

BBI MUN'26

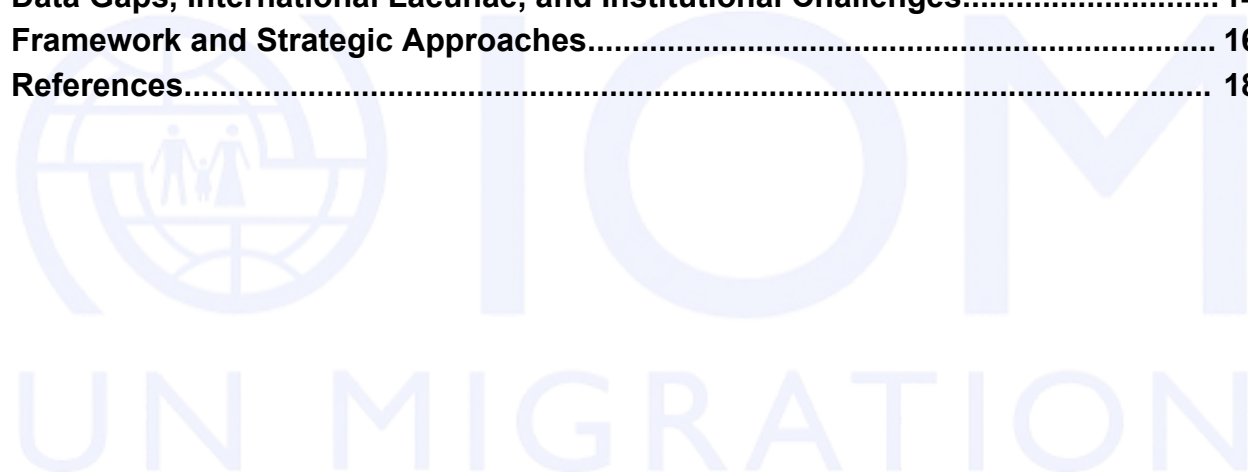
International Organisation for
Migration (IOM)



Agenda: Formulating International Responses to Climate
Migration and Displacement

Table of Contents

Letter from the Executive Board.....	2
Introduction to the Committee.....	3
Defining Key Concepts.....	4
Mandate and Scope of the IOM.....	5
The Protection Gap.....	7
Climate Justice, Responsibility and Finance.....	8
Case Study I: The Australia–Tuvalu Falepili Union.....	9
Case Study II: The Nepal Mountain and Debris Floods.....	11
(Acute Sudden-Onset Shocks).....	11
Case Study III: The Systemic Slow-Onset Decay in the Horn of Africa (Protracted Crises).....	12
Data Gaps, International Lacunae, and Institutional Challenges.....	14
Framework and Strategic Approaches.....	16
References.....	18



Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings Delegates

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the academic stimulation of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) of the Model United Nations Conference, 2026. In this committee, we shall be analyzing a very challenging and pressing subject in today's time which is **"Formulating International Responses to Climate Migration and Displacement with Reference to Current Global Crises"**. Please note that this background guide is in no way meant to be an exhaustive guide on the subject, but merely a stepping stone for the rest of your research, which you are expected to undertake independently. Also, not under any circumstances can the background guide be quoted or used as substantial proof in committee sessions. The more information and understanding you acquire on the agenda, the more you will be able to influence the discussion in committee. With that said, you have to understand your research and be able to use it. Try not to quote things from documents without really understanding what they mean. Instead, understand the content in the documents and form your own arguments based on your understanding and analysis of this content.

We understand that MUN conferences can be an overwhelming experience for delegates but we don't expect you to be perfect. We want to see how you can respect disparities and differences of opinion, work around them, while extending your own foreign policy so that it includes more comprehensive solutions without compromising your own stand and initiate consensus building. New ideas are by their very nature disruptive, but far less disruptive than a world set against the backdrop of climate catastrophe and mass displacement due to which reform is essential in policy making and humanitarian response. Thus, we welcome fresh perspectives for intelligent management of human capital and protection of vulnerable populations which shall shape the direction of this world. We are looking forward to meeting you all at the conference. Don't be afraid to speak up and be heard.

