

Committee: General Assembly

Delegation: Kingdom of the Netherlands

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



POSITION PAPER-GENERAL ASSEMBLY-KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

The threat that climate change poses to all living organisms on the Earth is more serious than it has ever been. Intense precipitation, droughts, heatwaves, and wildfires occur worldwide with increasing frequency. The Minister of Climate and Green Growth, Sophie Herman, stated the following at the COP29 conference in Baku. “If we want to turn the tide on climate change, we have to stand together.”¹ This quote adequately sums up the approach the Kingdom of the Netherlands is taking to combat climate change and ensure protection for those who were displaced due to the adverse effects of climate change. Climate change affects every nation, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands is no exception. The Netherlands has suffered from extreme precipitation, which caused urban flooding and waterlogging, putting financial strains on the country. For instance, the 2021 floods were estimated to have cost 1.8 billion euros and displaced approximately 51.000 people. Drought also hit the country, causing major wildfires in 2020, displacing up to 4000 people and costing 2.7 million euros.²

The Kingdom of the Netherlands has strong national policies regarding climate change. Its climate action strategy provides a strong framework for the mitigation of climate change. It aims to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, have a carbon dioxide-free electricity sector by 2035, and lower the net greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 in comparison to the net GHG emissions in 1990. In the agriculture sector, it aims to reduce nitrogen pollution, as it is currently one of the main environmental issue in the country. These policies are updated every 5 years, as it is required by the Dutch Climate Law. It is the main principle of the government to make every climate policy just, ambitious, and implementable. The current statistics showcase the success of the Netherlands’ well-developed climate policies in mitigating climate change and in achieving climate neutrality. The Kingdom of the Netherlands successfully decreased its net emissions by 32.3% between 2005 and 2023, which is 1.8% above the average EU net emission reduction. It also reduced its emissions per capita by 38% in the same period, and reduced the economy’s carbon intensity by 49%, which is 20% below the EU average. The CCPI (Climate Change Performance Index) named the Netherlands as the second-best performing country, based on its climate policies. The Netherlands allocates more than 50% of its spending to climate action, which is above the required amount. They have allocated 1.36 billion euros into subsidizing investment in renewable energy sources, 694 million euros into offshore wind energy, and 68 million euros in green hydrogen. The country also invests in the transportation sector, aiming for safe, smart, and sustainable mobility, which’s emissions have fallen by 25% since 2005.³ The government focuses on keeping the public

¹ Netherlands, 2024, Nationaal statement Minister van Klimaat en Groene Groei – COP29
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/NETHERLANDS_cop29cmp19cma6_HLS_ENG.pdf

² n.a., n.d., Netherlands, *Climate Crisis, Displacement, and the Right to Stay*,
<https://belonging.berkeley.edu/climatedisplacement/case-studies/netherlands>

³ Erbach, G., Dewulf, N., 2024, The Netherlands’ climate action strategy, *Roadmap to EU climate neutrality-Scrutiny of Member States*,
[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/767176/EPRS_BRI\(2024\)767176_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/767176/EPRS_BRI(2024)767176_EN.pdf)

informed on the topic of climate legislation, through ways such as, but not limited to, climate and energy memorandums, climate and energy outlook, and the Regional Climate Monitor online database. The Dutch people's concern and understanding of climate change significantly aid the government in implementing climate policies, as 66% of them regard climate change as one of the most serious global challenges and expect the government to resolve the issue.⁴

The Netherlands strongly supports the following international agreements. The Paris Agreement, intending to keep “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.”⁵ The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including agreements on GHG emissions. Agreements on climate finance, which financially aids low- and middle-income countries in combating climate change. The Kingdom of the Netherlands is a great contributor to significant international climate funds, for instance, the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environmental Facility. It also established funds such as the Dutch Fund for Climate and Development, which financially assist private initiatives that help other countries build a sustainable future.⁶

The main objective of the Netherlands for this conference is to bring the attending countries together to draft a resolution that is just, ambitious, and implementable. The resolution should emphasize the importance of strengthening and regularly updating the existing climate frameworks, allocating monetary resources to low- and middle-income countries, to ensure that every nation can adequately and efficiently combat climate change and prepare for the possible adverse effects that their country might suffer from, through programs such as, but not limited to, climate-proof agriculture and efficient water usage.⁷

⁴ Erbach, G., Dewulf, N., 2024, The Netherlands' climate action strategy, *Roadmap to EU climate neutrality-Scrutiny of Member States*,

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/767176/EPRS_BRI\(2024\)767176_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/767176/EPRS_BRI(2024)767176_EN.pdf)

⁵ United Nations, n.d., The Paris Agreement, <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

⁶ Government of the Netherlands, n.d., Climate Action in low- and middle-income countries, <https://www.government.nl/topics/development/climate>

⁷ Government of the Netherlands, n.d., Climate Action in low- and middle-income countries, <https://www.government.nl/topics/development/climate>