Commite: General Assembly

Delegation: Sweden

Topic: Climate change and its impact on migration policy

The Kingdom of Sweden acknowledges the increasingly connected concerns between climate change and human migration as a matter of international concern. Climate changes, such as rising global temperatures, floods, sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and the long-term erosion of habitability, are becoming key factors driving migration across the globe.[1] Sweden, with its longstanding leadership in environmental governance, is dedicated to addressing this challenge on national and international levels. Even though Sweden is not a primary destination for climate-displaced persons, the Goverment recognises that climate-induced migration will accelerated in the near future and influence evolution of international law and regional stability.

Climate change acts as a risk multiplier, increasing poverty, lack of food, and conflict especially in vulnerable regions. Swedish authorities have noticed that many asylum applicants originate from regions that are strongly affected by floods, droughts, or other environmental disasters. While the Swedish Aliens Act (Utlänningslagen) does not recognise climate change as an independent reason for asylum, competent authorities may consider environmental circumstances in individual applications for international protection.[2] However, Sweden upholds that migration policy must remain lawful and fully aligned with European legal framework.

Swedish leadership continues to draw attention to the connection between climate change and human migration. Former Minister for International Development Cooperation Per Olsson Fridh noted that climate change "threatens the stability of entire regions and increases the risk of displacement among those least able to adapt." Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson has emphasised that global climate impacts will "shape migratory flows for years to come and require strong international cooperation" to safeguard human dignity and prevent humanitarian crises.

The need for coordinated action are reinforced with statistical evidence. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre has reported more than 30 million new displacements annually in recent years due to weather-related disasters, with the number expected to rise. The Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), alert that climate change may foster instability in regions of strategic importance to Europe, thereby indirectly influencing migration toward EU Member States.[3]

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[1] Migration, Forced displacement and Climate change, URL: https://www.sida.se/en/publications/migration-forced-displacement-and-climate-change?utm_source=chatgpt.com

[2] Swedish Migration and asylum law, URL: https://www.government.se/government-policy/migration-and-asylum/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

[3] Asylum Information Database, URL: https://asylumineurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/AIDA-SE_2024Update.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

The government has adopted comprehensive measures to address climate-induced migration. Sweden supports climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and resilience-building initiatives in partner countries, especially in Africa, Asia, and small island countries with its development cooperation budget. They acknowledges that current international refugee law does not fully reflect the realities of climate-driven displacement and therefore advocate continued deliberations within the United Nations.

Sweden remains a committed party to the Paris Agreement, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regulaar Migration, the Global Compact on Refugees, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Sweden aligns its migration policy with that of the European Union and actively participates in the implemantation of shared EU migration law. However, Sweden highlight with concer that new EU legislative package entering into force in July 2026, the Asylum Procedure Regulation (APR) and Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (AMMR), does not recognise climate-driven displacment as a explicit ground for international protection, thereby revealing a continued legal gap.

In this session of the General Assembly, Sweden calls for:

1. Enhanced financing for climate adaptation, particularly in vulnerable regions;
2. Strengthened early-warning systems to mitigate disaster-related displacement;
3. Integration of climate-risk considerations into humanitarian and development planning;
4. Closer coordination among UN agencies working on climate, migration, and human rights;
5. Expansion of lawful migration pathways in contexts where environmental degradation renders long-term habitability impossible, in full respect of State sovereignty and international law.

Sweden also considers the positions of fellow EU Member States highly influential. They maintain that mitigation and adaptation are the most effective long-term tools to reduce climate-driven migration. Cooperation with Nordic countries, Finland and Denmark, remains essential, considering their shared priorities in climate security and humanitarian response. Within the European Union, Sweden supports rigorous implementation of the new migration framework while drawing attention to the omission of climate-related displacement within the EU Migration Pact. They emphasise that in proces of all that human rights must remain at the center of all migration and climate policies. Sweden endorse practical, right-based and internationally coordinated approch that prioritizes prevention, protection, and resilience.

The Kingdom of Sweden continues to uphold its dedication to addressing climate-driven migration through a balanced approach that merges legal clarity, humanitarian responsibility, and global partnership.