, and international bodies**.

3.2 Regions Most Affected by Climate Migration

Some regions are more vulnerable to **climate-induced displacement** due to their **geographical location, economic dependence on agriculture, and limited adaptation measures**.

3.2.1 South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan)

Why it's at risk:

- **Rising sea levels, floods, and cyclones** are submerging **coastal communities**.
- **Glacial melting in the Himalayas** threatens water supply for millions.
- **Extreme heat waves and droughts** are making some areas uninhabitable.

Current Situation:

- **Bangladesh:** An estimated **1.5 million people are displaced annually** due to floods and cyclones.
 - **India:** **Increased rural-to-urban migration** as farmers leave drought-affected areas.
 - **Pakistan:** **Mass displacement from the 2022 floods**, which affected **over 33 million people**.
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3.2.2 Sub-Saharan Africa (Sahel Region, Horn of Africa)

Why it's at risk:

- **Desertification and prolonged droughts** are making farmlands barren.
- **Water shortages** are leading to conflict between herders and farmers.
- **Extreme heat waves** are creating deadly conditions for human survival.

Current Situation:

- The **Sahel region (Mali, Niger, Chad, Sudan)** is experiencing **one of the highest climate-induced migration rates globally**.
 - **Over 20 million people** in the Horn of Africa are at risk of **famine and displacement**.
 - Many migrants attempt to reach **Europe**, leading to **border tensions and refugee crises**.
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3.2.3 Pacific Islands & Southeast Asia (Tuvalu, Kiribati, Indonesia, Philippines)

Why it's at risk:

- **Small island nations are sinking** due to rising sea levels.
- **Frequent typhoons and tsunamis** are displacing coastal populations.
- **Coral reef degradation** is reducing fish stocks, affecting livelihoods.

Current Situation:

- **Tuvalu and Kiribati are negotiating climate relocation agreements** with Australia and New Zealand.
 - **Jakarta (Indonesia) is sinking** at an alarming rate, forcing the government to move the capital city.
 - **Typhoon Haiyan (Philippines, 2013) displaced 4 million people**, setting a precedent for future climate disasters.
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3.2.4 Latin America & the Caribbean (Brazil, Mexico, Central America)

Why it's at risk:

- **Hurricanes and floods** devastate Caribbean nations and coastal regions.
- **Droughts and heat waves** are reducing agricultural output.
- **Deforestation of the Amazon** is causing environmental degradation and displacement.

Current Situation:

- Central America's "Dry Corridor" (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua) is seeing **massive migration to the U.S.** due to droughts.
 - **Hurricane Maria (Puerto Rico, 2017) displaced over 130,000 people.**
 - **Deforestation in Brazil** is forcing indigenous communities to relocate.
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3.3 Economic and Social Impacts of Climate Migration

Climate migration does not only affect displaced populations—it also **creates challenges for host regions**, leading to **economic burdens, social tensions, and policy dilemmas**.

3.3.1 Economic Impacts

On Migrants:

- Loss of **homes, land, and jobs**, leading to poverty.
- Increased **dependency on humanitarian aid**.
- Difficulty in finding employment in **host communities** due to **lack of skills, education, or work permits**.

On Host Communities:

- Strain on **urban infrastructure, public services, and housing**.
- **Economic growth in some areas** (migrants filling labor shortages) but **competition for jobs in others**.
- **Higher food and water demand**, leading to inflation in some regions.

3.3.2 Social Impacts

On Migrants:

- **Cultural displacement and identity loss**.
- **Lack of legal protection** (many climate migrants are not recognized as refugees).
- **Vulnerability to exploitation** (human trafficking, forced labor, etc.).

On Host Communities:

- **Tensions between locals and migrants** (over jobs, housing, and resources).
 - **Rise in informal settlements/slums** in urban areas.
 - **Political backlash**, with stricter immigration policies in some countries.
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3.4 Political Responses and Global Action

Governments and international organizations have started recognizing **climate migration as a major humanitarian crisis**, but **there is still no clear legal framework** for climate migrants.

3.4.1 International Agreements and Frameworks

Paris Agreement (2015):

- Recognized **climate displacement** but does not provide legal status to climate migrants.

Global Compact for Migration (2018):

- First international agreement addressing **climate-induced migration**, but **not legally binding**.

Task Force on Displacement (Under the UNFCCC):

- Established to **develop policies for climate migrants**, but progress has been slow.

3.4.2 National and Regional Policies

Pacific Islands Relocation Plans:

- Countries like **Tuvalu and Kiribati** are negotiating migration agreements with **Australia and New Zealand**.

EU and Climate Refugees:

- The **EU has no legal recognition for climate migrants**, making it difficult for displaced people from Africa and Asia to seek asylum.

US Temporary Protected Status (TPS):

- Some climate-affected nations (e.g., Haiti after the 2010 earthquake) have received **temporary legal status** in the U.S., but no permanent pathway exists.

Conclusion

The **current situation of climate migration** is **worsening**, with **millions of people displaced each year**. Despite some **global recognition**, there is still a **lack of concrete policies, legal protection, and sustainable solutions** for climate migrants. As climate change accelerates, **governments, international organizations, and policymakers must act urgently** to address **this growing crisis**.

4. International Frameworks and Legal Gaps

This section explores the **existing international frameworks, policies, and agreements** related to **climate-induced migration**, along with the **legal gaps and challenges** in providing protection to climate migrants.

Currently, **no comprehensive international legal framework** directly addresses climate-induced displacement, which leaves millions of **climate migrants in legal limbo**.

4.1 Existing UN Policies on Migration and Climate Change

Several international agreements and frameworks **acknowledge climate migration**, but **none provide clear legal protection** for those displaced by climate change.

4.1.1 The 1951 Refugee Convention and Its Limitations

What it is:

- The **1951 Refugee Convention** and its **1967 Protocol** define a **refugee** as someone fleeing **persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group**.
- It provides **legal protection, asylum rights, and resettlement options** for refugees.

