

# Rotary Model UN 2022

## United Nations

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### General Assembly

2 April 2022

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#### Seventy-Sixth Session

#### Agenda item 76/65

**Sponsors: Costa Rica, Bangladesh, Egypt and New Zealand**

#### **Resolution #1**

#### **Climate Change: Addressing the Climate Refugee Crisis**

The General Assembly,

*Deeply concerned* that climate change has a significant and growing impact on most Member States,

*Acknowledging* that climate change disproportionately impacts lower income Member States,

*Emphasizing* that higher income Member States contribute significantly to climate change through the release of hydrocarbons and other environmentally damaging substances into the atmosphere,

*Appreciating* that many developing Member States, to develop and support their economies, are dependent on low-cost, carbon-based fuels and environmentally destructive mining,

*Profoundly troubled* that any rectification of the negative impacts of climate change will be possible only over the very long term,

*Deeply concerned* that the misappropriation of natural resources (e.g., redirecting or restricting the flow of rivers) can exacerbate impact of climate change,

*Understanding* that most severely impacted Member States have limited capacity to deal with the socio-economic consequences of climate change,

*Further understanding* that climate refugees are a subset of all refugees,

*Noting* that the 1951 Geneva Convention Related to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocols do not contemplate climate related refugees,

*Appreciating* that many impacted Member States can absorb only a limited number of internally displaced refugees,

*Highlighting* that developed Member States have greater capacity and greater obligation to accept climate refugees,

*Appreciating* that there are significant cost implications for supporting refugees displaced by climate change,

*Recognizing* that the qualifying criteria for climate related immigration may vary from country to country for impacted and receiving Member States,

*Further recognizing* the difficulty of climate refugees to maintain their cultural identity, when displaced either domestically or internationally, along with the obligation to assimilate into that new culture,

*Fully understanding* that many immigrants will wish to be repatriated, when possible,

1. *Reaffirms* the fundamental leadership role of the United Nations system, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in coordinating the global response to the plight of certain refugees who, as a result of climate change, suffer from potentially horrific and devastating economic and social consequences, which additionally affect the social and economic fabric of each Member State;
2. *Decides* to update the 1951 Geneva Convention Related to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocols, since, inter alia, the term ‘refugee’ did not include human beings who were being displaced from their country of origin as a result of climate change, including global warming;
3. *Orders* that the term ‘refugee’ as used in the 1951 Geneva Convention Related to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocols shall additionally include human beings who are displaced from their country of origin as a result of a catastrophic natural event and/or climate change<sup>1</sup> and such refugees shall have the same legal rights, privileges and obligations as other refugees under the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocols, with the exception that the principle of non-refoulement shall not apply to such climate refugees<sup>2</sup>;
4. *Directs* the Secretary General of the United Nations, in close collaboration with the UNHCR, to establish a Climate Refugee Tribunal (‘Tribunal’), the purpose of which shall be to administer and enforce all terms of this Resolution, financial or otherwise, and allocate funds in a fair, equitable, transparent and efficient manner; the composition of such Tribunal shall at all times consist of representatives from Member States of the world with the following regional allocation:
  - A. 3 representatives from South and Central America and islands in the Caribbean; 3 representatives from Sub-Sahara Africa and South Asia; 3 representatives from

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<sup>1</sup> Climate change" means a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

<sup>2</sup> For ease of reference in this Resolution, such refugees shall hereafter be designated as “Climate Refugees” and shall have the same rights and privileges as other refugees with the exception of non-refoulement.

the Middle East and Northern Africa; 3 representatives from North America; 3 representatives from Asia and islands in the Pacific Ocean; and 3 representatives from Western and Eastern Europe;

- B. No Member State shall have more than 1 representative on the Tribunal at any given time period;
  - C. Each representative shall serve a term of no more than 6 years and shall be replaced at the end of such term by a representative from another Member State within the same region;
5. *Establishes* under the auspices of the UNHCR, a Reparations and Climate Refugee Stabilization Fund (RCRSF) which will be administered and distributed by the Tribunal so as to provide focused financial assistance to Member States who have been particularly affected by climate change, including global warming, for the purpose of addressing the damage caused to those Member States by climate change and to thereby reduce the impact of the anticipated future flow of Climate Refugees out of such Member States;<sup>3 4</sup>
6. *Requires*, in order to financially support the Reparations and Stabilization Fund, the imposition on Member States of a carbon tax on the emissions of greenhouse gases within each Member State as of January 1, 2022, in the initial amount of \$25 per ton of greenhouse gas emissions to be paid by July 1, 2022, with said tax increasing to \$50 per ton by January 1, 2032; with such tax being recomputed annually for each Member State commencing on January 1, 2023 with corresponding payment to the fund due each year on July 1<sup>5</sup>;
7. *Appreciates* that notwithstanding efforts to reduce the outflow of Climate Refugees from Member States with the support of resources of a Relocation Fund, as set forth below in Operative Clause 8, tens of millions of Climate Refugees will need to be relocated to other Member States from their country of origin, *and thus instructs* the Tribunal to establish criteria, relocation request procedures and other rules for the administration of the relocation of those who are determined to be ‘Climate Refugees’ and/or who request relocation giving due consideration, where possible, to the following<sup>6</sup>:
- A. Any prior colonial status/relationship of the receiving country to the Climate Refugee’s country of origin;
  - B. The geographical proximity of the receiving country to the Climate Refugee’s country of origin;

