

Rotary Model UN 2021

United Nations



General Assembly

27 March 2021

Seventy-Fifth Session

Agenda item 458

Sponsoring Country: Singapore

Resolution #2

19/554. Urgent Action to Create Human Resilience to Extreme Hydrological Events and Sea-Level Rise Created by Global Warming Due to Human Activity

The General Assembly,

Confidently acknowledging that carbon dioxide emission is a major greenhouse gas that becomes trapped inside the Earth's atmosphere and leads to increased temperatures globally and additionally, that man-made CO₂ emissions are catastrophic contributors to these greenhouse gases,

Reaffirming that the Paris Agreement, negotiated at the 21st annual Conference of the Parties (COP) within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), aims to limit global warming to 1.5-2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels,¹

Deeply disturbed that the latest United Nations Foundation's IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report states that the climate target agreed to by nations - no more than a 2 degree Celsius rise in global average temperatures - is not a "safe" threshold at all,²

Reaffirming that under the Paris Agreement, countries officially submitted their own nationally determined climate actions. Under the Paris Agreement, countries have an obligation to implement these plans, and if they do, the fulfilling of this obligation will bend the curve downward in the projected global temperature rise,³

Further reaffirming that the agreement not only formalizes the process of developing national plans to reduce climate change, but also it provides a binding requirement to assess and review progress on these plans. This mechanism will require countries to continuously upgrade their commitments and ensure that there will be no backtracking,

¹ [What is the Paris Agreement?](https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/what-is-the-paris-agreement)

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/what-is-the-paris-agreement>

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

³ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/>

Additionally concerned that the nations with the highest levels of GDP have failed to deliver on a \$100 billion aid package to help poor countries cope, promised as part of the 2015 Paris accord,⁴

Deeply concerned that 10 percent of the world's richest countries are responsible for up to 40 percent of global environmental damage, including climate change,⁵

Recalling that a foundational goal of the Paris Climate Agreement of April, 2018 is “to build climate resilience” among the world's nations,⁶

Acknowledging that in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change adaptation will have to build climate resilience,

Fully alarmed that rising temperatures have created extreme hydrological events, warming oceans, and sea-level rise that is devastating the world coastlands, rivers, and inland lakes,⁷

Stating that an Extreme Hydrological Event is an event (or series of events), such as floods and droughts, that significantly disrupts the normal hydrological (water) cycle,⁸

Alarmed that droughts and fires make vast sections of land unlivable for millions of the earth's inhabitants, create loss of home and property, and mass hunger and starvation for the world's most vulnerable,⁹

Noting that rising sea levels are due to ocean warming, which causes water to expand, and glacial melting, which is discharging increasing amounts of freshwater directly into the sea,

Further noting that from 1901 to 2010, the global average sea level rose by 19 cm as oceans expanded due to warming and ice melted. Sea level rise is predicted at 24 – 30cm by 2065 and 40-63cm by 2100,

Acknowledging that while the Hydrological Cycle is a global occurrence, each country has a topography that individualizes each country's ability to create resilient strategies,

Emphasizing that floods and other water-related disasters account for 70 percent of all deaths related to natural disasters,¹⁰

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/30/business/getting-to-100-billion-in-climate-change-aid.html>

⁵ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-16941-y>

⁶ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/>

⁷ Latin America Extreme Hydrological Events:

https://www.wfca.org/en/our_work/climate_change_and_energy/climate_change_impacts_la.cfm

African Extreme Hydrological Events:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/09/23/african-nations-are-among-those-most-vulnerable-climate-change-new-survey-suggests-they-are-also-least-prepared/>

Middle Eastern Extreme Hydrological Events:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/04/middle-east-front-lines-climate-change-mena/>

⁸<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/hydrological-extreme#:~:text=Abstract,figure%20extreme%20precipitation%20and%20temperature.>

⁹ Portugal's extreme weather:

<https://www.cdp.net/en/articles/climate/portugals-extreme-weather-when-climate-change-knocks-at-your-door>

¹⁰ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/>

Additionally noting that 70% of the world's wetlands have been destroyed in the past decade. And they will functionally disappear by 2100 if action is not taken,¹¹

Also acknowledging that climate resilience is strengthened through healthy ecosystem services that rely on well-functioning river basins,¹²

Deeply concerned that 21 million people are subjected to river flooding each year and that that number could rise to 54 million people by 2030 due to climate change,¹³

Knowing accurate information allows local communities to make personal changes and better decisions, with regard to reducing carbon emissions,

Acknowledging that a United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC) report found that the twenty most climate-vulnerable countries have paid more than \$40 billion in additional interest payments because of losses stemming from extreme weather events,¹⁴

