



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Climate Change and Migration

SPRING 2024 MODEL UN CONFERENCE

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INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE: IOM



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the migration agency of the United Nations and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and society. IOM was established in 1951, and provides humanitarian aid to migrants and displaced persons in need and promotes international cooperation on migration-related issues.¹ IOM aims to protect the human rights of migrants as outlined in the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**². IOM supports capacity building efforts in **countries of origin, transit, and destination**³ to increase assistance towards migrants, including displaced persons, and the communities in which they reside by providing ongoing assistance to ensure that the migrants immediate

needs are met. Responses are based on public health, human rights, humanitarian, and development principles.⁴

While no international convention has defined what constitutes a migrant, IOM defines a migrant as “a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. The term includes a number of well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers; persons whose particular types of movements are legally-defined, such as smuggled migrants; as well as those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as international students.”⁵ This working definition therefore includes refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), students, and professionals moving between international postings.⁶

Types of Migration

Environmental migration encompasses a broad spectrum of shapes and forms, including both voluntary and forced migrations, as well as numerous situations that fall into a nuanced gray area. However, for the sake of clarity and ease of understanding, this document categorizes migration into two main types: **voluntary migration** and **forced migration**, also referred to as displacement.



Voluntary Migration

Voluntary Migration refers to migration in which people principally *choose* to relocate from one place to another or have a certain level of agency and decision making power. This type of migration may occur for many reasons such as better job and education opportunities, or even for retirement. Various *push-pull factors* impact why someone may choose to migrate.

¹ IOM UN Migration – Mission. <https://www.iom.int/mission>

² United Nations – Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

³ “Key Migration Terms.” IOM UN Migration, July 2019. <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>.

⁴ “Who We Are”. IOM UN Migration. <https://www.iom.int/who-we-are>.

⁵ “Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants.” IOM UN Migration. <https://www.iom.int/assistance-vulnerable-migrants>

⁶ “Key Migration Terms.” IOM UN Migration, July 2019. <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>.



Voluntary migration is prominent within the European Union (EU). The EU allows for quick and easy migration between countries as there are very limited restrictions of employment and movement. In 2020, more than 40 million people lived in a different European country from the one that they were born in⁷. Many countries in the east of Europe – such as the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Poland and Romania – have some of the largest emigrant populations within the region. With almost 16 million migrants in 2020, Germany had the largest foreign-born population of any country in Europe.

Forced Migration

Contrary to voluntary migration, forced migration, also referred to as displacement, occurs when migrants and displaced persons leave their homeland due to conditions that forced them to leave, including conflict, economic crisis, food insecurity, religious or political persecution, climate change and disasters, and more. People experiencing forced migration fall into several different categories, they include but are not limited to: refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons.

- **Refugees:** The 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees defines a refugee as someone who is outside their country of nationality and unable or unwilling to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. This definition also extends to stateless individuals who are unable or unwilling to return to their former habitual residence due to similar circumstances.
- **Asylum seekers:** An asylum seeker is a person who has left their home country and is seeking international protection. In countries with individualized procedures, an asylum seeker is someone whose claim has not yet been finally decided on by the country in which he or she has submitted it. Not every asylum seeker will ultimately be recognized as a refugee, but every recognized refugee is initially an asylum seeker.
- **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** Internally Displaced People have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their home or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, but remain within their country's borders due to a variety of reasons.

People subject to forced migration are considered a vulnerable group, as they are more susceptible to discrimination and generally lack a socio-economic safety net, and thus have greater need for humanitarian aid. In recent years, climate change has led to spikes in the number of disasters, forcing many people out of their homes, leaving them displaced. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Center records numbers of new disaster displacement worldwide: in 2022, 60.9 million internal displacements or movements were recorded worldwide; 28.3 million due to conflict and violence, and 32.6 million due to disasters (both related and not related to climate change)⁸. These disasters triggered new internal displacements, affecting people who may not have the resources to rebuild their homes and communities. At the end of 2022 a total of 71.1 million people were living in internal displacement.

