**FORUM:** Environment Commission

**QUESTION OF:** Preparing for future climate change refugees resulting from extreme weather events

**SUBMITTED BY:** Mauritius

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION,

*Aware of* the unsafe living environment created when extreme weather events, both of fast and slow onset such as droughts, floods, and hurricanes occur,

*Noting with deep concern* that as a consequence of extreme weather events many people are forced to move away from their homes in order to survive,

*Further noting* that people who are fleeing from weather events are not currently recognized as refugees by the International Refugee Convention and are therefore not protected by international law,

*Recognizing* that extreme weather events affect a variety of areas in all countries, both urban and rural, coastal and inland, mountainous as well as low-lying, landlocked as well as island,

*Alarmed by* the fact that in the year of 2015 people are twice as likely to be displaced by a natural disaster than they were in the 1970s,

*Bearing in mind* that although all countries can be hit by extreme weather events, developing countries are far less resilient and suffer more from them because of their limited capacities to deal with the consequences,

1. Asks the International Refugee Convention to formally recognize migrants fleeing the effects of climate change and other extreme weather events as refugees;
2. Endorses the creation and regular updating of an official index approved by the United Nations Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility (UNAGCCHM), which lists countries on the basis of number of climate refugees received and absorption capacity established, for the purpose of gaining a clearer oversight of the current situation of climate change refugees;
3. Calls for the creation of a commission entitled the United Nations Climate Change Prevention and Research Commission (UNCCPRC) to connect researchers and Member States that will:
   1. actively collect data and information about climate change and create simulations and projections of the effects of climate change
   2. create a grading system for countries and regions on the basis of how likely an extreme weather event is and how prepared the country is for the event
   3. provide this information to all Member States and other countries which request it and notify the Member States who are most at risk;
4. Recommends that Member States who are most at risk for extreme weather events and have the lowest capacities to deal with them create designated safe zones within their own borders for the purpose of evacuation with the aim of:
   1. decreasing international migration
   2. reducing stress put on neighboring countries
   3. reducing culture clashes between refugees and locals;
5. Calls upon member states rated highest on the UNCCPRC index to take preventive actions and to request financial aid for doing so, in order to limit the amount of casualties and chaos caused by environmental disasters, by means of such as but not limited to:
   1. providing secure areas internally with the means to immediately construct a refugee camp in case of emergency
   2. manufacturing and auditing satisfactory embankments and other coastal protections to withstand floods and storm surges
   3. monitoring and capping the emissions of CO2 to avert the real possibility of severe weather situations before it occurs;
6. Requests bordering countries of vulnerable countries to be well informed about the situation of the neighboring nation as well as be appropriately equipped with supplies for possible refugees;
7. Emphasizes the need for developed nations and other parties in a position to do so to supply funds to vulnerable countries who suffer most in order to enlarge their capacity to adapt to the increase of the number and severity of extreme weather events;
8. Encourages developed nations and other parties in a position to do so to make available and transfer innovative technologies to LEDCs and help strengthen capacities of those countries that are a priority according to the UNAGCCHM index;
9. Further recommends that Member States that are a priority according to the UNAGCCHM index or the UNCCPRC index set up schemes such as but not limited to:
   1. voluntary migration strategies which support the transition of those who are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change by making provisions before migration has begun by means such as but not limited to:
      1. access to housing, land and property
      2. improved education and vocational training
      3. continuous access to services that cater to their needs
      4. job opportunities
   2. the provision of transport to safely relocate displaced people out of a danger zone before the disaster occurs
   3. the consultation of the people to be relocated on the details of the process and how it may be adapted to their specific situation;
10. Calls for Member States to prepare, write and continuously update their emergency plans and manuals in order to be optimally prepared in the event that an extreme climate event occurs or resilience declines;
11. Proclaims the usefulness of setting up awareness-raising campaigns in order to educate the domestic population on the threats caused by extreme weather events through methods such as but not limited to:
    1. large poster boards set up in frequently visited public areas
    2. television and radio
    3. social media campaigns
    4. including units related to this topic in school curricula
    5. recruiting volunteers to speak about the issue tolocal people within LEDCs who might be missed by all of the above;
12. Calls upon parties to have a biannual meeting with the purpose of:
    1. keeping each other informed on the achieved progress
    2. securing the progression
    3. reporting to the secretariat of the EC.