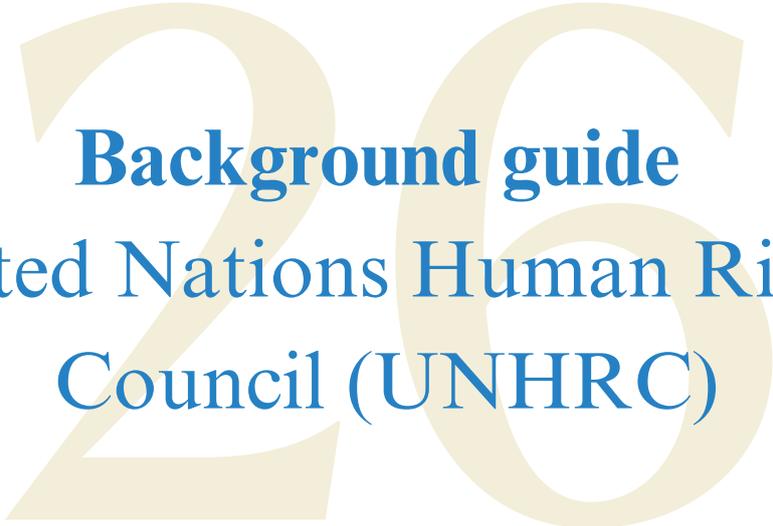




UoBDMUN

PER AD ARDUA ALTA

20
26



Background guide
United Nations Human Rights
Council (UNHRC)

Table of Contents

Welcome Letter	1
Committee Introduction	2
Introduction	3
History	5
Analysis	6
Questions for the Resolution	7
Starter resources	8
Bibliography	9

Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to this year's UoBDMUN conference; we, your chairs, Ahmad Amiri and Noor Nabulsi, are both delighted to be your moderators and welcome you to the UNHRC. We'd like to provide you with the warm reassurance that even when tackling such intense and extensive topics, you'll be provided with all necessary support and guidance from us through navigating the world of Model United Nations. We intend to make your experience incredibly enjoyable, memorable, and enriching.

In the midst of worldwide chaos, mistreatment, and political tension, you won't simply stand as delegates, but the change makers the world so desperately needs. The UNHRC is the most vital committee in ensuring citizen's safety and wellbeing; It aims to monitor and support those who unrightfully bear the consequences of governmental mismanagement and political disputes, and those simply lacking their rights. Over the three- day conference, you will be asked to challenge other countries' positions, improve your ability to think on the spot, research, and of course, unite to resolve the conflict at hand; All of which are skills that are heavily necessary to possess throughout the course of your life.

As your moderators, we value respect and integrity just as much as we value information and presentation. We expect to see heated debates, creative speeches, accountability taken, and logical points being made as we get to the heart of the conflict. Additionally, we urge you to research copious amounts as to solidify the conference's well- ordered flow and ensure that you can perform to your full potential, charging at any opportunity to contradict another's point or make your own without hesitation.

We are incredibly thrilled to be given the opportunity to witness your growth over every committee session and watch as your pure passion fills up the room. Although it may be nerve- wracking regardless of whether this is your first or tenth conference, we hope to create a safe enough space for you to step out of your comfort zone and show us what you're capable of. We're highly anticipating the commencement of UoBDMUN 2026, meeting you all, and seeing what you bring to the table!

Best Regards, Noor Nabulsi and Ahmad Amiri

Committee Introduction

The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is one of the main international groups that works to protect and promote human rights around the world. The UNHRC was set up by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/251 in 2006. It took the place of the old UN Commission on Human Rights, and it was formed to help the United Nations improve its human rights systems and make sure that violations of human rights are dealt with more openly, responsibly, and with more international cooperation.

The Council is made up of 47 member states that were chosen by the United Nations General Assembly. To make sure that all regions are fairly represented, the seats are split up among regional groups. Members serve for three years and are expected to do their best to protect and promote human rights. The Council meets regularly throughout the year, with three main sessions and extra special sessions that can be called to deal with urgent human rights issues.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is one of the Council's most important tools. It reviews the human rights records of all UN member states on a regular basis. This system encourages states to talk to each other, be responsible, and work together to improve human rights around the world. The UNHRC works on various issues, such as civil liberties, political rights, economic and social rights, protecting refugees, discrimination, and humanitarian crises. The Council's goal is to raise awareness, push for changes, and coordinate international responses to human rights violations through resolutions, recommendations, and investigative mandates.

In this committee, delegates will speak for their countries on important human rights issues that are related to the topic at hand. Delegates will need to know how the Council is set up, what its duties are, and how to handle diplomatic matters in order to effectively push for solutions while keeping national interests in mind and the larger goal of protecting human dignity around the world.