Why it doesn't cover climate migrants:

- **Climate change is not listed as a cause of persecution.**
- Climate migrants do not **flee from targeted persecution by a government or group**.
- Most climate displacement is **internal (within national borders)**, while the Convention mainly applies to **cross-border refugees**.

Consequences:

- Climate migrants **cannot apply for refugee status** under international law.

- Countries **are not legally required to accept** climate-displaced persons.
 - Many climate migrants remain **stateless or undocumented** in host countries.
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4.1.2 The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018)

What it is:

- The **first-ever global framework** recognizing the **impact of climate change on migration**.
- Adopted by **164 countries** under the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**.
- Encourages countries to develop **climate-resilient migration policies**.

Limitations:

- **Not legally binding** (it provides recommendations but does not create obligations).
- **No concrete rights or protections** for climate migrants.
- Some major countries, including the **U.S. and Australia**, **refused to sign it**.

Consequences:

- Governments have **no legal responsibility** to accept or assist climate migrants.
 - Some countries still see migration as a **security issue rather than a human rights issue**.
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4.1.3 The Paris Agreement (2015)

What it is:

- A legally binding international treaty under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.
- Recognizes the need for **climate adaptation and resilience** to prevent forced migration.
- Established the **Task Force on Displacement** to address climate-induced migration.

Limitations:

- **Does not provide legal status to climate migrants**.
- Focuses on **reducing emissions and adaptation**, rather than migration rights.
- Countries **can choose not to take action** on displacement issues.

Consequences:

- Vulnerable populations **have no direct legal protection under the treaty**.
- There is **no international mechanism** to relocate climate-displaced communities.

4.2 The Role of ECOSOC in Addressing Climate-Induced Displacement

The **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** plays a key role in coordinating global efforts on **climate migration and displacement**, particularly through **its specialized agencies**:

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- Advocates for **expanding refugee definitions** to include climate-displaced persons.
- Provides **humanitarian aid and protection** for displaced communities.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Leads **global efforts on migration governance**.
- Works on **early warning systems** and **disaster preparedness** to prevent forced migration.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Funds **climate adaptation projects** in vulnerable regions.
- Supports **economic integration of climate migrants** in host communities.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- Studies the **environmental impact of displacement**.
- Works on **climate resilience strategies** to prevent forced migration.

Challenges ECOSOC Faces:

- **No binding authority** to enforce migration policies.
- **Lack of funding** for large-scale relocation projects.
- **Political resistance** from countries hesitant to accept climate migrants.

4.3 Legal Challenges and Gaps in Protection

Despite increasing global recognition of **climate-induced displacement**, major **legal gaps** remain.

4.3.1 Lack of Legal Recognition for Climate Migrants

Problem:

- No legal framework provides **refugee status, asylum, or citizenship** to climate-displaced persons.
- Governments **can reject climate migrants**, forcing them to stay in vulnerable conditions.
- Many climate migrants **become undocumented or stateless**, making them more vulnerable to exploitation.

Example:

- In 2020, a **New Zealand court rejected an asylum claim** from a Kiribati citizen who argued that **rising sea levels threatened his survival**. The court ruled that **climate change does not qualify as persecution** under refugee law.
-

4.3.2 Cross-Border vs. Internal Displacement

Cross-border displacement challenges:

- Climate migrants crossing international borders **are treated as economic migrants**, not refugees.
- Many host countries **lack policies** to accept or resettle climate migrants.

Internal displacement challenges:

- **80% of climate migrants remain within their home countries (IDMC, 2023).**
- Many governments **lack resources** to relocate displaced populations.
- Internal migrants often end up in **slums or informal settlements** with little government support.

Example:

- In **Bangladesh**, millions of people displaced by floods and rising sea levels have migrated to **Dhaka's urban slums**, where they face **poverty, unemployment, and unsafe living conditions**.
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4.3.3 Responsibility of Developed vs. Developing Nations

Who should take responsibility?

- Developed countries (U.S., EU, Australia) **emit the most greenhouse gases**, yet they **refuse to accept climate migrants**.
- Developing countries (Bangladesh, Chad, Pacific Islands) **suffer the most from climate change** but **lack resources** to address displacement.

Challenges:

- No global agreement on **how to distribute responsibility** for climate migration.
- Wealthier nations often focus on **border security and immigration restrictions** rather than humanitarian protection.
- **Developed nations prefer adaptation funding** rather than **relocation commitments**.

Example:

- **Australia has rejected climate asylum claims** from Pacific Islanders, despite being one of the **largest per capita carbon emitters** in the world.
-

4.4 Proposed Solutions and Future Legal Developments

To close these **legal gaps**, experts and international organizations have suggested the following solutions:

4.4.1 Expanding the Definition of a Refugee

Proposal:

- Amend the **1951 Refugee Convention** to include **climate migrants**.
- Grant climate-displaced persons **legal status and protection**.

Challenges:

- Many governments **oppose expanding refugee definitions** due to fear of mass migration.
-

4.4.2 Creating a New Legal Category: "Climate Refugees"

Proposal:

- Introduce a new **international treaty** that legally defines and protects climate migrants.
- Countries would be required to **accept and resettle climate-displaced persons**.

Challenges:

- Countries like the **U.S., EU, and Australia** have resisted formal climate refugee policies.
-

4.4.3 Bilateral and Regional Agreements

Proposal:

- Countries at risk (e.g., Tuvalu, Kiribati) negotiate **migration deals** with host countries (e.g., New Zealand, Australia).
- Develop **temporary work visas** for climate migrants.

Challenges:

- Most agreements are **small-scale and do not address large-scale displacement**.
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Conclusion

While the **global community recognizes climate migration**, existing **legal frameworks fail to protect climate-displaced persons**. Without urgent **legal reforms, international cooperation, and policy innovation**, climate migration will remain **one of the greatest humanitarian crises of the 21st century**.

5. Major Stakeholders in Climate-Induced Migration

This section provides an in-depth analysis of the **key actors and stakeholders** involved in **climate-induced migration**, their **roles**, and their **positions** on the issue. Since climate migration is a **complex, multi-dimensional problem**, addressing it requires **collaboration** among governments, international organizations, NGOs, the private sector, and local communities.