⁷ IOM UN Migration, World Migration Report, 2022. Figure 15. "Migrants to, within and from Europe, 1990-2020." Page 88. <https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2022>

⁸ "2023 Global Report on Internal Displacement"- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report>.



It is important to consider that many movements, including those in contexts of disasters, environmental degradation and climate change are not purely voluntary or purely forced but happen in a continuum. Better outcomes are achieved when migrants have more agency. As noted by the International Panel on Climate Change: “The more agency migrants have (i.e. the degree of voluntary and freedom of movement), the greater the potential benefits for sending and receiving areas (high agreement, medium evidence). Displacement or low-agency migration is associated with poor health, wellbeing and socio-economic outcomes for migrants, and returns fewer benefits to sending or receiving communities (high agreement, medium evidence)”⁹.

What Difficulties Do Migrants Face?

The difficulties faced by migrants often occur during transit and after resettlement. During transit, the journey to the new destination can be very dangerous due to a lack of facilities and policies that aid the transit process. Pathways for regular migration may be limited; thus migrants may turn to irregular and unsafe migration routes that put them in harm’s way, which can increase their vulnerability to violence, abuse and exploitation, including trafficking in persons. Further to supporting humane and orderly migration, and protection of vulnerable migrants, IOM recognizes the necessity to step up efforts to address human mobility challenges associated with environmental factors and climate change, and has been at the forefront of efforts to bring **environmental migration** to the heart of international concerns.¹⁰

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM – Climate Change and Migration



Roughly over 22 million new displacements have been recorded annually due to climate change-induced disasters since 2010¹¹. In many regions, crops and livestock are unable to survive because of vast environmental changes, such as variations in precipitation and temperature.

The Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, an international document endorsed by governments worldwide, explains that the effects of climate change and environmental degradation (desertification, land degradation, drought, natural disasters, and rising sea levels) can be considered as adverse

migration drivers. Whether due to a lack of adequate resources or the destruction of homes by environmental forces, IOM considers climate displacement a growing problem. For the purposes of this committee, the background guide will refer to people on the move in contexts of environmental disasters as “environmental migrants.”

While no international agreed definition is available, IOM defines an **environmental migrant** as “a person or group(s) of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are forced to leave their places of habitual residence, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move within or outside their country of origin or habitual residence”¹². Note: Despite the use of the term 'migrant,' an environmental migrant in this context, refers to both a

⁹ “Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability”. IPCC Sixth Assessment Report. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>.

¹⁰ IOM UN Migration. “Migration, Environment and Climate Change.” <https://www.iom.int/migration-environment-and-climate-change>

¹¹ World Bank Group “Acting on Climate Change Migration” WBG. Accessed February 2023.

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/2c9150df-52c3-58ed-9075-d78ea56c3267>

¹² “Glossary on Migration.” IOM UN Migration, 2019. https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf



person who *voluntarily* leaves or is *forcibly* displaced due to environmental factors.

Environmental migration movements vary greatly, depending on whether this migration is forced or voluntary, temporary, or permanent, individual or collective, internal or international. The environmental factors that drive people to migrate can begin in various ways. Some changes occur gradually, such as the slow rise of sea levels, increasing temperatures, and the degradation of land. Others occur abruptly, such as hurricanes, landslides, floods, and wildfires. Some of these hazards are directly attributable to climate change while others have a looser relations and others are non-related entirely, such as geophysical hazards. This variability can significantly impact the duration of stay and the level of dependence on the host community. Consequently, any initiative to address this issue must be adaptable to a wide range of situations, both short and long term. **In this committee, delegates will need to assess all the factors through which climate change can influence human mobility, and how the international community can prevent and address environmental migration.**

Legal Protections for Environmental Migrants

All human beings are protected by international human rights law, enshrined in international conventions and pacts, including rights such as non-discrimination, freedom of religion, freedom of movement, among others. Vulnerable communities may also be protected by supplementary regional, international or domestic protections.

Voluntary environmental migrants generally lack any added protection that is specifically tailored to their situation, considering the voluntary nature of their migration. However, there has been greater exploration within the UN system on creating protections for people fleeing displacement.