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<sup>3</sup> The World Bank has estimated that three regions Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, and Southeast Asia will generate 143 million more climate migrants by 2050.

<sup>4</sup> The Tribunal shall establish the criteria for allocating the funds to the affected countries based on the need for repairing climate related damage. The assessment shall take place on an annual basis. If insufficient funds are available, the funds will be allocated based on the greatest need, as determined by the Tribunal.

<sup>5</sup> See Carbon Tax, Its Purpose, and How It Works (How a Carbon Tax Can Solve Climate Change) by Kimberly Amadeo (updated October 27, 2020)

<sup>6</sup> The criteria are set forth in the order of priority.

- C. The cultural similarities between the Climate Refugee’s country of origin to the receiving country;
  - D. Allocation to the countries having the highest CO2 as measured by metric tons of CO2<sup>7</sup>;
8. *Mandates* that the Tribunal has the authority to order relocations of Climate Refugees to various Member States based on the above criteria and its other promulgated rules and procedures, and such receiving Member States shall be obligated to accept such Climate Refugees. Notwithstanding the criteria set forth above, no Member State shall be required to accept more than 5% of the total number of Climate Refugees in any calendar year;
  9. *Additionally requires* each Member State, which has a GDP in excess of one (1) trillion US dollars (USD), to contribute to a Tribunal administered Relocation Fund, the amount equivalent to 0.01% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for each year (with the initial contribution determined as of year-end 2020 and payable by July 1, 2022) in each for the relocation of Climate Refugees to other Member States that will necessarily entail considerable costs for, inter alia, temporary shelters, food, water, security, transportation out of their country of origin and for integration into their receiving country<sup>8</sup>;
  10. *Further mandates* that the Tribunal shall be authorized to enforce the required contributions as set forth in Operative Clauses 6 and 9 and shall determine what sanctions, if any, should be imposed on Member States who do not comply with their obligations as set forth in this Resolution;
  11. Estimating that the approximate cost for relocating each Climate Refugee from their country of origin and integrating such refugee into their designated receiving country to be in the range of 50,000 USD per refugee, a receiving country shall have the option of finding another ‘receiving country,’ if it can do so, to relocate a Climate Refugee for the payment of 50,000 USD to the substitute country;
  12. *Calls upon* the UNHCR to closely monitor, audit and report the receipt and disbursement of monies assessed as above to ensure such monies are being utilized in furtherance of the objectives of this Resolution as set forth above, and shall report the progress of the use of the funds to the Secretary General of the UN on a quarterly basis;

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<sup>7</sup> China (9300 Mt) -28%; United States (4800 Mt)- 15%; India (2200 Mt)- 7%; Russia (1500)- 5%; Japan (1100 Mt)- 3%; Germany (718.8 Mt)- 2%; South Korea (600 Mt)- 2%; Iran (567.1 Mt)- 2%; Canada (547.8 Mt)- 2%; Saudi Arabia (532.2 Mt)-2%; Indonesia (496.4 Mt) - 2%; Mexico (446.0 Mt)- 1%; Brazil (427.6 Mt)-1%; South Africa (421.7 Mt)- 1%; Australia (384.6 Mt)- 1%; Turkey (378.6 Mt)- 1%; United Kingdom (358.7 Mt)- 1%; Italy (321.5 Mt)- 1%; France (306.1 Mt)- 1%; Poland (305.8 Mt)- 1%; Rest of World -21%

<sup>8</sup> The world GDP for 2020 was approximately 84.54 trillion US dollars. Sixteen countries had a GDP in excess of 1 trillion US dollars in 2020. See Investopedia. The Top 25 Economies in the World by Caleb Silver (updated December 24, 2020); See also World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-02020, UN 2020.

13. *Strongly exhorts* all Member States, through the United Nations and its relevant agencies, to come together to address the effects of climate change including global warming on the peoples of the world for generations to come;

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