Deeply disturbed that many Small Island Developing States (SIDS) will probably completely disappear in the next 50 years,¹⁵

Noting with alarm that Extreme Hydrological Events and rising sea levels are expected to displace 143 million people by 2050, and is already creating a profound refugee crisis for SIDSs,¹⁶

Deeply concerned that many SIDSs are located in hurricane prone regions, and that SIDSs' ability to live and work are severely threatened by extreme hydrological events,¹⁷

Alarmed that small island nations have already started to abandon their homeland and culture due to rising sea levels. These nations realize they have reached a point of no return,

Emphasizing the fact that the Pacific Island nation of Kiribati is expected to be the first country to lose all its land territory to global warming and have asked New Zealand and Australia to receive all of its citizens as refugees,

Expressing outrage that a small number of nations' CO2 emissions (contributing to global warming) have resulted in the vast majority of sea-level rise and the gradual destruction of small island nations' cultures and homelands,¹⁸

¹¹ [IUCN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#)

¹² Ibid.

¹³ World Resource Institute: [Aqueduct Global Flood Risk Country Rankings](#) and [Analysis: Global Exposure to Sea Level Rise Flooding](#). Climate Central.org.

¹⁴ <https://unfccc.int/news/climate-change-is-driving-debt-for-developing-countries>

¹⁵ [Small island developing States, on the front lines of climate and economic shocks, need greater international assistance](#)

<http://unohrrls.org/about-ldcs/> The UNO-RLLS represents SIDS in the UN.

Note that the [Alliance of Small Island States](#) functions as an ad hoc lobby and negotiating voice for SIDS through the United Nations System.

¹⁶ <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20190813-how-to-save-a-sinking-island-nation>

¹⁷ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2189SIDS-IN-NUMBERS-CLIMATE-CHANGE-EDITION_2015.pdf, pp.22-24

¹⁸ Each Country's share of CO2 emissions:

<https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/each-countrys-share-co2-emissions>

https://www.aosis.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/AOSIS-Statement-on-Debt_verJune-29.pdf

Deeply concerned that the average age of small island nations is twenty-two, and the loss of a homeland and home culture for these young adults will be at a traumatizing level,¹⁹

Recognizing and appreciating that the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) serves as the negotiating voice for the United Nations Small Island Developing States (SIDS).²⁰

Acting under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. *Draws attention* to the agreements established at the December 2019 UN Climate Action Summit and *demands* that the respective nations adhere to their CO₂ agreements made during that Summit;²¹
2. *Reminds* the nations of the globe that all of the islands in the world are being impacted by sea-level rise, however the sea level rise is happening faster on some islands due to simultaneous land subsidence;²²
3. *Requires* that those countries which contribute 2% or more of the total annual global CO₂ emissions pay reparations, via a Climate Refugee Reparations Fund. The contribution will be 0.001% GDP per each of these identified nations. The Climate Refugee Reparations Fund is to be managed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and distributed by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). OCHA and the UNHCR will address the desperate needs of climate refugees by coordinating the following initiatives:²³
 - a. *Incentivizes* countries with a projected negative population growth from 2020 to 2050 (using abundance data calculations) to welcome refugees from the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by providing \$5,000 USD per refugee (adult or child) to the welcoming nation to offset the cost of welcoming and relocating these refugees;²⁴
 - b. *Mandates* that the climate refugees, who have not been previously welcomed by countries with a projected negative population growth via a 3a, are offered citizenship status (regardless of skill or educational level) from the most recent colonizers of these small island nations. Once an island has experienced a 0.05 meter (or greater) sea level rise over

¹⁹ [The Last Generation: Climate Change and the Marshall Islands:](https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/fln36lg-soc-lastgen/the-last-generation-climate-change-and-the-marshall-islands/)

<https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/fln36lg-soc-lastgen/the-last-generation-climate-change-and-the-marshall-islands/>

Report: Flooded Future:

<https://www.climatecentral.org/news/report-flooded-future-global-vulnerability-to-sea-level-rise-worse-than-previously-understood>

²⁰ Alliance for Small Island States (aosis.org)

²¹ https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/assets/pdf/cas_report_11_dec.pdf, p. 6

²² Sinking Island: <https://time.com/longform/sinking-islands-climate-change/>

World Meteorological Organization (UN Agency) sea-level rise measures:

<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/global-climate-2015-2019-climate-change-accelerates>

²³ See footnote #18.