Regards,

Lavisha Bageja (Chairperson)

Aniket Rana (Vice Chairperson)

Vedika Kapoor (Substantive Director)

Introduction to the Committee

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the principal intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, serving 174 member states and operating in more than 170 countries and territories. As a specialized agency of the United Nations, IOM is mandated to promote safe, orderly, and regular migration that benefits migrants, communities and states. In 2025, IOM reached 17.8 million people across the globe, addressing record levels of displacement driven by conflict, disasters, and environmental degradation.

Climate migration represents one of the most pressing challenges facing the international community. With over 82.2 million people internally displaced by the end of 2025, and approximately 22 million new displacements recorded annually due to climate-related disasters since 2010, the scale of climate-induced human mobility is unprecedented. Yet despite these staggering figures, the international legal and institutional frameworks remain fragmented, leaving millions without adequate protection or support.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was founded in 1951 in the aftermath of World War II, when the devastation of Europe had displaced millions of people and created an urgent need for coordinated resettlement and humanitarian action. Originally called the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe, the body evolved into what is today a global leader in migration governance.

The committee's work is rooted in the recognition that migration is not merely a demographic or logistical challenge, but a complex socio-political reality that directly impacts human security, development, and human rights. In this sense, IOM does not view migration as a problem to be "solved," but as a phenomenon to be managed, with equal attention to migrants' dignity and states' security concerns. Its functions span three main domains.

The first, migration management and governance, focuses on ensuring that migration takes place through regulated frameworks that protect migrants' rights while allowing states to set lawful entry and residence criteria. The second, humanitarian assistance, reflects IOM's role in responding to crisis situations, such as conflicts, natural disasters, and sudden mass displacements, where it delivers emergency shelter, health care, and logistical support. The third, return and reintegration, addresses long-term solutions by helping displaced populations either return to their countries of origin under voluntary and safe conditions or integrate into host communities with social and economic support. By addressing both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term governance challenges, IOM provides delegates in this committee with a dynamic space to explore not only the technical aspects of migration but also the ethical and political considerations underlying it.

Defining Key Concepts

Climate Change: A long-term shift in global or regional climate patterns, primarily caused by anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change manifests through warming temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, sea-level rise, and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

Sudden-Onset Events: Rapid-onset climate impacts such as cyclones, floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes that force immediate displacement. These events cause immediate and visible destruction, displacing millions within short timeframes.

Slow-Onset Events: Gradual environmental changes including desertification, salinization, sea-level rise, glacier retreat, and sustained drought. These processes unfold over years or decades, making causation and displacement trajectories harder to identify but creating persistent displacement pressures.

Human Mobility: The broader concept encompassing all forms of human movement, including migration, displacement, and planned relocation. It recognizes that people move for multiple, often interconnected reasons including environmental, economic, social, and political factors.

Forced Displacement: Movement of persons who have been forced or obliged to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of armed conflict, violence, natural disasters, or adverse effects of climate change. Displacement differs from voluntary migration in that affected persons lack agency and often cannot safely return.

Planned Relocation: Organized, government-led or community-based movements of populations away from climate-vulnerable areas to safer locations. Unlike forced displacement, planned relocation involves consultation and consent.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): People forced or obliged to flee their homes but remaining within their country's borders. The vast majority of climate-displaced persons are IDPs.

Climate Refugee: A contested term referring to persons displaced across international borders due to climate change impacts. Unlike legal refugees under the 1951 Convention, climate refugees lack internationally recognized protection status.

Mandate and Scope of the IOM

The IOM's mandate is guided by the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and societies. Its scope has broadened significantly since 2016, when the organization formally became a related agency of the United Nations. This development brought migration firmly into the UN system, recognizing its centrality to global peace, development, and human rights.

The IOM's mandate is multifaceted. It works to facilitate international cooperation on migration issues, bringing together states to develop common strategies and share best practices.

It also provides direct services to migrants, including medical screenings, vocational training, legal advice, and resettlement operations. Another critical element of its mandate is to assist states in policy formulation and capacity building, ensuring that governments are equipped to handle migration flows while adhering to international human rights standards.

Importantly, the IOM's scope extends beyond administrative or technical assistance. It is also tasked with addressing the root causes of migration, which may include poverty, inequality, conflict, or environmental degradation. In this sense, the organization operates not only as a humanitarian actor but also as a development partner, working to integrate migration into national and regional development agendas.

In 2021, IOM launched its 10-year Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (2021-2030). The Strategy operates on three broad objectives: developing solutions for people to move; developing solutions for people on the move; and developing solutions for communities receiving migrants.