5.1 United Nations Agencies and International Organizations

5.1.1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Role:

- Leads global efforts to **protect forcibly displaced populations**.
- Advocates for the **expansion of the refugee definition** to include climate migrants.
- Provides **humanitarian aid, shelter, and resettlement support** for displaced communities.

Challenges:

- **Limited authority** over climate migrants because they are not officially recognized as refugees.
- **Funding shortages** make it difficult to support large-scale climate displacement crises.

Example:

- UNHCR has called for an **international legal framework** for climate-displaced persons, but progress has been slow due to **political resistance from powerful nations**.
-

5.1.2 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Role:

- The IOM is the **leading agency on global migration governance**.
- Works on **disaster risk reduction, early warning systems, and migration policy development**.
- Assists countries in **relocating populations at risk** due to climate change.

Challenges:

- IOM lacks the power to **force countries to accept climate migrants**.
- Many governments **prioritize border security over humanitarian migration policies**.

Example:

- The IOM has worked on **relocation projects in Fiji** to help communities move inland due to rising sea levels.
-

5.1.3 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Role:

- Focuses on **climate adaptation and sustainable development** to prevent forced migration.
- Funds **resilience-building projects** in vulnerable regions to help communities **adapt to climate change** rather than migrate.

Challenges:

- **Limited funding** for large-scale adaptation projects.
- Many **low-income countries lack the infrastructure** to implement climate resilience programs.

Example:

- UNDP has invested in **drought-resistant agriculture programs in Africa** to reduce climate migration.
-

5.1.4 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Role:

- Conducts research on **climate change, environmental degradation, and displacement**.
- Advocates for **sustainable policies** that reduce migration pressures.

Challenges:

- UNEP does not have a **mandate to handle migration issues directly**.
- Governments often prioritize **economic growth over environmental sustainability**.

Example:

- UNEP has produced **climate risk maps** to identify regions most vulnerable to displacement.
-

5.2 National Governments and Regional Organizations

5.2.1 Climate-Vulnerable Countries (Origin States)

Who they are:

- Small island nations (e.g., **Tuvalu, Kiribati, Maldives**).
- Drought-prone regions (e.g., **Sahel, Horn of Africa**).
- Coastal countries with large at-risk populations (e.g., **Bangladesh, Vietnam, Philippines**).

Their Position:

- Demand **climate justice and financial compensation** from developed nations.
- Push for **climate migration agreements** to ensure their citizens have **legal pathways to migrate**.

Example:

- **The Prime Minister of Tuvalu has called for a global treaty to recognize climate refugees, but major powers have ignored the request.**
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5.2.2 Host Countries (Receiving States)

Who they are:

- Wealthy nations with low climate risk (e.g., **USA, Canada, EU, Australia**).
- Regional migration hubs (e.g., **South Africa, Brazil, Turkey**).

Their Position:

- Some support **temporary migration programs** (e.g., work visas for climate migrants).
- Many prioritize **border security and anti-immigration policies** over humanitarian concerns.
- Fear that recognizing climate migrants would lead to **mass migration waves**.

Example:

- **Australia has refused climate asylum applications from Pacific Islanders, despite its historical responsibility as a major carbon emitter.**
-

5.2.3 The European Union (EU)

Role:

- The EU is a **major funder of climate adaptation projects** in Africa and Asia.
- Has **strict asylum policies**, making it difficult for climate migrants to enter legally.

Challenges:

- **Anti-immigration sentiment** in many EU countries blocks refugee-friendly policies.
- Climate migration is still treated as an **economic issue** rather than a human rights issue.

Example:

- In 2021, the **EU rejected proposals to include climate refugees in asylum laws.**
-

5.2.4 United States & Canada

Role:

- The **U.S. and Canada** have large **resettlement programs for refugees**, but not for climate migrants.
- The U.S. provides **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)** for people from disaster-hit countries.

Challenges:

- **No legal framework for climate asylum** exists in the U.S. or Canada.
- **Political divisions** make it difficult to pass migration-friendly laws.

Example:

- The **Biden administration** considered creating a **climate visa program**, but it has not been implemented.

5.3 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society

5.3.1 Human Rights Organizations

Key Actors:

- Amnesty International
- Human Rights Watch
- Refugees International

Role:

- Advocate for **legal protection for climate migrants**.
- Pressure governments to **expand refugee definitions**.

Example:

- Human Rights Watch has called for the **UN to legally recognize climate refugees**, but no action has been taken.

5.3.2 Humanitarian and Development NGOs

Key Actors:

- Red Cross
- Oxfam
- World Food Programme (WFP)

Role:

- Provide **emergency relief, food, and medical aid** to displaced persons.
- Help climate migrants **integrate into new communities**.

Example:

- The **Red Cross has resettled thousands of disaster-displaced persons**, but lacks resources for large-scale relocation efforts.
-

5.3.3 Environmental Organizations

Key Actors:

- Greenpeace
- Climate Reality Project
- 350.org

Role:

- Raise awareness about **climate justice and migration issues**.
- Pressure governments to **reduce carbon emissions** to prevent forced migration.

Example:

- Greenpeace has criticized **developed nations for failing to take responsibility for climate displacement**.
-

5.4 The Private Sector and Business Community

5.4.1 Role of Corporations

Opportunities:

- Some companies support **climate migrants through employment programs**.
- The private sector can fund **climate adaptation projects**.

Challenges:

- Many corporations contribute to **carbon emissions and environmental degradation**.
- Business interests often conflict with **humanitarian and environmental goals**.

Example:

- Some tech companies (e.g., Google, Tesla) have invested in **clean energy solutions** to slow climate migration.
-

Conclusion

The issue of **climate-induced migration** involves multiple stakeholders with **conflicting interests**. While some organizations and governments **push for legal recognition and support**, others prioritize **national security and border control**. **Stronger international cooperation, policy innovation, and legal frameworks** are needed to **address this crisis effectively**.