¹³ The UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs) on Internal Displacement, established in 1998 under the auspices of the UN Commission on Human Rights, offer a comprehensive blueprint for member states and international organizations to address the challenges faced by **Internally Displaced Persons**

(IDPs). The UNGPs specify how both natural and human-made disasters can serve as significant causal factors leading to displacement. They outline that the responsibility to protect IDPs rests “first and foremost with national governments.”¹⁴ According to recent estimates, over 40 states since 1993 have passed laws concerning IDPs.¹⁵ Additionally, another important non-binding approach appears in the Nansen Initiative’s Protection Agenda of 2015, offering recommendations and good practices for persons displaced across borders in contexts of disasters.

¹³ Image: <https://www.un.org/internal-displacement-panel/content/what-we-do>.

¹⁴ OCHA, “Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,” United Nations <https://api.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/199808-training-OCHA-guiding-principles-Eng2.pdf>.

¹⁵ UN, “The Role of National Legislation and Policies in Protecting Internally Displaced Persons”, Submission to UN Secretary General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, https://www.un.org/internal-displacement-panel/sites/www.un.org.internal-displacement-panel/files/published_phil_orchard_submission.pdf.



At the international level, international refugee law does not apply to environmental migrants, i.e. people who cross international borders for environmental reasons, because environmental issues are not included in the 1951 Refugee Convention and are not generally used to grant asylum status. The Refugee Convention specifically provides protections for people with a well-founded fear of persecution, particularly identifying race, religion, nationality, members of a social group or political opinion, as grounds for seeking asylum.¹⁶

Addressing Ongoing Challenges: Bridging Gaps in Environmental Migration Initiatives



Progress in the last decade has aimed to address gaps pertaining to the safety and security of environment migrants. The Paris Climate Accords (often referred to as the Paris Agreement) are a binding international treaty on climate action, adopted in 2015. While primarily dedicated to climate action and durable large-scale solutions for combating climate change, the treaty also recognizes the interconnected impacts of climate catastrophes on displacement and migration. Although it does not establish legal mechanisms to support environmental migrants, the agreement recognizes the rights of all people in vulnerable situations, including migrants, and requires states to respect, promote, and take into account human rights when dealing with climate action. Furthermore,

during the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (also known as the 21st yearly Conference of the Parties (or COP 21)¹⁷ to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement was negotiated. It was during this conference that a **Task Force on Displacement (TFD)** was established. TFD has put forward suggestions to mitigate and preempt climate-induced displacement approved at the COP24 in Katowice, Poland in 2018. IOM is one of the founding members of the TFD, and has mapped out policies and actions at the global and national level to address climate-induced mobility.¹⁸ More recently, human mobility has been included in the scope of the new fund for loss and damage operationalized at COP28 in Dubai, UAE in late 2023.



Furthermore, the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration** is a non-binding international agreement adopted in 2018 by the majority of UN member states. IOM facilitates dialogue between governments, civil society, and other stakeholders to ensure effective collaboration in achieving the objectives outlined in the Global Compact.¹⁹ In addition, the efforts undertaken through the Nansen Initiative and the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative, both non-binding agreements on this matter, facilitate the advancement of current thinking on these issues and contribute to

¹⁶ "The concept of 'climate refugee', Towards a possible definition." European Parliamentary Research Service. Oct. 2023. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/698753/EPRS_BRI\(2021\)698753_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/698753/EPRS_BRI(2021)698753_EN.pdf)

¹⁷ "Conference of Parties (COP)," UN Climate Change, <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/supreme-bodies/conference-of-the-parties-cop>.

¹⁸ IOM, "Task Force on Displacement" IOM UN Migration, <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/task-force-displacement>.

¹⁹ IOM, "Global Compact for Migration" IOM UN Migration, <https://www.iom.int/global-compact-migration>.



addressing some of these gaps through regional and sub-regional level measures.