Topic Introduction

Human Rights Implications of Climate-Induced Migration and Displacement

Climate change has become one of the most important problems facing the world in the 21st century. It affects not only the environment but also the stability, livelihoods, and basic rights of millions of people around the world. People are leaving their homes in search of safer places to live because of rising global temperatures, extreme weather events, rising sea levels, long droughts, and desertification. This phenomenon, which is often called climate-induced migration or displacement, poses difficult humanitarian and legal problems that need immediate international attention.

Many places around the world have seen a lot of people move because of climate change in the last few years. Rising sea levels pose an existential threat to low-lying island nations like Kiribati, the Maldives, and Tuvalu. Parts of their land may become uninhabitable in the next few decades. Flooding and coastal erosion are also forcing more and more people to leave their homes in Bangladesh and parts of South Asia. In Sub-Saharan Africa, long periods of drought and desertification, especially in the Sahel region, have made it much harder for people to grow crops and get water. This has led to both internal displacement and migration across borders. These environmental stresses often make existing political, economic, and social problems worse, which makes displacement crises even worse.

Migration caused by climate change raises serious human rights issues, especially when it comes to getting housing, food security, healthcare, clean water, and protection from exploitation or discrimination. People who are forced to leave their homes because of environmental factors often fall through the cracks in current international laws. This is because "climate refugees" are not currently recognized as a formal category by international refugee law. Because of this, many people who have been forced to leave their homes don't have clear legal protections when they cross borders or ask for help from other countries.

The United Nations, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and other humanitarian groups are starting to work on this growing problem by focusing on climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development. There is still a lot of disagreement about how international law and human rights frameworks should change to better protect people who have to move because of climate change.

As the effects of climate change get worse, the world has to find a way to balance environmental policy, migration management, and the protection of human rights. This committee will need to understand how these issues are connected in order to look for possible solutions and ways to work together to deal with climate-induced migration in a way that respects both national sovereignty and universal human rights.

Topic History

Migration across the years has been due to several reasons including politics and wars; however, not a lot of the globe accounts for the environmental disasters that fuel a considerable percentage of displacement among innocent civilians. Climate-induced migration has gradually evolved from a solely environmental concern into a major issue within international human rights and migration governance. Over the last decade, natural disasters have led to roughly 250 million internal displacements, or around 70,000 displacements per day. Whether it's the consequence of floods sweeping South Sudan and Brazil, incredibly high temperatures in Kenya and Pakistan, or water shortages in Chad and Ethiopia, extreme weather continues to push countries that are already on the brink of collapsing (UNHCR, 2024).

Environmental mobility (Migration due to environmental disasters) has historically been alongside devastating catastrophes such as droughts, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and forest-fires. For instance, in 2023 the Horn of Africa experienced an unprecedented drought; the worst to strike the region in 40 years. Over one million people in Somalia have now been displaced both internally and across borders to Yemen, Ethiopia, Kenya, and more. Over the course of two months, around 60,000 Somali refugees fled from their fatally harsh climate conditions, seeking refuge in Kenya's Dadaab camp. Somali's leading cause of displacement was environmental factors as seen as in 2020, when over 75% of displacements were a result of climate change (Climate Refugees, 2022).

Several projects have been implemented in efforts to combat climate-induced displacement; however, the most significant and wide-scale implementations can be found within a project launched by The Pacific Climate Change and Migration (PCCM) in November of 2013. The project intended to span 3 years and was entitled 'Enhancing the Capacity of Pacific Island Countries to Manage the Impacts of Climate Change on Migration'. It was funded by the European Union (EU) and put into action by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia (UNESCAP, 2016).

Its overall goal was to increase the protection of people living within the Pacific Islands who were susceptible to climate change displacement. In specific, its objectives included building a base of understanding on migration flows, policies, and practices in the region, enhancing national capacities with the intention of addressing the impacts of climate change on migration within the Pacific Island countries most vulnerable, and improving regional cooperation when tackling the issue of climate change induced migration. While the UN has lent in considerable efforts in working against the issue through such projects, it's important to recognize that the chaos and instability the issue has brought about requires universal, targeted attention to compensate for the slightest percentage of losses.

