



Position paper, **UNGA, France**, on the topic of:

**ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENSURING PROTECTING FOR PERSONS
DISPLACED DUE TO ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Republic of France looks upon climate change and its consequences including natural disasters and displaced people because of them with great concern. We acknowledge that the discussion topic is already now of significant importance, but at the current growth of natural calamities the problem is only going to increase, and environmental migrations will only multiply in following years and decades.

The international community must take all necessary measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fully implement the commitments of the Paris Agreement. At the current pace of climate impacts, millions of people will be forced to leave their homes due to climate change. We must be prepared and should not wait until we are faced with the problem.

While the threat of climate impacts is present, France is well-positioned to adapt. The ND-GAIN Index ranks France as the 172nd most vulnerable country and the 19th most ready country in the world of 185 nations¹, but that does not give France an exemption from its responsibility to strengthen adaptation efforts, protect vulnerable populations, and contribute to global action that supports countries facing far more severe climate-driven displacement. Because usually the most vulnerable populations are the ones most affected by climate change and are also less equipped to cope with it. ²

France has shown great determination to fight climate change by hosting and playing a central diplomatic role in forging consensus in Paris in 2015 which resulted in the Paris agreement, one of the most important climate documents ever reached. France has also committed to the National adaptation plan (PNACC) which focuses on getting France ready for unavoidable climate impacts such as heatwaves, droughts, floods, wildfires, sea-level rise, and ecosystem disruptions. We are proud members of Platform on disaster displacement (PDD) which seeks to protect, manage and help people displaced because of

¹Othering and belonging institute at UC Berkeley: Climate crisis, displacement and the right thing to say, URL: <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/climatedisplacement/case-studies/france?utm>

² French senate, Déplacés environnementaux, URL: <https://www.senat.fr/leg/tas15-017.html?utm>

catastrophes and climate change³. In 2024, France also provided €7.2 billion of climate finance for developing countries, including €3 billion for climate-change adaptation⁴.

There have been discussions in French parliament on introduction of a new legal status called “Déplacés environnementaux”⁵, even though the status hasn’t been adopted, this means that France recognizes the problem and knows that it will have to face it in the future.

Sahel is a specific topic in world climate change as temperatures in the region are rising 1.5 times faster than the global average. Communities there are also more likely to be affected by climate change in many ways (water scarcity, lower agriculture productivity, extreme temperatures). At the same time, the population growth in the region is one of the highest in the world⁶, that is why the international community must invest there to prevent future mass climate migrations. France also feels morally obliged to help Sahel region for historic reasons as all the countries were French colonies. France is proud that in 2021 our president launched the Great Green wall Accelerator, campaign that fights desertification in Sahel region. It is projected to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land in the 11 countries of the initiative, capture 250 million tons of carbon and create 10 million green jobs by 2030.⁷ It is just one of the measures taken by France to tackle climate change and potential migration that comes along.

Despite the disappointing COP30 summit in Belem, France firmly believes that the future of climate change is mitigation of emissions and reaching net zero emissions by 2050 as agreed upon in Paris agreement. Nevertheless, the global community must be prepared for climate migrations which are at least to a certain extent unavoidable. As a long-term goal on this topic France sees a treaty signed by all UN member states, that will introduce new legal status – Climate refugee. But what needs to be understood is that such things need time and a lot of political will from global superpowers. That is why France encourages other states to address this topic on a national level and consider joining Platform on disaster displacement to strengthen international cooperation, share best practices, and develop effective policies to protect people displaced by the adverse effects of climate change and disasters.

³ Permanent mission of France in UN in Geneva: France is Chair of the PDD. What is this tool?

<https://onu-geneve.delegfrance.org/France-is-Chair-of-the-PDD-What-is-this-tool?>

⁴ French ministry for foreign affairs, URL: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/news/2025/article/france-continues-its-2024-financial-commitment-to-global-climate-action-06-11?utm>

⁵ French Senate, URL: <https://www.senat.fr/leg/tas15-017.html?utm>

⁶ World bank group, Sahelian countries must accelerate growth and prioritize climate adaptation to alleviate poverty and address food insecurity

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/09/19/sahelian-countries-can-boost-and-diversify-their-economies-to-take-on-the-climate-crisis-and-food-insecurity?utm>

⁷ French ministry for foreign affairs: The Great Green Wall Accelerator: new impetus for this iconic African initiative <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/africa/climate-issues/article/the-great-green-wall-accelerator-new-impetus-for-this-iconic-african-initiative>