However there still remains a persistent dissonance in some areas, such as the incorporation of human mobility and climate change particularly in cross-cutting domains such as the oceans, wetlands, ecosystems, and water. Work related to global ocean policy or international maritime law is a prime example of this disparity. Despite growing scientific evidence on how effects of climate change on oceans impact human migration, international forums related to the topic (such as the 2017 UN Ocean Conference) did not formally incorporate human migration and its issues. The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development provides multiple entry points to consider climate-related human mobility, however these nexus points need to be articulated to have international policy relevance. For example, the amalgamation of climate change, energy, land, migration and water related goals are rarely taken into consideration in their intersection. Overall, there is still a lack of organizational and legal infrastructure in place to accommodate and protect environmental migrants.

CLIMATE CHANGE + DISPLACEMENT

Many people displaced by climate change or climate change induced disasters are IDPs, and climate change can also exacerbate conflict. In the Sahel, where temperatures are rising, this has become a case study. Much more rapidly than the global average, dwindling water supplies have disrupted the livelihoods of local pastoralists and farmers, leading to violent clashes in the Republic of Cameroon's Far North region. In Afghanistan, where 5.8 million people are displaced,²⁰ severe drought has added to the difficulties faced by the population, which include conflict, economic collapse, and famine. In October 2023, during the postharvest season, more than 13 million people were facing high levels of acute food insecurity.²¹ In Mali, drying lakes threaten the fishermen, who are frequently compelled to migrate to the lakes in neighboring countries such as Mauritania, where climate change has also led to dwindling water supplies. The depletion of once abundant resources such as fish and water supplies have increased tensions between Mauritanian herders and farmers and displaced Malians.²²

Intersections of Climate-induced Displacement

Climate-induced displacement disproportionately impacts women and girls and LGBTIQ+ groups, Indigenous, Black, Oppressed Caste (sometimes referred to as lower caste or less dominant caste), and working-class communities. Given pre-existing economic and social disparities, people from the aforementioned communities face greater challenges in adapting to changes induced by climate issues.²³

Historic, economic, and cultural ties with the environment, along with ongoing structural violence propagated through development projects that encroach on their land, Indigenous people are particularly vulnerable to climate-induced displacement. The Kalash community in the Chitral district of Pakistan are facing displacement

²⁰ "Renewing Our Commitment to the People of Afghanistan." IOM UN Migration, August 2022.

<https://www.iom.int/news/renewing-our-commitment-people-afghanistan#:~:text=Afghanistan%20has%20also%20witnessed%20unprecedented,January%202021%20and%20April%202022.>

²¹ "Afghanistan: Drought - 2021-2024." FEWS NET - ReliefWeb. <https://reliefweb.int/disaster/dr-2021-000022-afg>

²² "Warming climate threatens livelihoods of Malian Refugees and Mauritians." UNHCR, 2021, <https://www.unhcr.org/us/news/stories/warming-climate-threatens-livelihoods-malian-refugees-and-mauritians>.

²³ <https://newlinesinstitute.org/displacement-and-migration/climate-migration/the-coming-crisis-of-climate-displacement/> (image)



anxieties as 33 of the over 3,000 glaciers are currently at a high risk of bursting.²⁴ Other communities have experienced similar challenges; for example oppressed castes, particularly the Dalit community in India are more vulnerable to being displaced (and/or being impacted in other ways) by climate disasters primarily due their occupation — the economic and social implications of the caste system relegate a disproportionate number of Dalits to working in rubbish & sewage disposal, and as farm laborers blocking them from obtaining more secure jobs — and location of homes.²⁵ Similarly, a pervasive pattern of anti-Black structural racism and associated economic hardships has led to comparable climate-related challenges for Black communities worldwide. For instance, in the United States, Black communities are more vulnerable to enduring long-term displacement resulting from wildfires or other climate catastrophes. This vulnerability stems from difficulties in recovery and greater property damage.²⁶

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE TO ADDRESS CLIMATE MIGRATION

It is imperative to adequately operationalize the multitude of challenges confronting environmental migrants and to address each concern through a concrete international (and domestic) forum. Below are some ongoing efforts, yet they all require further empowerment and coordination to be effectively implemented.

