



Committee: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Delegation: Kingdom of Belgium

Topic: Addressing climate change and ensuring protecting for persons displaced due to adverse effects of climate change

The Kingdom of Belgium recognizes that the climate crisis is rather a climate emergency due to its cascading effects: disrupting governance, public health and global stability. Our foreign policy and resolve are built upon commitment to multilateralism, the protection of human rights, and sustainable development; addressing climate change and ensuring protection for displaced persons will be treated in the same manner.

Climate-induced displacement has disproportionately affected fragile communities, particularly across the Global South and among the small island nations of the Pacific. The global reaction must require shared action, as no one nation can address it alone. The delegation argues that the overlapping pressures of climate change and displacement require a dual approach; increased burden sharing and the creation of a legal framework for climate refugees, recognizing and defining the term.¹

Domestically, we have not been immune to climate change, frequent floods in the Wallonia region caused the death of 243 people in 2021 and there are currently 16,300 climate induced displaced peoples in or outside our national borders.² In response the Kingdom of Belgium is committed to key climate policies such as the Paris Agreement and seek to ensure that COP30 is an advancement to its effectiveness. The goal is to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050, from 2005 to 2023, the country has reduced its emissions by roughly 29.3% while nearly 51% of national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) funds were designated to support green transition.³

Internationally, the Kingdom of Belgium supports climate refugees by allocating visas and temporary protection measures -per situation. We are proud supporters of UNHCR and IOM's

¹ European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), The Concept of 'Climate Refugee': Towards a Possible Definition, by Joanna Apap with Sami James Harju (PE 698.753, October 2023), URL: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/698753/EPRS_BRI\(2021\)698753_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/698753/EPRS_BRI(2021)698753_EN.pdf)

² ibid; Othering & Belonging Institute (OBI), Belgium | Country Profile (Climate Displacement and Resilience Database, 2023), URL: <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/climatedisplacement/country-profiles/belgium>

³ European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), Belgium's Climate Action Strategy, by Henrique Morgado Simões and Gregor Erbach, (PE 767.175, December 2024), URL: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI\(2024\)767175](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI(2024)767175)

missions in hotspots.⁴ 220 million people have fled their homes in the last decade, with 90 million currently living in high-to-extreme countries on the climate risk scale. Yet the fragile states that host most of these populations receive only \$2.1 per person each year in adaptation funding, which is insufficient.⁵ In light of the Kingdom of Belgium's new migration policies to further protect our borders and decrease irregular arrivals, the delegation understands it is necessary for the creation of an international framework to protect legal pathways and to continue the support of climate change reduction policies.⁶

At the UNGA78 former PM Alexander De Croo stated, "It's vital to win the fight against climate change, since it is the single biggest disruptor in our society today... partnerships are the answer".⁷ The Government of Belgium holds that the international community must craft a framework capable of both recognizing and safeguarding displaced persons due to climate change. The 1951 Refugee Convention does not account for climate-displacement nor IDPs. This stance is reinforced by the UNHCR's "*No Escape*" report and the Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/59/L.15, both underlining the necessity of long-term remedies, multilateralism and human right protection.⁸

The Kingdom of Belgium aligns with the EU bloc, backs Brazil's leadership of COP30 and supports cooperation with the African Union and other partners with the objective of climate justice through increased contributions to international climate mechanisms such as burden sharing or climate funds to ensure protection for the struggling states.

Within the General Assembly's chambers the Kingdom of Belgium is intent on negotiating a framework that safeguards climate-displaced persons, discussing a joint agreed burden sharing objective and ultimately setting up the proposed financial channels into a concrete action plan.

⁴ European Migration Network (EMN), Displacement and Migration Related to Disasters, Climate Change and Environmental Degradation (May 2023), URL:https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-05/EMN_Inform_climate_related_migration_final_May2023_090523.pdf

⁵ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Recommendations for the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (January–June 2024) (December 2023), URL: <https://www.unhcr.org/media/no-escape-frontlines-climate-change-conflict-and-forced-displacement>

⁶ InfoMigrants, Belgium: New government to implement strictest migration policy ever (3 February 2025), URL: <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/62655/belgium-new-government-to-implement-strictest-migratio-policy-ever>

⁷ Kingdom of Belgium, Speech by Prime Minister Alexander De Croo at the United Nations (2023), URL: <https://gadebate.un.org/en/78/belgium>

⁸ United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC), Mandate of Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (A/HRC/59/L.15, 2 July 2025), URL: <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/59/L.15>