Topic Analysis

In order to entirely recognize the complex nature of climate-induced migration, it's important to recognize the root of the issue. Since the mid-20th century, global warming has been an incredibly large contributing factor to sudden, rapid changes in climate. Scientists attribute this rapid increase in temperature to the "greenhouse effect", which is a phenomenon where harmful human activity leads to a release of high carbon emissions that get trapped within the troposphere (NASA, 2024). This, in turn, leads to several natural disasters and climate abnormalities that lead to displacement. For instance, it makes water incredibly scarce in dryer areas due to the drought that it imposes upon the area, the ecosystems more vulnerable to ecological droughts, leads to desert expansion (reduced area for growing crops), and creates dust storms that move tons of sand across continents (UN, 2022).

While extreme weather events and environmental conditions are associated with displacement, climatical issues aren't solely to blame for the dislocation but rather the overlapping crises that come with the environmental strain such as human rights threats, increases in poverty and loss of livelihoods which strains peaceful relations between communities and leading to the creation of conditions for further forced displacement. Moreover, climate change increases the factors that forces those in poverty to remain in that state due the intense strain that it puts upon manual labour employment opportunities. A substantial percentage of the people forcibly displaced by persecution, conflict, and violence find themselves in countries that are incredibly vulnerable and ill-prepared to adapt to climate change, further worsening the extent and rate of those involuntary migrations (UNHCR, 2024).

In 2015, all United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which consists of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs not only addressed the natural, agricultural, and environmental areas of improvement, but recognized the dire need for political and regional unity in accomplishing the goals within the quinquennial. They range from climate action and clean energy to reduced inequalities and reduced poverty (UN, 2015). The direction that the agenda steered the world towards had the potential to minimize and largely decrease the rates of climate-induced migration, however, its effects remained minimal.

While the concept within itself was intended to bring about positive reinforcements, it was simply too ambitious to be accomplished within its timeframe. Only 35% of SDG targets were found to be on track or making modest gains, nearly half were progressing too slowly, 18% were found to be regressing, and over 800 million people still live in extreme poverty and hunger (UN, 2025). The results from the agenda served as a reminder of many countries' inability to prioritize environmental sustainability and wide-scale projects due to the overwhelmingly high rates of economic and social dilemmas that are yet to be tackled due to political tension. Furthermore, it highlights the necessity of international cooperation and monitoring within these projects to ensure its success

Questions for the Resolution

1. How can the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals be re-assessed to address the root causes and human rights implications of climate-induced migration, particularly in vulnerable regions?
2. What mechanisms can be implemented to ensure that states most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions contribute fairly to supporting countries that host large populations of climate-displaced persons?
3. How can human rights protections be integrated into national and international climate adaptation strategies to prevent forced displacement and safeguard vulnerable communities?
4. What role should international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees play in coordinating protection, relocation, and assistance for climate-induced migrants?
5. How can the international community develop sustainable relocation and resettlement frameworks for populations whose territories may become uninhabitable due to sea-level rise and extreme climate events?

Starter Sources

- UNHCR. "Climate Change and Displacement." UNHCR, 2024, www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/build-better-futures/climate-change-and-displacement.
- Wilkinson, Emily, et al. Briefing Shaping Policy for Development Climate-Induced Migration and Displacement: Closing the Policy Gap. 2016. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1411/files/documents/2023-11/10996.pdf>
- European Union Agency for Asylum. (2022).1.4. Climate-induced displacement. [online] Available at: <https://www.euaa.europa.eu/asylum-report-2022/14-climate-induced-displacement>
- Climate-Induced Displacement and Migration: Policy Gaps and Policy Alternative A Likely Legal Instrument for a Rights-Based Political Solution. (2015). Available at: https://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/application/pdf/briefing_paper_climate_induced_displacement_and_migration.pdf.
- Unrefugees.org. (2024). How the climate crisis is driving forced displacement in these five countries. [online] Available at: <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/how-the-climate-crisis-is-driving-forced-displacement-in-these-five-countries/>.

Bibliography

- Climate Refugees. (2022, November 19). Statement to the UNSR on climate change displacement. <https://www.climate-refugees.org/advocacy/statement-unsr-climate-change-displacement>
- NASA. (2024, October 23). The causes of climate change. <https://science.nasa.gov/climate-change/causes/>
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (n.d.). Human rights, climate change and migration: Key messages <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/materials/KMMigration.pdf>
- United Nations. (2015). The 17 sustainable development goals. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- United Nations. (2022). Causes and effects of climate change. <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/causes-effects-climate-change>
- United Nations. (2025, August 12). The sustainable development goals. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-goals/>
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2016). Pacific climate change and migration project. <https://www.unescap.org/subregional-office/pacific/pacific-climate-change-and-migration-project>
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2024). Climate change and displacement. <https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/build-better-futures/climate-change-and-displacement>



UoBDMUN

PER AD ARDUA ALTA

20
26