IOM operates the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the world's primary data system on displacement and population movements. As of December 2025, the DTM was operational in 76 countries and had assessed 166.3 million people, including 54.9 million internally displaced persons. This system provides humanitarian teams with critical real-time data for 95 percent of humanitarian response plans globally.

The Protection Gap

The most critical challenge in addressing climate migration is the absence of a comprehensive international legal framework. While international law provides robust protections for refugees fleeing war and persecution, climate-displaced persons fall into a legal void, lacking formal recognition and protection.

The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees remains the universally binding instrument defining refugees and their rights. It establishes that a refugee is someone with a well-founded fear of persecution based on five specific grounds: race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

Climate change by itself does not create a separate refugee category, but persons displaced in a climate/ disaster context may qualify for refugee or other international protection depending on the circumstances.

The **Cancún Adaptation Framework**, adopted at UNFCCC COP16 in 2010, was the first international agreement to formally recognize that climate change adaptation requires coordinated global efforts to manage climate-induced displacement, migration, and planned relocation (Paragraph 14(f)). It established institutional mechanisms including the Adaptation Committee and created funding mechanisms like the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to help countries integrate climate adaptation into their development policies. For the IOM committee, the framework is crucial because it bridges historically separate climate and migration governance systems, legitimizes human mobility as an adaptation strategy rather than just an emergency response, and creates financial and institutional pathways to support climate-displaced populations through national development planning.

The Paris Agreement (2015) marks the first time human mobility received explicit recognition in international climate law. The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM), established at COP19, was extended at COP21 to include the Task Force on Displacement (TFD). The TFD was further mandated at COP24 (Katowice, 2018) to work on human mobility broadly. By October 2019, the WIM Executive Committee adopted the TFD's Plan of Action. The current five-year rolling workplan includes strategic workstream (d), focusing on enhancing cooperation on human mobility, including migration, displacement, and planned relocation. However, neither the Paris Agreement nor the WIM creates binding legal protections for climate-displaced persons. These are political frameworks that encourage state action but lack enforcement mechanisms.

The **UNFCCC** establishes the foundational principle that climate action must be guided by equity and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR). Despite this framework,

operationalization has been minimal. The UNFCCC facilitates climate negotiations but does not directly provide protection for displaced persons. IOM has made over forty official submissions to the UNFCCC since 2008 and participated in every Conference of the Parties, yet institutional coordination remains fragmented.

The fundamental protection gap stems from the absence of binding legal instruments specifically addressing climate displacement. International climate law provides political commitments but lacks enforcement mechanisms. Displaced persons have no legal status, no guaranteed rights to assistance, no claim to resettlement, and no forums for accountability when states fail to protect them.

Climate Justice, Responsibility and Finance

Climate displacement raises fundamental justice questions: Who is responsible? Who should pay? How should the costs of climate impacts be distributed among nations with vastly different historical emissions and economic capacities?

The principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), enshrined in Article 3.1 of the UNFCCC, provides the foundational answer. CBDR recognizes that while climate change is a global problem requiring action from all nations, developed countries bear greater responsibility because they have historically emitted the vast majority of cumulative greenhouse gases since industrialization.

On July 23, 2025, the ICJ delivered a historic advisory opinion on 'Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change.' Following a campaign led by the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu, the UN General Assembly had unanimously requested this opinion. An unprecedented 98 states and 13 international organizations participated.

The Loss and Damage Fund

The international community established the Loss and Damage Fund at COP27 (2022) and operationalized it at COP28 (December 2023). The Fund is designed to provide financial assistance to particularly vulnerable countries facing irreversible climate impacts including rising sea levels, desertification, and extreme weather events.

However, the Fund faces significant limitations: (1) As of April 7, 2025, only USD \$768.40 million had been pledged far below estimated loss and damage needs (2) while Article 8 of the Paris Agreement addresses loss and damage, Decision 1/CP.21 states that it does not provide a basis for liability or compensation (3) The Fund can support climate related displacement, relocation and migration, but implementation remains limited (4) financing remains insufficient and uncertain, although grants are prioritised in the fund's initial phase

Beyond this, Article 9 of the Paris Agreement requires developed countries to provide and mobilize climate finance, but it does not itself set the USD 100 billion target. At COP29 in Baku, Parties agreed to mobilize at least USD 300 billion annually by 2035, while working toward USD 1.3 trillion annually by 2035.

