

**Delegation from the Kingdom of Spain**  
**Position Paper for the General Assembly**

The topic before the General Assembly (GA) is Addressing Climate Change and Ensuring Protection for Persons Displaced Due to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change. The Kingdom of Spain recognises that climate change represents one of the most significant global challenges of the twenty-first century, with profound implications for human security, sustainable development, and international stability. Spain emphasises the need for strengthened multilateral cooperation to address the growing number of people displaced by climate impacts and to ensure that their rights and dignity are protected.

**I. Addressing Climate Change and Ensuring Protection for Persons Displaced Due to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change**

Climate change has significantly increased the frequency and severity of natural hazards, such as droughts, floods, heatwaves, storms and rising sea levels. These hazards contribute to both sudden-onset and slow onset displacement. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 32 million people were displaced by weather-related disasters in 2022 alone, highlighting the increasing impact of climate hazards on global mobility. Long-term projections reinforce this trend. The World Bank's Groundswell analysis estimates that up to 216 million people could be internally displaced by 2050 due to climate-related impacts across six world regions. Climate-induced mobility is increasingly interacting with food insecurity, water scarcity, poverty and conflict dynamics, thereby exacerbating instability in vulnerable areas. Spain, a Mediterranean country, experiences prolonged droughts, rising temperatures, wildfires, desertification, and coastal erosion, which illustrate how environmental degradation directly affects livelihoods and human mobility. These regional and global developments highlight the need for a coordinated, long-term approach combining immediate humanitarian protection with structural measures that address the underlying causes of climate-induced displacement.

Spain has developed an extensive national, regional and international framework to address the causes and consequences of climate-induced displacement. Domestically, the Climate Change and Energy Transition Law seeks to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 by promoting renewable energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and enhancing sustainable mobility. The Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan and the National Adaptation Plan support these objectives by strengthening climate risk assessments, improving water governance, enhancing biodiversity protection, and expanding early warning systems. Spain also recognises the importance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as improved disaster risk governance and preparedness directly reduce the likelihood of displacement. At the regional level, Spain is contributing to the implementation of the European Green Deal, thereby advancing the European Union's climate objectives and global resilience efforts. Spain participates in EU-supported programmes focusing on adaptation and capacity building, particularly in regions severely affected by the impacts of climate change. Through the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, Spain provides support for climate adaptation, disaster preparedness, sustainable agriculture, food security, and infrastructure resilience in the Sahel region, North Africa, Latin America, and Small Island Developing States. These initiatives help partner countries to reduce vulnerability and lower displacement risks. Spain collaborates closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration to reinforce protection frameworks for individuals displaced by climate impacts. This includes providing support for planned relocation, establishing legal identity mechanisms, and assisting host communities. In line with international human rights law, Spain believes that climate-displaced persons should have access to essential services, legal identity, temporary residency where appropriate, and protection from discrimination. Spain recognises the importance of several major United Nations frameworks for reducing climate-induced displacement. These include the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The country aligns its efforts with United Nations General Assembly resolutions A/RES/79/140 and A/RES/79/156, which emphasise the need for strengthened institutional capacities, improved preventive strategies, and better protection mechanisms. However, Spain acknowledges that the 1951 Refugee Convention does not explicitly address climate-related displacement. Instead of amending this treaty, Spain is in favour of developing complementary international protection standards, potentially in the form of non-binding guidelines or an optional protocol, to clarify rights, procedures and responsibilities. Spain believes that protection should apply to sudden-onset events such as floods and storms, as well as slow-onset processes such as droughts, sea level rise and desertification.

The Kingdom of Spain reaffirms its commitment to strengthening the international response to climate induced displacement by taking coordinated, evidence based and rights focused action. The country encourages all Member States to adopt integrated national strategies that link climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, migration governance and sustainable development. The country also supports the creation of a United Nations General Assembly-mandated mechanism dedicated to climate related mobility, with the aim of improving global data collection, harmonising risk assessments and enhancing cooperation between the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Spain also proposes establishing regional centres for climate mobility in heavily affected regions. These centres would enable governments to access technical expertise, develop planned relocation strategies, strengthen early warning systems, and support host communities. Spain considers predictable and adequate financing to be essential for addressing climate induced displacement. It therefore supports increased contributions to the Loss and Damage Fund, the establishment of a dedicated financing window for climate displacement within the Green Climate Fund, and expanded financing through the European Union's external action instruments under the EU Global Gateway. Spain also recognises the value of innovative financing tools, such as climate risk insurance, resilience bonds and public-private partnerships, in supporting long term adaptation and infrastructure development. Finally, Spain supports the development of coherent international guidance on the rights and protection of climate displaced persons. This guidance should emphasise dignity, access to essential services, non discrimination and fair responsibility sharing among states. Member States should retain the primary authority to determine whether an individual qualifies for protection under a climate displacement framework, while applying harmonised international standards and drawing on the technical expertise of relevant United Nations agencies. Spain is committed to collaborating with all Member States to enhance global governance, tackle the underlying causes of climate-induced displacement and guarantee that impacted communities receive the necessary protection and assistance to establish stable and sustainable futures.