Committee: United Nations General Assembly
Topic: Addressing Climate Change and Ensuring Protection for Persons Displaced Due to Adverse Effects of Climate Change
Delegation: Russian Federation
Delegate:Vaskrsije Miletić,Faculty of Law,University of Ljubljana

The Russian Federation, the largest country in the world by land area, spans Eastern Europe and northern Asia and is home to over 144 million people. Historically, Russia has experienced significant climatic variations, from harsh Arctic conditions to temperate zones. Climate change presents both challenges and opportunities, as the country faces thawing permafrost, increased wildfires, and shifts in agricultural productivity. At the same time, Russia is a major global energy producer, which influences its domestic and international climate policies (World Bank, 2023).
Climate change has directly affected Russia's environment and population. The 2020 Siberian wildfires burned over 20 million hectares, contributing to economic losses and displacement of local communities (NASA, 2020). Thawing permafrost in Siberia threatens infrastructure, including roads, pipelines, and residential areas, posing risks to inhabitants and necessitating relocation in some regions. Moreover, climate shifts impact agricultural outputs, especially wheat production, a crucial sector for both domestic consumption and exports (FAO, 2022). Russia's climate policies aim to balance economic growth with environmental protection. The country ratified the Paris Agreement in 2019 and emphasizes energy transition through investments in nuclear and hydroelectric power, while maintaining natural gas and oil exports as essential for economic stability (UNFCCC, 2019). The national approach reflects political and economic realities: energy exports are critical for GDP and geopolitical influence, yet environmental sustainability is increasingly prioritized due to public and international pressures. President Vladimir Putin stated in 2021 that "Climate change is a global challenge, and Russia is committed to contributing to solutions that respect both economic development and environmental safety" (Kremlin, 2021). Similarly, Minister of Natural Resources Alexander Kozlov emphasized that "protecting communities affected by permafrost degradation and extreme weather is a key government priority" (Ministry of Natural Resources, 2022). Supporting statistics illustrate the urgency of these issues: in 2020, Siberian wildfires affected 20 million hectares (NASA, 2020), thawing permafrost threatens over 100,000 km² of infrastructure (Roshydromet, 2022), and Russia contributes 4.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions (World Bank, 2023). The Russian government has launched adaptation programs in vulnerable regions, including construction of climate-resilient infrastructure in permafrost areas, emergency relocation support for communities affected by floods or fires, and expansion of early-warning systems and disaster response units. These measures have reduced casualties and property loss but face challenges in funding and geographic scope (Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations, 2022). Russia's international commitments include ratification

of the Paris Agreement (2019), participation in the Kyoto Protocol (2004), and involvement in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015). Russia supports international climate cooperation while advocating for flexibility in emissions targets considering economic and social factors (UNFCCC, 2019). At the international level, Russia proposes enhanced funding for climate adaptation in vulnerable regions, technical support for monitoring and managing displaced populations, and development of global standards for climate-induced migration. Russia advocates collaboration between industrialized and developing nations, emphasizing equity in responsibilities. In the committee's resolution, Russia seeks to establish frameworks for protecting climate-displaced persons, secure commitments for international financial and technical support, promote balanced approaches that consider economic and environmental priorities, and encourage transparent reporting and data sharing on climate-induced displacement. The country's position is influenced by the European Union's initiatives advocating stricter emission targets, the United States' emphasis on renewable energy transition, and China's dual role as emitter and developing economy, providing opportunities for partnership in Arctic and permafrost research.

References

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