

# Position Paper

Committee: General Assembly

Delegation: Republic of Burundi



Topic: Addressing Climate Change and Ensuring Protection for Persons Displaced due to Adverse Effects of Climate Change

Climate Change is a threat to global stability, security, development and healthcare. The melting of the Greenland ice sheet, Antarctic glaciers, and Arctic sea ice, caused by global warming, contributes to rapid sea-levels rise and environmental instability. This rise threatens fresh water availability, coastal areas and the safety of millions of people living in low-lying or coastal areas. Rising temperatures, extreme rainfall, long droughts, and soil erosion are already displacing millions of people, forcing vulnerable populations to leave their homes. Least Developed Countries (LDCs), including Burundi, contribute the least to global greenhouse gas emissions. Nevertheless, they face crucial climate change impacts. As a result, the countries of the Great Lakes region face significant displacement of people due to food insecurity, environmental degradation, and damaged agricultural land. These conditions create additional pressures on already fragile communities, such as permanent or temporary residents of Burundi. To address these challenges, the world requires coordinated international action to build resilience, support adaptation, and protect people affected by climate change, especially refugees, who are forced to leave their homes and countries.

The Republic of Burundi, as one of the LDCs, contributes almost nothing to world pollution, however, it faces significant challenges and suffers disproportionately from the consequences of climate disruption. We are particularly concerned with the issue of climate-caused displacement, and believe that it is closely connected to poverty, land scarcity, and environmental degradation. This makes resilience and adaptation a national priority. Burundi wants to highlight that international support must respect our national sovereignty and must not be involved in the internal political situation in the country. The delegation strongly supports the principle of climate justice, especially agreeing that nations most responsible for global greenhouse gases emissions must take responsibility to provide help and support in a financial form to vulnerable countries, including Burundi. In addition, Burundi continues to work and to develop good relationships with the United Nations, the African Union, and the East African Community to address challenges through sustainable development and cooperation and to find the way to overcome these problems. Burundi will continue taking attempts to convince the group of people, who deny climate change or do not support any actions to protect the environment, to

stop doing so . Security of its citizens is a priority for Burundi. Therefore, the delegation would like to highlight that the government will do anything possible to stop the spreading of propaganda, which denies climate change's existence or its consequences.

The delegation of the Republic of Burundi presents its ideas and beliefs on how to solve the major problem of ensuring protection for persons displayed due to adverse effects of climate change. Burundi believes that strong financing, strong international cooperation, and huge investment in companies and organisations, promoting environmentally- friendly lifestyles or producing goods without polluting the atmosphere, will help to partially solve the challenge. Burundi calls all the nations to contribute to the Green Climate Fund. In addition, the country supports expanding adaptation measures such as sustainable land management, and programs preparing for disasters in vulnerable regions, such as Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). The delegation also suggests continuing developing programs and providing help to the refugees, who left their region because of climate change. Additionally, Burundi supports all the organisations, which work by ensuring access to food (WFD), providing shelters to people (UNHCR, IOM), securing fresh water (UNEP), and developing healthcare (WHO). Moreover, investing in recycling materials and public transport are extremely important actions that must be taken in order to fight global warming. Furthermore, the delegation would like to highlight that providing financial support or aid in any other form to the LDCs is significantly important at a time when people are leaving their countries to escape poverty, caused by the climate disruption consequences. Finally, the Republic of Burundi agrees with the majority of other countries that fighting environmental degradation and reducing global greenhouse gas emissions are crucially important actions that should be taken in order to save not only the environment and people but the whole planet. A failure to defeat the problem will possibly result in a world famine, and as one of the Least Developed Countries of the world, we can ensure that this is an extremely serious problem.<sup>1</sup>

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Third national communication on climate change:

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Burundi%20TNC%20executive%20summary.pdf>

15.11.2024 Fighting Climate Change in Burundi

<https://www.unclearn.org/stories/fighting-climate-change-in-burundi-a-path-of-dedication-and-awareness-raising/>

26.05.2024 Burundi's fishers and farmers adapt to climate crisis, proving there is a solution to fight climate change

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/burundis-fishers-and-farmers-adapt-climate-crisis#:~:text=Temperatures%20are%20expected%20to%20rise, safe%20water%20across%20the%20country.>

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Government of Burundi, *TNCC Executive Summary*. (2019). <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Burundi%20TNC%20executive%20summary.pdf>