6. Challenges and Controversies in Addressing Climate-Induced Migration

This section explores the **key challenges, debates, and controversies** surrounding climate-induced migration. While there is growing recognition of the **urgent need to address displacement caused by climate change**, political, legal, and economic barriers **prevent effective solutions from being implemented**.

6.1 Lack of Legal Recognition for Climate Migrants

One of the biggest challenges in addressing climate-induced migration is the **lack of formal legal recognition** for climate migrants under **international law**.

6.1.1 Why Aren't Climate Migrants Considered Refugees?

The **1951 Refugee Convention** defines a refugee as someone fleeing **persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group**.

- **Climate change is not considered persecution**.
- **Most climate displacement is internal**, meaning that people remain within their own country rather than crossing international borders.

Impact:

- Climate migrants **cannot apply for asylum** under international law.

- Governments **are not legally required** to accept climate-displaced persons.
 - Many climate migrants **become stateless or undocumented**, leading to exploitation and human rights violations.
-

6.2 The Political Debate: National Sovereignty vs. Global Responsibility

One of the biggest controversies in climate migration is the **conflict between national sovereignty and global responsibility**.

6.2.1 National Sovereignty and Border Security

- Many governments **fear that recognizing climate migrants as refugees** would lead to **mass migration waves**.
- Some developed nations **prioritize border security over humanitarian responsibilities**.
- Countries like **Australia, the U.S., and the EU** have **tightened immigration laws** to prevent climate migration.

Example:

- **Australia has refused asylum applications from Pacific Islanders** fleeing rising sea levels, despite its historical responsibility as a **major carbon emitter**.

6.2.2 Global Responsibility and Climate Justice

- Developing countries argue that **wealthy nations should accept climate migrants**, as they **contribute most to global carbon emissions**.
- Climate-vulnerable nations demand **financial compensation and relocation programs**.

Example:

- **The Maldives has called on the UN to create a legal framework** for climate migrants, but developed countries have **opposed binding commitments**.
-

6.3 Economic Burdens and Funding Challenges

6.3.1 Cost of Climate Adaptation and Relocation

- Relocating climate-displaced populations **requires massive investments** in housing, infrastructure, and job opportunities.
- Many developing nations **lack financial resources** to support climate migrants.

Example:

- **Bangladesh has spent over \$2 billion** on flood defense and relocation efforts, but millions remain at risk.

6.3.2 Who Pays for Climate Migration?

- There is **no international funding mechanism** dedicated to supporting climate migrants.
- Many countries **resist financial contributions** due to domestic economic concerns.

Example:

- The **Loss and Damage Fund** established at COP27 aims to provide financial support to climate-affected nations, but **wealthy nations have been slow to contribute**.

6.4 Social and Cultural Disruptions

6.4.1 Loss of Cultural Identity

- Many communities facing displacement, particularly **indigenous groups and island nations**, risk losing their **cultural heritage, language, and traditions**.
- Entire nations, such as **Tuvalu and Kiribati**, may be forced to abandon their homelands permanently.

Example:

- The **government of Kiribati has purchased land in Fiji** to relocate its population, but many citizens **refuse to leave** due to cultural ties.

6.4.2 Host Community Tensions and Xenophobia

- Climate migrants often **face discrimination and hostility** in receiving countries.
- Some political parties **use anti-immigrant rhetoric** to justify restrictive migration policies.

Example:

- In **Europe, far-right parties have linked climate migration to security threats**, fueling anti-immigration sentiment.

6.5 Ethical Dilemmas in Climate-Induced Migration

6.5.1 Should Countries Be Forced to Accept Climate Migrants?

- Some experts argue that **developed countries have a moral duty** to accept climate migrants.
- Others believe that **each country has the right to control its borders**.

Example:

- The U.S. has been criticized for **denying asylum to migrants from drought-hit Central America**, despite its **historical role in global carbon emissions**.

6.5.2 Who Gets to Migrate?

- If legal pathways for climate migration are created, **who should be prioritized?**
- Should there be **quotas for climate migrants**, or should all displaced persons have equal rights?

Example:

- Some experts propose **special migration visas** for people from sinking island nations, but these programs remain limited.

Conclusion

Addressing climate-induced migration is **one of the most complex global challenges** today. Political, economic, and legal barriers **prevent meaningful action**, and without urgent solutions, **millions of displaced people will continue to suffer without legal protection**. Future policies must **balance national interests with humanitarian responsibilities**, ensuring that climate migrants receive **the recognition, support, and dignity they deserve**.

7. Past Actions and Case Studies on Climate-Induced Migration

This section explores **previous international efforts, agreements, and case studies** that highlight **how different regions and organizations have responded to climate-induced migration**. Understanding past actions **helps identify successes, failures, and best practices** for future policymaking.

7.1 Notable International Efforts and Agreements

While there is no **comprehensive international treaty** specifically addressing climate migration, various organizations and countries have taken **steps to recognize and respond** to the issue.

7.1.1 The Task Force on Displacement (Under the UNFCCC)

What it is:

- Established under the **Paris Agreement (2015)** to address displacement caused by climate change.
- Works on **policy recommendations** for managing climate migration.
- Encourages **governments to integrate displacement planning** into national climate adaptation strategies.

Limitations:

No **binding obligations** for countries to accept climate migrants.

Countries **can ignore recommendations** without consequences.

Lacks **funding and enforcement mechanisms**.

Example:

- In **2018, the Task Force recommended** the creation of an international protection framework for climate migrants, but no concrete legal action was taken.

7.1.2 The Nansen Initiative (2012-2015)

What it is:

- A **state-led initiative** to develop a **global policy framework** for disaster and climate displacement.
- Resulted in the "**Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons**" (2015).

Successes:

Encouraged regional solutions to climate migration.

Recognized the **need for international legal protection** for climate migrants.

Helped establish **pilot relocation programs** in vulnerable countries.

Limitations:

Not a **legally binding agreement**.

No concrete **commitments from developed nations**.