The inadequacy of these commitments reflects a fundamental challenge: wealthy nations acknowledge responsibilities in principle but resist providing resources necessary to fulfill them. This finance gap directly translates to inadequate protection and support for climate-displaced persons.

Case Study I: The Australia–Tuvalu Falepili Union

The Australia–Tuvalu Falepili Union Treaty, which entered into full legal force on 28 August 2024, represents a historic milestone in the international system as the first explicit bilateral agreement dealing directly with human mobility, national sovereignty, and state survival in the context of the global climate crisis. This accord shifts the paradigm of environmental displacement from traditional reactive emergency relief to proactive, managed state-sponsored mobility.

Tuvalu, a low-lying Pacific island nation with a permanent resident population of approximately 11,200 citizens, faces severe structural vulnerabilities due to accelerating sea-level rise and increasing cyclone frequency. Its highest geographical point stands a mere five meters above sea level. Under Article 3 of the treaty, titled "Human Mobility with Dignity," Australia established a dedicated, permanent immigration pathway implemented via the Migration Amendment (Australia-Tuvalu Falepili Union Treaty Visa) Regulations 2025. This framework creates a new stream under Australia's permanent residency architecture - the Subclass 192 Visa (Treaty Stream) which allows up to 280 Tuvaluan nationals annually to migrate to Australia. This arrangement grants visa holders immediate access to Australian healthcare infrastructure, domestic education, work authorization, and essential family income support systems upon arrival.

The program officially commenced its intake cycle on 1 May 2025. Domestic demand within the island nation has been massive; the inaugural ballot attracted thousands of registrants, representing a substantial portion of the entire national population looking to secure mobility pathways. As the subsequent ballot opened for the 2026–2027 program year, the full cohort of the initial year's visas had been successfully granted. To preserve the integrity of the arrangement, the regulations mandate strict eligibility filters, requiring applicants to hold a valid Tuvaluan passport, verify lineage through the principle of applicant was born in Tuvalu or has a

parent or grandparent born in Tuvalu, and explicitly exclude individuals who have acquired citizenship through commercial passport-by-investment schemes. Crucially, the scheme relaxes standard permanent residency travel facility limitations and drops strict biometric health criteria, requiring only basic screenings for communicable conditions to prevent the automatic disqualification of applicants with existing disabilities.

The conceptualization of "Human Mobility with Dignity" is marked by the deliberate omission of the phrase "climate refugees" from the formal treaty text. This semantic and legal boundary is utilized by both states to avoid the complex, unresolved definitions of global asylum law while asserting that environmental relocation should remain an orderly, respected choice rather than an administrative mass evacuation that erases indigenous statehood.

However, this lifeline comes at the cost of a profound Geopolitical Sovereign Concession. Under Article 4 of the treaty ("Cooperation for Security and Stability"), Tuvalu conceded significant foreign policy and defence autonomy. The treaty dictates that Tuvalu must reach a "mutual agreement" with Australia before entering into any partnership, arrangement, or engagement with any third-party state or entity on security, defence, cyber-security, or maritime infrastructure-related matters.

This structural compromise has provoked intense domestic and regional debate. Critics label the agreement a neocolonial imposition that weaponizes climate vulnerability to achieve strategic containment, forcing a sovereign nation to trade its diplomatic independence for geographic survival. Conversely, proponents argue it represents a highly pragmatic exercise of state survival that forces a developed, high-emitting neighbour to legally absorb the human costs of global warming. For delegates in this committee, the Falepili Union raises a critical question regarding scalability: while a managed bilateral approach capped at 280 individuals provides a viable adaptation pathway for a micro-state like Tuvalu, it remains highly uncertain how these resource-intensive mechanics can be adapted to fit multi-million-person displacement corridors across continental regions.

Case Study II: The Nepal Mountain and Debris Floods

(Acute Sudden-Onset Shocks)

On 26 August 2026, a catastrophic compound environmental disaster occurred in the Himalayan region when a massive portion of the glacier and rock wall sitting atop the Langtang Lirung peak collapsed. This sudden-onset climate shock triggered an unprecedented cascade of flash floods and hyper-dense debris flows that tore through the trans-boundary river valley shared by Nepal and China.