Under the UNFCCC, the Cancun Adaptation Framework of 2010 highlighted three categories of “climate change-induced” movement: displacement, migration, and planned relocation; these differences will be crucial in establishing legal safeguards for environmental migrants. These categories are further mentioned in the COP27 decision on the establishment of a fund for loss and damage.²⁷

The Nansen Initiative, a non-binding collaborative process to address the needs of environmental migrants who have been relocated abroad, has established a defined agenda, and set of objectives for the international community. These include promoting international collaboration and solidarity, defining norms for the admission, stay, and status of impacted persons, and formulating practical solutions to the crisis. The Initiative outlines three important phases for managing the migratory consequences of climate change: preparation prior to displacement, protection and assistance during displacement, and shifting to post-disaster solutions. As an adaptation measure, it also handles associated concerns such as catastrophe risk reduction, internal displacement, and migration management. The Initiative is now supported largely by the governments of Norway, Switzerland, and Germany, as well as the European Commission.²⁸

PREVIOUS UN ACTION

In recent years, **international organizations (IGOs)** have concentrated on investigating the impact of climate change on migrants and drafting global treaties to unite international migration policies through the **Global**

²⁴ Land, loss and liberation: Indigenous struggles amid the climate crisis. World Economic Forum. Feb. 2024

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/02/indigenous-challenges-displacement-climate-change/#:~:text=Climate%20change%20displacing%20Indigenous%20people,cultural%20practices%20and%20religious%20beliefs>.

²⁵ Caste and Climate Change. Youth4Nature.

<https://www.youth4nature.org/stories/caste-climate#:~:text=Dalits%20are%20more%20vulnerable%20to,and%20sewage%20disposal%2C%20casual%20farm>

²⁶ McKinsey Institute for Black Economic Mobility. <https://www.mckinsey.com/bem/our-insights/impacts-of-climate-change-on-black-populations-in-the-united-states>

²⁷ “UNFCCC Cancun Agreements.” UNFCCC, <https://unfccc.int/tools/cancun/adaptation/index.html>.

²⁸ “The Nansen Initiative.” IOM, <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/nansen-initiative>.



Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. The Groundswell report from the **World Bank** provides information on the severity of environmental displacement. Under the most pessimistic circumstances by 2050, there may be roughly 216 million internal migrants due to a set of climate hazards²⁹. As mentioned earlier, the United Nations established the Global Compact for Migration with the intention of establishing a global agreement for safe, orderly, and regular migration³⁰. In addition, the compact focuses on coordinating efforts at different levels within a country to ensure that all needs of the citizens are being met. Furthermore, the compact seeks to develop coherent approaches to address migration related issues. As noted

earlier in the guide, one of the successive challenges has been to institute a unified legal definition about IDPs that are affected by climate change induced incidents; further development of the term “environmental migrants” remains (which, while used for the purposes of this guide, is not a set definition, even within IOM).

The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** Governing Body in November 2015 published, “Guidelines for a Just Transition to Sustainable Societies and Economies for All” as a policy framework that would promote decent work in “green jobs” in the context of sustainable development. In addition, the 2017 report from the ILO Director General, “Work in a Changing Climate: The Green Initiative” highlighted that the agrarian sector needed to be prioritized with respect to climate change (for adaptability of both the farmers and workers). Furthermore, the report stated that failure to adapt to climate change would result in forced migration (as loss of work would be a factor to trigger migration patterns in populations without work), and also lead to food insecurity and scarcity. Skill gaps and shortages have been identified as a possible barrier to the structural transformation of industrial systems required to combat climate change³¹. Efforts must be strengthened to identify new needs, enhance skills and credentials for existing jobs, and create strategies to anticipate future skill requirements. This phase of a fair transition ensures the development and interchange of skills and would be bolstered by an examination of relevant policy issues, including labor mobility.

IOM has been on the forefront of political and operational responses to address environmental migration on the basis of its [Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change \(2021-2030\)](#). This has prominently included the promotion of three historic frameworks that have been endorsed at regional level across the globe:

- The Government of Uganda, supported by IOM and the UNFCCC and East Africa Development Bank's (EADB's) Regional Collaboration Centre for East and Southern Africa (RCC EAS Africa) brought together 16 African Member States (MSs) in Kampala, Uganda in July 2022 and developed the first **Regional Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change (KDMECC)**. In September 2023, a Continental Addendum - the Continental Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change (KDMECC-AFRICA) was signed, outlining 25 commitments by its signatory countries to address the effects of climate change on human mobility in Africa.