Example:

- **Costa Rica** used the Nansen Initiative framework to develop policies for displaced persons from neighboring climate-affected regions.
-

7.1.3 The Global Compact for Migration (2018)

What it is:

- The **first UN agreement** to recognize climate-induced migration.
- Calls for **improved migration policies** and **legal pathways** for displaced persons.

Successes:

Recognizes **climate change as a driver of migration**.

Encourages **bilateral and regional agreements** to manage displacement.

Promotes **climate adaptation** to reduce forced migration.

Limitations:

Not legally binding.

Many major countries (**USA, Australia, Hungary**) **did not sign it**.

Example:

- **New Zealand used the Compact** to create a special visa category for Pacific Islanders affected by climate change.
-

7.2 Success Stories: Effective Responses to Climate Migration

7.2.1 Fiji's Planned Relocation Program

The Problem:

- Rising sea levels threaten **over 40 Fijian villages**.
- Frequent **cyclones and floods** damage homes and infrastructure.

The Solution:

The **Fijian government created a national relocation plan**.

Identified villages at high risk and began moving communities inland.

Developed **new infrastructure, housing, and agricultural support** in resettlement areas.

Challenges:

Some communities **resisted relocation** due to **cultural and ancestral ties** to their land.
High **economic costs** of resettlement.

Key Lesson:

- **Proactive planning and government leadership** can successfully manage climate displacement.
-

7.2.2 Bangladesh's Climate Resilience Initiatives

The Problem:

- **1.5 million people** are displaced annually due to flooding.
- Rising sea levels threaten **large parts of southern Bangladesh**.

The Solution:

Built **floating schools, hospitals, and farms** to adapt to rising water levels.
Developed **rural job programs** to reduce migration to cities.
Strengthened **coastal embankments and flood warning systems**.

Challenges:

Urban areas (**like Dhaka**) still face **overpopulation issues** due to migration.
Lack of international funding to support large-scale relocation efforts.

Key Lesson:

- **Adapting in place (rather than relocating)** can reduce migration pressures.
-

7.2.3 New Zealand's Climate Migration Visa

The Problem:

- **Pacific Island nations (Tuvalu, Kiribati, Nauru)** face **permanent displacement** due to rising sea levels.

The Solution:

New Zealand launched a **special visa program** for Pacific Islanders affected by climate change.
Allows **100 people per year** to migrate under a **climate-induced displacement** category.

Challenges:

The program is **small-scale** and does not accommodate all at-risk populations.
Other countries **have not followed New Zealand's example**.

Key Lesson:

- **Legal migration pathways for climate migrants can be an effective solution.**
-

7.3 Failures and Missed Opportunities

7.3.1 The European Union's Rejection of Climate Refugees

The Problem:

- Many African and Middle Eastern migrants arriving in the EU are **climate-displaced persons**.

The EU's Response:

Rejected proposals to include climate migration in asylum laws.

Increased border security instead of offering legal migration pathways.

Provided **funding for climate adaptation in origin countries** but no relocation support.

Key Lesson:

- **Restrictive immigration policies ignore the reality of climate displacement** and lead to **irregular migration and border crises**.
-

7.3.2 The U.S. and Central America: A Failure to Recognize Climate Migration

The Problem:

- Severe **droughts and hurricanes** have forced **millions** to migrate from **Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador** to the U.S.

The U.S. Response:

The U.S. **does not recognize climate migrants as refugees**.

Increased deportations and border enforcement instead of providing asylum.

No legal protections for **people displaced by hurricanes or droughts**.

Key Lesson:

- Without legal recognition, climate migrants are treated as economic migrants and denied protection.
-

7.4 Lessons Learned from Past Actions

- 1 **Legal recognition is crucial** – Without formal protections, climate migrants **remain in legal limbo**.
 - 2 **Relocation must be planned early** – **Fiji and Bangladesh** have shown that proactive planning **reduces human suffering**.
 - 3 **Wealthy nations must take responsibility** – Countries with **high emissions** should offer **migration solutions**.
 - 4 **Climate adaptation can reduce migration** – Investing in **disaster preparedness** and **sustainable development** can help communities **stay in their home regions**.
 - 5 **International cooperation is necessary** – Climate migration **crosses borders**, and **no single country** can solve it alone.
-

Conclusion

Past actions on climate migration have been **a mix of successes and failures**. While **some countries have taken proactive steps**, the **lack of legal recognition and global cooperation** remains a **major barrier**. Moving forward, **stronger policies, funding mechanisms, and international agreements** are needed to **effectively address climate-induced migration**.

8. Potential Solutions and Policy Recommendations for Climate-Induced Migration

This section outlines **possible solutions and policy recommendations** for managing **climate-induced migration** at **local, national, and international levels**. Addressing climate migration effectively requires a combination of **legal reforms, financial investments, sustainable development strategies, and global cooperation**.

8.1 Expanding Legal Protection for Climate Migrants

One of the most urgent solutions is **creating a legal framework** that provides **climate migrants with rights and protections**.

8.1.1 Recognizing Climate Migrants as Refugees

Proposal:

- Amend the **1951 Refugee Convention** to include **climate migrants** as a protected category.
- Grant climate-displaced persons **asylum rights** and **legal residency** in host countries.

Challenges:

Many governments **oppose expanding refugee definitions**, fearing **mass migration waves**. Some countries **view climate migration as an economic issue, not a refugee crisis**.

Example:

- **The UNHCR has called for discussions on climate refugee status**, but no legal changes have been made.
-

8.1.2 Creating a New Legal Category: "Climate Refugees"

Proposal:

- Establish a **new international treaty** specifically recognizing **climate migrants**.
- Countries would be **required to accept and resettle** a certain number of climate-displaced persons annually.

Challenges:

Developed countries (**USA, EU, Australia**) **have resisted formal commitments** to climate migration.

Some leaders argue that **creating a new category could weaken traditional refugee protections**.

Example:

- **The Maldives has repeatedly urged the UN** to create a "Climate Refugee" category, but no action has been taken.
-

8.1.3 Expanding Temporary and Work Visa Programs

Proposal:

- Countries could create **temporary visas** for climate migrants, allowing them to **work and settle legally**.
- This approach offers a **compromise between open borders and complete restrictions**.