By mid-September 2026, verification teams from national disaster management agencies confirmed that over 1,400 individuals had lost their lives, with more than 6,150 people remaining missing amid continuous landslides and unstable mud layers. The sudden destruction of key hydroelectric stations, bridges, and agricultural terraces left over 85,000 people displaced internally, with regional reconstruction bills estimated between \$4 billion and \$7 billion.

To manage the scale of this acute displacement, the response rapidly transitioned into a highly coordinated international humanitarian operation. Under the UN Cluster Approach, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) partnered directly with the World Food Programme (WFP) and local authorities to deploy emergency tracking matrices and establish temporary camp coordination sites for the displaced population. Parallel cross-border collaborations were established between Nepalese disaster response units and China's regional emergency services to coordinate downstream debris clearance and restore shared river monitoring networks.

Simultaneously, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched a joint Rapid Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) initiative to fast-track emergency resilience grants. This technical alliance worked in tandem with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) to deploy real-time satellite mapping and early-warning telemetry across the Hindu Kush Himalaya region. These combined international initiatives focus heavily on stabilizing compromised mountain terrain, rebuilding critical infrastructure, and establishing regularized, rights-respecting humanitarian corridors to secure immediate legal protection for the thousands of internally displaced families.

Case Study III: The Systemic Slow-Onset Decay in the Horn of Africa (Protracted Crises)

The Greater Horn of Africa, including Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti, has faced repeated droughts, desertification, land degradation and growing pressure on water and grazing resources. These environmental stresses have affected agriculture and pastoral livelihoods and, when combined with poverty, conflict and political instability, have contributed to displacement and migration. The scale of the challenge has increasingly led governments and international organizations to move beyond short-term humanitarian relief towards regional cooperation, climate adaptation and long-term resilience building.

A major regional response has been the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), established following the devastating 2010–2011 drought. Led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the initiative brings together governments of the region, local communities, international financial institutions, UN agencies and development partners. Partners have included the World Bank, African Development Bank, European Union, USAID, Germany and Sweden. Rather than responding to each drought only after it becomes an emergency, IDDRSI promotes investment in water infrastructure, sustainable land management, livelihood diversification, food security, early-warning systems and cooperation between communities sharing resources across national borders.

Water security has become another important area of international cooperation. In 2022, the World Bank approved an initial US\$385 million for the Horn of Africa Groundwater for Resilience Program, involving Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and IGAD. The programme seeks to improve access to groundwater and strengthen the institutions responsible for sustainably managing shared water resources. Djibouti subsequently joined the programme, and in 2026 the World Bank approved a US\$35 million grant for rural water infrastructure there. These investments illustrate how international assistance is increasingly being directed toward preventing displacement by strengthening communities' ability to withstand future droughts.

International cooperation has also focused directly on refugees, displaced persons and the communities hosting them. The World Bank's Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP) has supported Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda through investments in water and sanitation, healthcare, education, roads, environmental management and livelihood opportunities. By May 2023, the programme reported that approximately 5.5 million people had benefited from improved basic services, while more than 285,000 people had received

livelihood-related business grants or entrepreneurship support. The programme represents an important shift from viewing displacement solely as an emergency-relief issue towards treating it as a long-term development challenge affecting both displaced people and host communities.

Protection is also being extended to people already travelling along dangerous migration corridors. Under the 2025 Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa to Yemen and Southern Africa, coordinated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 48 partner organizations worked across countries including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Yemen. The programme combines emergency assistance with protection against trafficking and exploitation, support for vulnerable migrants, migration-management cooperation and longer-term resilience programmes. IOM works with organizations including UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children, the Danish Refugee Council, IGAD and governmental authorities across the region.

More targeted climate-resilience initiatives are also emerging. In Somalia, for example, the African Development Bank Group, World Food Programme and UNOPS launched the US\$11.8 million Activating Climate-Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods in Somalia (ACALS) programme in 2026. Designed to assist approximately 180,000 people, the programme supports sustainable land and water management, climate-resilient farming and pastoral systems, improved market access and disaster preparedness.

The Horn of Africa therefore demonstrates an important evolution in the international response to slow-onset environmental displacement. Humanitarian food, water and protection assistance remains essential, but increasingly it is being combined with groundwater development, livelihood creation, climate-resilient agriculture, early-warning systems and regional migration cooperation. The central lesson is that slow-onset displacement cannot be addressed only after people have been forced to move. Effective responses must also reduce vulnerability before displacement occurs, strengthen the resilience of communities that remain, protect people during migration, and support both displaced populations and the communities that receive them.