²⁹ The World Bank “Millions on the Move in Their Own Countries: The Human Face of Climate Change” WB.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2021/09/13/millions-on-the-move-in-their-own-countries-the-human-face-of-climate-change>

³⁰ Global Compact For Migration “Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration” Refugee/Migrants UN

https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180713_agreed_outcome_global_compact_for_migration.pdf

³¹ International Labour Organization “Work in a changing climate: The Green Initiative” Report of the Director General.

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_554315.pdf



- The first **Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility** was endorsed by the Pacific Island Leaders during the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum, in November 2023 after a highly consultative process. The Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility is a first in terms of addressing the issues of migration, displacement, and planned relocation comprehensively. It is also an important flagship initiative to implement the goals outlined in the 2050 Strategy of the Blue Pacific Continent, the region's long-term strategic policy document, framing the region's collective direction for the next three decades.
- Member States of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States signed off in 2023 on a new **Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change**, which was launched at Latin American and Caribbean Climate Week. The Declaration recognizes the impact of climate change and environmental factors on multiple forms of human mobility and requests the establishment of a Working Group dedicated to advance a plan of action to address these issues.

IOM works as well for the integration of climate mobility in national frameworks such as National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions. Progress has been registered in multiple countries, including Guatemala, Argentina, Ecuador, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to integrate human mobility in National Adaptation Plans to Climate Change. Multiple migration policies around the world have also increased integrated environmental and climate considerations, paving the way for enhanced coordination.

KEY TERMS:

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: 17 global goals (the SDGs) designed for a better and more sustainable future for all; the SDGs were set up in 2015 by the UN and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030.

Asylum seekers: a person who has left their home country and is looking for international protection; not every asylum seeker will ultimately be recognized as a refugee, but every recognized refugee is initially an asylum seeker.

Environmental Migration: Individuals or groups who, primarily because of a sudden or progressive change in the environment that adversely affects their lives or living conditions, are forced to leave their homes, or choose to do, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either domestically or internationally.

Disaster Displacement: Instances where individuals are compelled to abandon their homes or places of regular habitation as a result of a disaster or to avoid the effects of an imminent and predictable natural danger. Affected individuals are displaced because they are exposed to a natural hazard while they are susceptible and lack resilience to endure the effects.

Global Compact for Migration: Intergovernmental agreement to cover all aspects of international migration

UN Declaration of Human Rights: an international document adopted by the United Nations General Assembly that enshrines the rights and freedoms of all human beings

Countries of Origin: a country that is a source of migratory flows; in other words, a migrant's home country.

Countries of Transit: the country through which migratory flows (regular or irregular) move; the country (or countries) a migrant passes through in order to enter a country of destination.

Internally Displaced Person (IDP): someone who is forced to leave their home but who remains within their country's borders.



International Organizations (IGOs): set of norms and rules that govern the behavior and actions of nation states and other actors in the international system. IGOs can be established by treaties, or by their own regimes, such as the United Nations or NATO.

Irregular migration: usually happens when a migrant, for a variety of reasons, cannot meet a country's requirements to enter/leave the country, like having the correct immigration documents (such as a valid visa and/or passport).

EXTRA RESOURCES

IOM: Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change 2021 – 2030

For a comprehensive, evidence and rights-based approach to migration in the context of environmental degradation, climate change and disasters, for the benefit of migrants and societies.

Read it here: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/IOM-Institutional-Strategy-MECCC_0.pdf

IOM: The Cluster Approach

This brief introduces what the cluster approach is, and how it is organized. It also goes in depth about what IOM's priorities are in the cluster approach and the type of work that IOM is involved in. Specifically, it outlines how the IOM is involved in various scenarios, including on the local level as well as the international level.