Challenges:

Temporary visas **do not provide long-term security**.

Migrants may face **exploitation and discrimination** in labor markets.

Example:

- **New Zealand offers a special visa** for Pacific Islanders affected by climate change, but only 100 people per year are accepted.
-

8.2 Sustainable Urban Planning and Infrastructure Development

8.2.1 Creating Climate-Resilient Cities

Proposal:

- Invest in **flood-resistant housing, sustainable water management, and green infrastructure** to accommodate climate migrants.
- Design **smart cities** that can absorb **large numbers of migrants** without overpopulation issues.

Challenges:

Requires **major investments and long-term planning**.

Many developing countries **lack the resources** to build climate-resilient cities.

Example:

- **Jakarta, Indonesia, is sinking due to rising sea levels**, prompting the government to **relocate the capital to Nusantara** as a climate-adaptive city.
-

8.2.2 Preventing Slum Formation and Overcrowding

Proposal:

- Establish **government-supported relocation zones** with proper **housing, schools, and healthcare**.
- Provide **employment programs** to integrate migrants into urban economies.

Challenges:

Many cities lack **space and funding** for large-scale relocation efforts.

Migrants often settle in **informal settlements**, where they lack **legal protections and services**.

Example:

- **Dhaka, Bangladesh, has seen massive migration** due to climate disasters, leading to the expansion of **urban slums** with poor living conditions.
-

8.3 Investing in Climate Adaptation to Reduce Forced Migration

8.3.1 Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning Systems

Proposal:

- Improve **flood warning systems, drought prediction technology, and emergency evacuation plans.**
- Provide **training and funding** to local communities for disaster preparedness.

Challenges:

Many countries **lack technological resources** for advanced climate monitoring. Some regions have **weak government institutions** that struggle to implement disaster management plans.

Example:

- **India's flood warning system has reduced casualties,** but infrastructure gaps still cause displacement.
-

8.3.2 Developing Sustainable Agriculture and Water Management

Proposal:

- Introduce **drought-resistant crops, efficient irrigation techniques, and water conservation policies** to prevent agricultural failures.
- Support **local farmers with subsidies and training** in climate-smart farming.

Challenges:

Many farmers **lack financial support** to transition to sustainable practices. Climate change **continues to worsen**, making adaptation more difficult over time.

Example:

- **Ethiopia has implemented water-saving agricultural techniques**, reducing the need for migration due to droughts.
-

8.4 Financial Solutions and Global Funding Mechanisms

8.4.1 Creating an International Climate Migration Fund

Proposal:

- Establish a **UN-backed financial fund** to support **climate-affected communities**.
- Fund **relocation projects, adaptation programs, and disaster response initiatives**.

Challenges:

Many developed countries **resist financial commitments** to climate migration.

Disagreements over how funds should be distributed.

Example:

- The **"Loss and Damage Fund"** from COP27 is a step toward financial responsibility but remains underfunded.
-

8.4.2 Implementing a "Polluter Pays" Principle

Proposal:

- High-emission countries (e.g., **USA, China, EU**) should **pay into a climate migration fund** to compensate for displacement caused by their emissions.

Challenges:

Wealthy nations **oppose binding financial commitments**.

Risk of **political conflicts** over accountability.

Example:

- Small island nations like **Tuvalu and Kiribati have demanded financial compensation**, but no formal agreement exists.
-

8.5 Strengthening International Cooperation and Diplomacy

8.5.1 Establishing Bilateral and Regional Agreements

Proposal:

- Develop **migration agreements between neighboring countries**.
- Allow for **controlled, legal climate migration** rather than crisis-driven displacement.

Challenges:

Many countries **prioritize national security over humanitarian concerns**.

Some governments **lack political will** to create agreements.

Example:

- **Australia and New Zealand have migration agreements with Pacific Islands, but these programs remain small-scale.**
-

8.5.2 Strengthening the Role of the United Nations

Proposal:

- Expand the **powers of UNHCR and IOM** to manage climate migration.
- Create a **binding UN treaty** on climate displacement.

Challenges:

UN decisions require **global consensus**, which is difficult to achieve.

Wealthy nations often block binding treaties to avoid commitments.

Example:

- The **Global Compact on Migration** is a step forward but remains **voluntary and non-binding**.
-

Conclusion

Addressing climate-induced migration **requires a combination of legal, economic, and infrastructure-based solutions**. While some progress has been made, **global cooperation, funding, and political will remain the biggest challenges**. Moving forward, countries must prioritize **human rights, climate justice, and long-term sustainability** to protect the **millions of people already affected—and the millions more at risk in the future**.

9. Questions to Consider for Delegates in Climate-Induced Migration Debates

This section provides **critical questions** that **Model United Nations (MUN) delegates** should consider while formulating policies, drafting resolutions, and engaging in debates on **climate-induced migration**. These questions help **define national positions, identify key challenges, and explore viable solutions**.

9.1 Legal and Political Questions

9.1.1 Should Climate Migrants Be Granted Refugee Status Under International Law?

Why This Question Matters:

- The **1951 Refugee Convention** does not currently recognize climate migrants as refugees.
- Without legal refugee status, climate migrants **lack international protection and asylum rights**.

Key Considerations:

Expanding refugee definitions could **provide legal pathways for climate-displaced persons**.

Countries may **resist changes to refugee laws**, fearing **mass migration waves**.

If climate migrants are granted refugee status, **who should be responsible for accepting them?**

Debate Perspectives:

- **Developing nations:** May **support expanding refugee definitions** to help their displaced citizens.
- **Developed nations:** May **oppose legal changes** to avoid obligations for resettling migrants.
- **Neutral states:** May advocate for **temporary migration solutions** rather than full refugee status.

9.1.2 Should Developed Countries Be Legally Obligated to Accept Climate Migrants?

Why This Question Matters:

- **Wealthy nations contribute the most to climate change**, while poorer nations suffer the consequences.
- Some countries (e.g., **USA, EU, Australia**) have **strict immigration policies**, limiting climate migration.