²⁴ List of declining populations:

<https://www.businessinsider.com/the-fastest-shrinking-countries-in-the-world-declining-populations#16-georgia-the-population-is-projected-to-drop-from-40-million-in-2020-to-35-million-in-2050-an-118-decline-5>

How to measure national population growth:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/population-growth#:~:text=Population%20growth%20is%20determined%20by,%2C%20immigration%2C%20and%20emigration%20rates.>

a 5-year period, as certified by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), these former colonizers must grant citizenship, and provide transportation to these new citizens and 50 kilograms of personal effects, to the former colonizing nation within six months of January 1, of the year that marks the five year metric. These former-colonizing nations will receive \$500.00 USD per refugee (adult or child);²⁵

- c. *Designates* that citizens of the SIDS, who have experienced a 0.05-meter or greater sea level rise over a five-year period, as certified by the WMO, and who leave their homeland, will receive from the Reparations Fund, 10% of their nation's highest experienced level of GDP per adult citizen for adults and 5% of the small island's highest experienced level of GDP, for children seventeen and younger;
 - d. *Mandates* creation of an archive to document the culture, history and language of the island nation, that will be coordinated the United Nations Education, Science, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as required by United Nations Resolution 2347, creating a depository for future generations to know their submerged and lost homeland;²⁶
4. *Further requires* that Paris Accord signatories whose GDP is 20% above the mean GDP for United Nations Members must issue sovereign green bonds to fund climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, where the principal amount of such bonds should equal .0001% GDP of the issuing nation;
- i. Proceeds from green bonds are exclusively applied to projects that have clear environmental benefits and promote low-carbon, climate-resilient growth within the developed nation;
 - a. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will provide oversight duties to ensure that
 - i. green-bond projects proposed by the nations in the 20%+ GDP meet the above stated criteria
 - ii. member nations provide to the IPCC each December 31 project completion goals with regards to fiduciary obligations and project management goals
 - iii. if IPCC criteria are not met each year, the UN General Assembly will convene for the sole purpose of establishing economic sanctions against the uncooperative nation that must include but are not limited to withdrawal of all Paris Accord signatories national ambassadors, banishment from the Olympics until obligations are met, and a 1% tariff fee on all exports entering Paris Accord signatories countries, except for products related to human health.²⁷
 - b. Green bonds are to be attractive to investors seeking socially responsible portfolios, such as pension funds;

²⁵ Sea-level research group: Sea - Level Rise Data: <https://sealevel.colorado.edu/>

²⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?page=view&nr=1611&type=230&menu=2059> & <https://en.unesco.org/news/security-council-highlights-role-cultural-heritage-peace-and-security> & [UNResolution 2347 \(2017\) paragraph 3.](#)

²⁷ <https://www.un.org/en/events/olympictruce/>

- ii. Mandated use of green bonds including, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Construction of hard solutions like seawalls and levees using the Dutch model and focused in high populated areas with acute risk to land loss and sea level rise to mainland (non-island locations) over the next few decades (e.g., southeast Asia such as China, Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand; New Orleans and Miami in the U.S.; Ecuador; Italy; Egypt; Japan; Dominican Republic where millions could be displaced by annual floods);²⁸

5. *Additionally orders* that the Adaptation Fund be supplemented with respect to each nation-state whose GDP is 20% above the mean GDP for United Nations Members, where such states will be required to pay a .002% tax of its GDP to the United Nations Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to supplement the existing Adaptation Fund. This requirement would provide an additional source of funding for the Adaptation Fund beyond what is already established.²⁹

6. *Requires* that the Green Climate Fund is supplemented in a manner that each member nation imposes a 5% tax on all petroleum products including, but not limited to single use plastics and fuel. The amount collected from this national tax less administrative expenses is to be paid to the Green Climate Fund. This requirement would provide an additional source of funding for the Green Climate Fund beyond what is already established.³⁰

7. *Resolves* to remain actively seized of the matter.

²⁸ <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/peril-and-promise/2019/07/dutch-barricade-against-climate-change/>.

Example Discussion in Louisiana, U.S.A.:

https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/opinion/article_f41dadbo-a201-11ea-8132-d3ed5710747c.html&sa=D&ust=1600208116121000&usg=AFQjCNHtJBT3JpYHD0VwILOar_FmAcR7sg

²⁹<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/AF-infographic-Eng-May2019-WEB.pdf&sa=D&ust=1606074794644000&usg=AOvVaw19Aj4R7Cfol7CJsQMVPKhc>

Adaptation Fund: The Fund is financed in part by government and private donors, and also from a two percent share of proceeds of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) issued under the Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism projects.

Please see the Certified Emission Reduction Units (CERs) document for projects of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). The Fund can also accept other sources of funding, including those from sovereign governments, foundations, non-governmental organizations, private corporations and individuals. For more information, please see the Adaptation Fund Trust Fund Guidelines for Accepting Unsolicited Donations.

<https://www.thegef.org/about/funding>

³⁰ <https://www.greenclimate.fund/projects>