Read it here: <https://emergencymanual.iom.int/entry/21212/the-cluster-approach>

IOM: Migration and the 2030 Agenda

This report presents the 2030 sustainable development goals and how migration fits into the picture. The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals is an extremely useful and important resource to understanding the types of migrant development efforts that are currently implemented.

Read it here: <https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-and-2030-agenda-guide-practitioners>

Global Classrooms DC Position Paper Overview and Requirements

What is a Position Papers

A position paper is a short document that outlines a country's opinion on an issue. The paper includes a short summary of what the issue or problem is, explains why the country is interested in the issue, and communicates the country's stance on what should be done to address the issue. A position paper is written as if you were the actual representative of the country stating its position. Your personal opinions on the issue should not be included. A position paper is not a summary of your country's GDP, government, economy, languages, etc. unless directly relevant to the issue. Only one position paper is written per country, per grade school committee; if there are 2 or 3 delegates representing the same country on a committee, they should write the paper together.

Why write a Position Paper?

Writing a position paper will help you organize why an issue matters to your country and what your country wants done on the issue. The first thing you will likely do in committee is present an opening speech about your country's position. You should be able to pull portions of a well written position paper into an introductory



speech on your country's perspective. Also, your delegation is not eligible to win best / outstanding delegation without the submission of a position paper. There are separate awards given for best position paper.

How to Write a Position Paper

- (1) Research the Issue. The questions you want to answer are:
 - How does this issue affect your country?
 - How does this issue affect your country's neighbors or allies?
 - Is this a global problem that impacts everyone?
 - What would your country like to see done on this issue?
 - Are there countries or groups of people who will be particularly sensitive to addressing this issue?
 - Are there any conventions or resolutions on the topics that your country has signed or ratified?
 - What are UN actions on the issue? Has your country supported or opposed these actions?
 - Keep in Mind: What a country says, and what it actually believes should be done may be different. Also, some countries may believe that no action should be taken on an issue. They may disagree with how others feel or may not want international involvement. It is okay if your position is that the international community should do nothing, but you will need to explain why.
- (2) Brainstorm Specific Actions. Come up with 3-4 specific things that can be done to reach the outcome your country desires. For example: "The United States believes we should send a peacekeeping mission to monitor human rights abuses in Syria and encourage talks between both sides." You will present these ideas in committee as possible solutions to the problem and attempt to pass a resolution which includes these actions.
- (3) Outline Your Paper. Make an outline of what points you want to cover in your paper and the order in which you would like to address them. Remember a good paper should briefly explain the problem, explain why your country cares about the issue, and inform others what your country should like to see done. If you know other countries favor a solution that you will disagree with, make sure to include why your country disagrees.
- (4) Write your Paper. Position papers should be no more than one page long and be written from the perspective of the country you are representing. Rather than being a report on the topic, a position paper should explain what your country wants to see done to address the issue. Start by giving a brief summary of the issue and how it impacts your country. Then explain the specific actions you would like to see taken. Close by summarizing your country's overall position. Proper grammar and spelling are a must.

Award Criteria and Eligibility

- Each Committee is giving out the following awards – Honorable Mention, Outstanding Position Paper, and Best Position Paper.
- The ideal position paper will have a clearly defined and summarized topic with your country's position clearly outlined. Points are also awarded for organization, style and correct grammar.
- GCDC Staff will be fact checking position papers, so be sure to include the most up to date information and a bibliography (if using in text citations, a Works Cited page MUST be included)
 - Proper source citation: if an idea or quote came from another source, you must provide a footnote / citation.
- Papers will be disqualified if the conference staff has discovered that students did not write their own papers or that content has been plagiarized.
- Make sure your position paper must have the required header below! Do not create any additional title pages - points will be deducted for improper format.



- Formatting Requirements: 500 words minimum, 1,500 words maximum. Times New Roman font, 12-point size
- **POSITION PAPERS MUST BE SENT IN AS A PDF ATTACHMENT TO gcdc@unanca.org by APRIL 22nd, 2024 AT 11:59 PM EST.**

REQUIRED POSITION PAPER HEADER

Committee:
Country:
Topic
School:
Delegate Name(s)



ANNIVERSARY

Learn. Live. Lead.