



General Assembly

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Agenda item 1

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 13 December 2006

80/001. Protocol to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees on the Rights of Climate-Displaced Persons

The General Assembly,

Recognising the urgent need to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international Protocol to promote and protect the rights and dignity of climate-displaced persons, based on a holistic approach in the work done in the fields of social development, human rights, and non-discrimination,

Welcoming the valuable contributions made by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions to the drafting of this Protocol,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the work done by all involved parties in the drafting of this Protocol;
2. *Adopts* the Protocol to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees on the Rights of Climate-Displaced Persons annexed to the present resolution, which shall be open for signature at United Nations Headquarters in New York as of 15 December 2025;
3. *Calls upon* States to consider signing and ratifying the Protocol as a matter of priority, and expresses the hope that they will enter into force at an early date;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the staff and facilities necessary for the effective performance of the functions of the Conference of States Parties and the Committee under the Protocol after the entry into force of the Protocol, as well as for the dissemination of information on the Protocol;
5. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to undertake efforts to disseminate information on the Protocol to promote their understanding;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session a report on the status of the Protocol and the implementation of the present resolution, under a sub-item entitled “Protocol on the Climate-Displaced Persons”.

*80th plenary meeting 30
November 2025*

Annex I Second Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees

The States Parties to the present Optional Protocol,

- (a) *Recalling* the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, which recognize the inherent dignity and worth and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world,
- (b) *Recognizing* that the United Nations, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights, has proclaimed and agreed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind,
- (c) *Reaffirming* the universality, indivisibility, interdependence, and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,
- (d) *Recalling* the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Protocol on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Protocol on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Protocol on the Rights of the Child, and the International Protocol on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,
- (e) *Further Recalling* the United Nations Framework Protocol on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement, and all other decisions taken at the different Conferences of Parties,
- (f) *Reaffirming* that the effects of climate change are not limited by political borders,
- (g) *Emphasizing* the importance of international cooperation in addressing the adverse effects of global warming,
- (h) *Recognizing* that the obligations of states towards addressing the adverse effects of climate change are obligations *erga omnes*,
- (i) *Recognizing further* the great strides of the international community in addressing these effects already taken, and *encouraging* additional measures to be implemented,
- (j) *Recognizing* the great progress already made by different countries in,
- (k) *Concerned* that, despite these great strides, not enough has been done to guarantee a safe and sustainable life for all people,
- (l) *Concerned* that human activities have been substantially increasing the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, that these increases enhance the natural greenhouse effect, and that this has and further will result in an additional warming of the Earth's surface and atmosphere and has and further may adversely affect natural ecosystems and humankind,
- (m) *Recognizing* the importance of international cooperation to prevent displacement, ensure safe living conditions, and provide new homes to communities disappearing due to climate change,
- (n) *Recognizing* that different countries have different capabilities in accepting climate-displaced people,
- (o) *Further Recognizing* that many of the countries facing the brunt of the adverse effects of climate change are those that have historically provided the least greenhouse gas emissions,

- (p) *Highlighting* the fact that the majority of climate displaced persons live in conditions of poverty, and in this regard recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty on climate displaced persons,
- (q) *Bearing in mind* that conditions of peace and security based on full respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and observance of applicable human rights instruments are indispensable for the full protection of climate-displaced persons, in particular during armed conflicts and foreign occupation,
- (r) *Recognizing* the importance of accessibility to the physical, social, economic and cultural environment, to health and education and to information and communication, in enabling climate-displaced to fully enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms,
- (s) *Realizing* that the individual, having duties to other individuals and to the community to which he or she belongs, is under a responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of the rights recognized in the International Bill of Human Rights,
- (t) *Convinced* that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State, and that climate-displaced persons and their family members should receive the necessary protection together,
- (u) *Convinced* that a comprehensive and integral international Protocol to promote and protect the rights and dignity of climate-displaced persons will make a significant contribution to redressing the profound disadvantage of climate-displaced persons and promote their participation in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural spheres with equal opportunities, in both developing and developed countries,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1 Purpose

The purpose of the present Protocol is to address climate displacement and promote, protect, and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons displaced by climate change, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Article 2 Definitions

For the purposes of the present Protocol:

- A. The term "refugee" shall, as defined by the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees done at Geneva on 28 July 1951 and amended by the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees done at New York on 16 December 1966, shall hereby be expanded to also include the following text:

“A. For the purposes of the present Protocol, the term “refugee” shall apply to any person who:

/.../

- (3)
- (4) Were inhabitants of a country whose land has disappeared due to the effects of climate change, and their government has not made any special agreements for the relocation of its people.”

- (5) Has lived on land that qualifies as uninhabitable by the criteria stated in Article 2 (B)

B. An area shall be considered uninhabitable by all member states if it fails to provide any of these:

- (1) Safe drinking water and adequate food necessary for survival, neither by internal nor external resources
- (2) Land within its borders where the citizens of that state can resume living and have access to the resources necessary for survival, as mentioned in Article 2 (A)(3)(a)(I).