Key Considerations:

The "**polluter pays**" **principle** suggests that high-emission countries should **accept responsibility**.

Countries **already struggling with migration crises** may **refuse additional obligations**.

A **quota system** could ensure that **no single country is overwhelmed**.

Debate Perspectives:

- **Climate-vulnerable nations:** Demand **binding agreements** for migration assistance.
 - **Developed nations:** Prefer **voluntary aid** rather than legal obligations.
 - **Regional alliances:** May push for **bilateral migration agreements** instead of global treaties.
-

9.1.3 Should There Be a Special Visa Program for Climate Migrants?

Why This Question Matters:

- Some countries (e.g., **New Zealand**) offer **special climate migration visas**, but these programs are limited.
- A **global visa framework** could provide a **structured, legal migration pathway**.

Key Considerations:

Special visas could **prevent undocumented migration** and **protect climate migrants' rights**. Some countries may **resist such programs**, arguing they already have **strict immigration policies**.

Should visas be **temporary or permanent**?

Debate Perspectives:

- **Pacific Island nations:** Likely **support special visa programs** for their at-risk populations.
 - **Developed nations:** May **limit visas to small numbers** or **only skilled migrants**.
 - **International organizations:** Could **propose global visa agreements** with quotas.
-

9.2 Economic and Social Questions

9.2.1 How Can Host Countries Support Climate Migrants Economically?

Why This Question Matters:

- Climate migrants often face **job discrimination, unemployment, and economic instability**.

- Some host nations fear that an **influx of migrants could burden their economies**.

Key Considerations:

Should governments provide **job training and employment programs** for climate migrants?

How can host nations **balance economic growth with migrant integration**?

Could businesses and industries **benefit from new migrant labor forces**?

Debate Perspectives:

- **Developed nations:** May **limit economic assistance**, fearing **welfare dependency**.
 - **Developing nations:** May **struggle with economic absorption**, needing **financial aid from global institutions**.
 - **NGOs and civil society:** May push for **fair labor policies** for climate migrants.
-

9.2.2 How Can Countries Prevent Climate Migrant Discrimination and Xenophobia?

Why This Question Matters:

- Many climate migrants **face discrimination and hostility** in host countries.
- Misinformation and political rhetoric often **paint climate migration as a threat**.

Key Considerations:

Should countries **run public awareness campaigns** on climate migration?

How can governments **combat hate speech and anti-migrant policies**?

Should **laws be created** to protect climate migrants from discrimination?

Debate Perspectives:

- **Human rights organizations:** Advocate for **strong anti-discrimination laws**.
 - **Host countries:** May **resist strict laws**, arguing for **national security priorities**.
 - **International organizations:** Could **push for UN-backed guidelines** on protecting climate migrants.
-

9.3 Climate Adaptation and Long-Term Solutions

9.3.1 Can Climate Adaptation Reduce Forced Migration?

Why This Question Matters:

- Investing in **climate resilience** (e.g., flood barriers, drought-resistant crops) could **reduce displacement**.
- Some countries argue that **preventing migration is better than resettlement**.

Key Considerations:

Should **wealthy nations fund adaptation projects** in at-risk regions?

Can climate adaptation **work for all communities**, or is migration inevitable?

Should relocation be a **last resort** rather than the primary solution?

Debate Perspectives:

- **Developing nations:** Favor **global funding for adaptation projects**.
- **Developed nations:** May prefer **funding adaptation instead of accepting migrants**.
- **Environmental organizations:** Support **both adaptation and migration planning**.

9.3.2 Should Entire Nations Be Relocated Due to Climate Change?

Why This Question Matters:

- Some island nations (e.g., **Tuvalu, Kiribati, Maldives**) may become **uninhabitable** within decades.
- The idea of **moving entire populations** raises **legal, cultural, and ethical issues**.

Key Considerations:

How should international organizations **coordinate large-scale relocations**?

Should displaced populations **retain their nationality and cultural identity** in new countries?

Should new "climate states" be established?

Debate Perspectives:

- **Pacific Island nations:** Demand **long-term migration agreements** for their citizens.
- **Host countries:** May **resist large-scale relocation plans** due to political concerns.
- **UN bodies:** Could advocate for **international relocation programs** with financial support.

9.4 Funding and Responsibility Questions

9.4.1 Who Should Pay for Climate Migration Solutions?

Why This Question Matters:

- Climate change **disproportionately affects poorer nations**, but wealthy nations are responsible for most emissions.
- There is **no dedicated global fund** for climate migration assistance.

Key Considerations:

Should high-emission countries **contribute financially** to climate migration solutions?

Should there be a **UN-backed "Climate Migration Fund"** for relocation and adaptation?

Should private corporations be **taxed for their role in climate damage**?

Debate Perspectives:

- **Developing nations:** Demand **climate reparations** from wealthy polluters.
- **Developed nations:** Prefer **voluntary contributions, not legal obligations**.
- **NGOs and climate activists:** Push for **corporate accountability and fair funding policies**.

Conclusion

These questions highlight the **political, legal, economic, and humanitarian complexities** of climate-induced migration. MUN delegates should use these issues to **formulate strong policy positions, craft resolutions, and negotiate diplomatic solutions**. The future of climate migrants **depends on bold international action, cooperation, and innovative policymaking**.

10. Key Terms and Definitions in Climate-Induced Migration

This section provides a **comprehensive glossary of essential terms** related to **climate-induced migration**. Understanding these definitions is **crucial for MUN delegates**, policymakers, researchers, and anyone engaged in climate migration discussions.

10.1 Migration and Displacement Terminology

10.1.1 Climate Migrant

🔑 Definition:

A person who **moves** from their home due to **climate-related factors**, such as rising sea levels, droughts, extreme weather, or environmental degradation.

🔑 Key Characteristics:

- **Not legally recognized** as a refugee under the **1951 Refugee Convention**.
- May **move internally** within their country or **cross international borders**.

