**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 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 extreme weather events because of their limited capabilities and 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:

Actively collect data and information about climate-change and create simulations and projections of the effects of climate-change

Create a grading system for countries and regions on the basis of how likely an extreme weather event will occur and how prepared the country is for the event

Provide this information to all member states and other countries which request it and notify the member states who are the most at-risk;

1. Recommends member states who have the most potential of extreme weather events as well as the lowest capabilities to deal with them to create domestic safe zones for the purpose of:
   * 1. Decreasing international migration
     2. Reducing stress put on neighboring countries
     3. Reducing culture clashes between refugees and locals;
2. Calls upon member states, rated highest on UNCCPRC index, to take preventive actions and request financial aid in 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. Auditing and manufacturing satisfactory sufficient resilience systems against storm surges and floods with both the current as well as future climate conditions kept in mind
     3. Monitoring the emissions of CO2 and cap the emission to avert the real possibility of severe weather situations before it occurs;
3. 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;
4. 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 increase their capacity to adapt to the rise in extreme weather events and provide grants for climate change adaption as compensation for damages and not as loans (Indonesia);
5. Encourages developed nations and other parties in a position to do so, to make available and transfer innovative technologies to LEDCs and help strengthen capabilities of prioritized countries in the index;
6. Further recommends prioritized member states on the UNAGCCHM index and the UNCCPRC index to set up schemes such as but not limited to:
7. voluntary migration strategies which support the transition of particularly 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:
8. Access to housing, land and property
9. Improved education and vocational training
10. Continuous access to services to cater to their needs
11. Jobs provided
12. Providing transport to safely relocate displaced people out of a danger zone before disaster has occurred
13. People to be relocated should be consulted on how the process works and if it could be designed to best fit them;
14. Calls for member states to prepare, write and continuously update their emergency plans and manuals in the event that an extreme climate event does occur or strength of resilience declines;
15. 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:
16. Large poster boards set up in frequently visited public areas
17. Television and radio
18. Social media campaigns
19. Including units related to this topic in school curricula
20. Recruiting volunteers to speak toall citizens of all member states;
21. Calls upon parties to have a biannual update on the achieved progress to secure progression and report to the secretariat of the EC;
22. Recommends all member states to try to house all current refugees as good, sustainable and quick as possible in order to:
    1. Have as much space as possible for the future refugees who flee from extreme weather events resulting from climate change
    2. Have as much experience as possible in housing large numbers of refugees in a short time. (Central African Republic)