Article 3 General principles

The principles of the present Protocol shall be:

- (a) Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy, including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
- (b) Non-discrimination;
- (c) Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- (d) Respect for difference and acceptance of climate-displaced persons as part of human diversity and humanity;
- (e) Accessibility;
- (f) Equality between men and women;

Article 4 General obligations

1. States Parties undertake to ensure and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons displaced by the climate without discrimination of any kind, unless explicitly described in this Protocol. To this end, States Parties undertake:

- (a) To adopt all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Protocol;
- (b) To take into account the protection and promotion of the human rights of persons displaced by climate change in all policies and programmes;
- (c) To refrain from engaging in any act or practice that is inconsistent with the present Protocol and to ensure that public authorities and institutions act in conformity with the present Protocol;
- (d) To undertake or promote research and development of, and to promote the availability and use of new technologies, that will mitigate and help adapt to climate displacement, giving priority to technologies at an affordable cost;

2. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, each State Party undertakes to take measures to the maximum of its available resources and, where needed, within the

framework of international cooperation, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of these rights, without prejudice to those obligations contained in the present Protocol that are immediately applicable according to international law.

3. Nothing in the present Protocol shall affect any provisions which are more conducive to the realization of the rights of persons displaced by the climate and which may be contained in the law of a State Party or international law in force for that State. There shall be no restriction upon or derogation from any of the human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized or existing in any State Party to the present Protocol pursuant to law, Protocols, regulation or custom on the pretext that the present Protocol does not recognize such rights or freedoms or that it recognizes them to a lesser extent.

4. The provisions of the present Protocol shall extend to all parts of federal States without any limitations or exceptions.

,Article 5 Committee on the Rights of Climate Displaced Persons

1. There shall be established a Committee on the Rights of Climate Displaced Persons (hereafter referred to as “the Committee”), which shall carry out the functions hereinafter provided.
2. The Committee shall consist, at the time of entry into force of the present Protocol, of fourteen experts. After an additional fifty ratifications or accessions to the Protocol, the membership of the Committee shall increase by members, attaining a maximum number of twenty-one members.
3. The members of the Committee shall serve in their personal capacity and shall be of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field covered by the present Protocol. When nominating their candidates, States Parties are invited to give due consideration to the provision set out in article 4, paragraph 3, of the present Protocol.
4. The members of the Committee shall be elected by States Parties, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution, representation of the different forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation, and participation of experts.
5. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by the States Parties from among their nationals at meetings of the Conference of States Parties. At those meetings, for which two thirds of States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.
6. The initial election shall be held no later than six months after the date of entry into force of the present Protocol. At least four months before the date of each election, the High Commissioner for Refugees of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties inviting them to submit the nominations within two months. The the High Commissioner for Refugees shall subsequently prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the State Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties to the present Protocol.
7. The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election once. However, the term of ten of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election, the names of these six members shall be chosen by lot by the chairperson of the meeting referred to in paragraph 5 of this article.

8. The election of the eleven additional members of the Committee shall be held on the occasion of regular elections, in accordance with the relevant provisions of this article.
9. If a member of the Committee dies or resigns or declares that for any other cause she or he can no longer perform her or his duties, the State Party which nominated the member shall appoint another expert possessing the qualifications and meeting the requirements set out in the relevant provisions of this article, to serve for the remainder of the term.
10. The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure.
11. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the present Protocol, and shall convene its initial meeting.
12. With the approval of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the members of the Committee established under the present Protocol shall receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide, having regard to the importance of the Committee's responsibilities.
13. The members of the Committee shall be entitled to the facilities, privileges and immunities of experts on mission for the United Nations as laid down in the relevant sections of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

The committee has the authority to overlook the usage of funds meant for aid of internally displaced people and climate displaced people within member states. In the case of funds being misused the committee has the right to overtake the management of funding and activate a UN mission ensuring the proper use of funding.

Article 6 Reports to the committee

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to submit reports on the measures they have adopted which give effect to the rights recognized herein and on the progress made in the enjoyment of those rights:
 - (a) Within one year of the entry into force of the present Covenant for the States Parties concerned;
 - (b) Thereafter whenever the Committee so requests
2. Creates a UN task force in each States Party to the present Protocol in order to enhance national data gathering through the means of:
 - (a) Negotiating between the relevant parties on the extent of assistance provided by the taskforces,
 - (b) Focusing on the gathering of data on the number of persons displaced due to the adverse effects of climate change with further topics requestable by the given Member State;
3. All reports shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall transmit them to the Committee for consideration. Reports shall indicate the factors and difficulties, if any, affecting the implementation of the present Covenant.