- Often **migrates voluntarily**, but sometimes has **no choice due to extreme environmental conditions**.

🕒 **Example:**

- **Farmers in Ethiopia** leaving their land due to prolonged drought and moving to urban areas.
-

10.1.2 Climate Refugee

🔑 **Definition:**

A term often used to describe people **forcibly displaced** due to climate change. However, **this term has no legal recognition under international law**.

🔑 **Key Characteristics:**

- Some advocates push for **official recognition of climate refugees** under the **1951 Refugee Convention**.
- Countries often **reject this label** to avoid obligations for resettlement.

🕒 **Example:**

- **Citizens of Tuvalu and Kiribati** seeking asylum in New Zealand due to rising sea levels.
-

10.1.3 Internally Displaced Person (IDP)

🔑 **Definition:**

A person who is **forced to leave their home** due to climate disasters **but remains within their country**.

🔑 **Key Characteristics:**

- Unlike refugees, IDPs **do not cross international borders**.
- They **fall under national government jurisdiction**, not UN refugee protections.
- Often **lack resources, proper housing, and basic services**.

🕒 **Example:**

- **Bangladeshis displaced by flooding** moving from rural areas to Dhaka's slums.
-

10.1.4 Environmental Migrant

🔑 **Definition:**

A broader term that includes **anyone moving due to environmental changes**, including gradual degradation (e.g., desertification) or sudden disasters (e.g., hurricanes).

🔑 **Key Characteristics:**

- Covers both **voluntary and forced migration**.
- Can apply to **short-term relocation or permanent migration**.

🌐 **Example:**

- **People in California** relocating after wildfires destroy their homes.
-

10.2 Climate Change and Environmental Terminology

10.2.1 Climate Change Adaptation

🔑 **Definition:**

Efforts to **reduce the negative impacts of climate change** by adjusting **societies, economies, and infrastructure**.

🔑 **Examples:**

- **Building flood defenses** in coastal cities.
- **Developing drought-resistant crops** to ensure food security.

🌐 **Relevance to Migration:**

- Adaptation **can reduce forced migration** by making communities more resilient.
-

10.2.2 Climate Change Mitigation

🔑 **Definition:**

Actions taken to **reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions** to slow down climate change.

🔑 **Examples:**

- **Switching to renewable energy (solar, wind)**.
- **Reforestation projects** to absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere.

● Relevance to Migration:

- If mitigation is **successful**, fewer people will be **forced to migrate** due to extreme climate conditions.
-

10.2.3 Loss and Damage

🔑 Definition:

A concept that refers to **irreversible climate impacts** (e.g., loss of land due to rising sea levels) and the need for **compensation to affected countries**.

🔑 Examples:

- Small island nations demanding **financial compensation from major polluters**.
- The **Loss and Damage Fund** established at **COP27** to assist climate-affected communities.

● Relevance to Migration:

- Countries facing **permanent displacement** argue they should **receive financial aid** to support **climate migrants**.
-

10.2.4 Desertification

🔑 Definition:

The process by which **fertile land turns into desert** due to climate change, deforestation, or unsustainable farming practices.

🔑 Examples:

- **The Sahel region (Africa)** is experiencing desertification, forcing millions to migrate.

● Relevance to Migration:

- **Agricultural communities lose their livelihoods**, leading to **mass rural-to-urban migration**.
-

10.3 Legal and Policy Terminology

10.3.1 The 1951 Refugee Convention

🔑 Definition:

An international treaty that defines **who is a refugee and their legal rights**, but **does not include climate migrants**.

🔑 Key Features:

- Protects people fleeing **persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or social group**.
- Does not apply to **people fleeing climate disasters**.

🌐 Relevance to Migration:

- Climate migrants **cannot claim asylum** under this convention.
-

10.3.2 The Global Compact for Migration (2018)

🔑 Definition:

The **first UN agreement** recognizing **climate change as a factor in migration**, but **not legally binding**.

🔑 Key Features:

- Calls for **safe, orderly, and regular migration pathways**.
- Encourages **regional cooperation** on climate migration.

🌐 Relevance to Migration:

- While important, it **does not create obligations for countries** to accept climate migrants.
-

10.3.3 Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

🔑 Definition:

A U.S. policy granting **temporary legal status** to people from countries affected by disasters, including **climate-related events**.

🔑 Examples:

- **Haitians received TPS** after the 2010 earthquake.
- Climate-vulnerable countries **are pushing for a similar status** for their displaced citizens.

● Relevance to Migration:

- TPS can serve as a **short-term solution for climate migrants** but does not provide **permanent residency**.
-

10.4 Migration and Development Terminology

10.4.1 Managed Retreat

🔑 Definition:

A planned process where **communities relocate from high-risk climate areas** to safer locations.

🔑 Examples:

- **Fiji relocating entire villages** to escape rising sea levels.
- **The U.S. government buying out properties** in flood-prone areas.

● Relevance to Migration:

- A **key strategy for adapting to climate change** without chaotic displacement.
-

10.4.2 Resettlement vs. Relocation

🔑 Definition:

- **Resettlement:** The process of moving **displaced persons to a new location permanently**.
- **Relocation:** A **temporary or voluntary** movement of people due to climate conditions.

🔑 Examples:

- **The Maldives seeking permanent resettlement agreements** with other countries.
- **Hurricane Katrina survivors relocating within the U.S..**

● Relevance to Migration:

- Resettlement is a **long-term solution**, while relocation is often **short-term and voluntary**.
-

10.4.3 The Polluter Pays Principle

🔑 Definition:

An environmental policy that states **those responsible for pollution should bear the costs of damage.**

🔑 Examples:

- **Developing nations demand reparations from the U.S. and China** for climate-related displacement.

🌐 Relevance to Migration:

- If implemented, this principle **could fund relocation efforts for climate migrants.**

Conclusion

This glossary of key terms provides **a strong foundation for understanding climate migration debates.** These definitions help **clarify legal, political, and environmental challenges,** enabling **better policy decisions and international cooperation** on climate-induced migration.