Article 7 Individual complaints

1. A State Party to the present Protocol recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from individuals subject to its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation by that State Party of any of the rights set forth in the Covenant. No communication shall be received by the Committee if it concerns a State Party to the Covenant which is not a Party to the present Protocol.
2. Subject to the provisions of article 1, individuals who claim that any of their rights enumerated in the Covenant have been violated and who have exhausted all available domestic remedies may submit a written communication to the Committee for consideration.
3. The Committee shall consider inadmissible any communication under the present Protocol which is anonymous, or which it considers to be an abuse of the right of submission of such communications or to be incompatible with the provisions of the Protocol.

Article 8 Cooperation between States Parties and the Committee

1. Each State Party shall cooperate with the Committee and assist its members in the fulfilment of their mandate.
2. In its relationship with States Parties, the Committee shall give due consideration to ways and means of enhancing national capacities for the implementation of the present Protocol, including through international cooperation.

Article 9 Relationship of the Committee with other bodies

In order to foster the effective implementation of the present Protocol and to encourage international cooperation in the field covered by the present Protocol:

- (a) The specialized agencies and other United Nations organs shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the present Protocol as fall within the scope of their mandate. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies and other competent bodies as it may consider appropriate to provide expert advice on the implementation of the Protocol in areas falling within the scope of their respective mandates. The Committee may invite specialized agencies and other United Nations organs to submit reports on the implementation of the Protocol in areas falling within the scope of their activities;
- (b) The Committee, as it discharges its mandate, shall consult, as appropriate, other relevant bodies instituted by international human rights treaties, with a view to ensuring the consistency of their respective reporting guidelines, suggestions and general recommendations, and avoiding duplication and overlap in the performance of their functions.

Article 10 Report of the Committee

The Committee shall report annually to the General Assembly, to the High Commissioner for Refugees, and to the Human Rights Council, on its activities, and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States Parties. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States Parties.

Article 11 Conference of States Parties

1. The States Parties shall meet regularly in a Conference of States Parties in order to consider any matter with regard to the implementation of the present Protocol.
2. The Conference of the Parties shall be organised under the auspices of the High Commissioner for Refugees.
3. No later than six months after the entry into force of the present Protocol, the Conference of States Parties shall be convened by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Refugees of the United Nations. The subsequent meetings shall be convened by the High Commissioner for Refugees biennially or upon the decision of the Conference of States Parties.

New Article 12 (moves the numbers of all subsequent articles)

Creates a special fund overlooked and managed by the UNHCR and the UNFCCC which:

- (a) Shall establish a joint council of experts allocating the funds in a manner to ensure that the assistance arrives to the most urgently needed Member States and territories,
- (b) Shall further establish a sub-organization within the Council to ensure the transparent allocations of the fund after it has been provided to the given Member State,
- (c) Allowing donor UN Member States to provide the basis of the fund even if they are not a States Party to the protocol

Article 12 Depositary

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the depositary of the present Protocol.

Article 13 Signature

The present Protocol shall be open for signature by all States and by regional integration organizations at United Nations Headquarters in New York as of 15 December 2025.

Article 14 Consent to be bound

The present Protocol shall be subject to ratification by signatory States and to formal confirmation by signatory regional integration organizations. It shall be open for accession by any State or regional integration organization which has not signed the Protocol.

Article 15 Regional integration organizations

1. “Regional integration organization” shall mean an organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region, to which its member States have transferred competence in respect of matters governed by the present Protocol. Such organizations shall declare, in their instruments of formal confirmation or accession, the extent of their competence with respect to matters governed by the present Protocol. Subsequently, they shall inform the depositary of any substantial modification in the extent of their competence.
2. References to “States Parties” in the present Protocol shall apply to such organizations within the limits of their competence.

3. For the purposes of article 45, paragraph 1, and article 47, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the present Protocol, any instrument deposited by a regional integration organization shall not be counted.

4. Regional integration organizations, in matters within their competence, may exercise their right to vote in the Conference of States Parties, with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to the present Protocol. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

Article 16 Entry into force

1. The present Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

2. For each State or regional integration organization ratifying, formally confirming or acceding to the present Protocol after the deposit of the twentieth such instrument, the Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its own such instrument.

Article 17 Reservations

1. Reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Protocol shall not be permitted.

2. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time.

Article 18 Amendments

1. After adoption, any State Party may propose an amendment to the present Protocol and submit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall communicate any proposed amendments to States Parties, with a request to be notified whether they favour a conference of States Parties for the purpose of considering and deciding upon the proposals. In the event that, within four months from the date of such communication, at least one third of the States Parties favour such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of two thirds of the States Parties present and voting shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly of the United Nations for approval and thereafter to all States Parties for acceptance.

2. An amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of acceptance deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States Parties at the date of adoption of the amendment. Thereafter, the amendment shall enter into force for any State Party on the thirtieth day following the deposit of its own instrument of acceptance. An amendment shall be binding only on those States Parties which have accepted it.

Article 19 Denunciation

A State Party may denounce the present Protocol by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The denunciation shall become effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

Article 20 Accessible format

The text of the present Protocol shall be made available in accessible formats.

Article 21 Authentic texts

The Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of the present protocol shall be equally authentic.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Protocol.