Data Gaps, International Lacunae, and Institutional Challenges

The formulation of cohesive international responses to climate mobility is fundamentally constrained by deep legal deficits, data blind spots, and structural institutional limitations within the global migration architecture.

The Legal Status and Protection Gap

Cross-border climate-displaced individuals currently endure a state of Normative Indeterminacy, they are driven from their homes by undeniable environmental hazards, yet they lack any formalized, binding legal status or protection framework under international law. This legal vacuum stems primarily from the Persecution Anachronism of the 1951 Refugee Convention. The convention defines a refugee strictly as an individual fleeing a well-founded fear of human-driven persecution linked to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a specific social group. Because climate change is a generalized environmental hazard, it lacks a human "persecutor," rendering the international system's primary protection instrument legally inapplicable to environmental mobility.

Furthermore, existing human rights safeguards contain a severe Threshold Gap. In the landmark *Teitiotia v. New Zealand* ruling, the UN Human Rights Committee affirmed that the international law principle of non-refoulement prohibits states from deporting individuals to places where climate change poses an immediate, life-threatening risk to survival. However, the case established an exceptionally high legal threshold for what constitutes an "immediate threat," ruling that generalized environmental degradation did not yet cross that barrier. This creates a severe protection gap: vulnerable people are protected from immediate deportation in theory, but they are denied regularized legal status, temporary work rights, or path-to-citizenship options in practice, leaving them in a state of legal limbo.

Empirical and Diagnostic Data Gaps

Proactive international policy is further hindered by severe diagnostic deficiencies:

- **The Longitudinal Tracking Deficit:** While the IOM's **Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)** successfully logs real-time population movements after highly visible sudden disasters like a hurricane or a flash flood, it lacks the specialized metric indicators required to track slow-onset, step-by-step rural-to-urban climate migration.
- **The Multi-Causality Tracking Error:** Border enforcement agencies lack standardized guidelines to register climate vulnerabilities at entry points. When a displaced farmer crosses an international border due to crop failure, receiving states routinely log the individual as a voluntary "economic migrant," masking the underlying environmental

root causes and stripping the international community of verified data needed to build accurate predictive models.

Structural Funding Obstacles

This operational deficit is reinforced by the institutional design of the **International Organization for Migration**. Because over **97% of the IOM's operating budget relies on voluntary, project-specific donor contributions** from wealthy destination states, the agency lacks centrally programmable funding to deploy long-term climate mobility initiatives independently. Instead, its field projects are structurally bound to the domestic political priorities of donor capitals, which frequently favor externalized migration controls, regional buffer systems, and strict border deterrence over rights-respecting climate adaptation pathways.



Framework and Strategic Approaches

Actionable Institutional Mechanisms

A meaningful way forward requires the committee to move beyond broad, non-binding soft-law rhetoric and focus instead on developing a concrete, highly functional Global Climate Mobility Toolbox. Delegates must recognize that overhauling the 1951 Refugee Convention is a political impossibility in the current global climate. Therefore, the strategic approach must focus on creating a multi-layered framework of flexible, complementary legal and financial options that can be implemented in practice.

The committee should focus its structural proposals across four distinct, actionable pillars:

1. Expanding Regional Customary Frameworks and Hard-Law Conventions

Delegates should explore utilizing and expanding regional legal structures rather than chasing an unachievable universal treaty. By building on the flexible principles of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration framework, which includes individuals fleeing "situations that seriously disturb public order", states can integrate severe environmental disruption into their regional security definitions. This allows neighboring nations to operationalize Complementary Protection Regimes within their existing domestic laws, granting temporary or permanent regularized status to climate-impacted populations without needing to rewrite global refugee treaties.

Crucially, this expanded framework should take direct structural inspiration from the 2009 Kampala Convention (The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa). As the world's first and only legally binding continent-wide treaty addressing internal displacement, the Kampala Convention provides a comprehensive legal blueprint. It mandates that signatory states establish explicit national policies, deploy early-warning disaster response telemetry, and coordinate institutional mechanisms to systematically protect and assist populations displaced by climate hazards or environmental degradation across national corridors.

2. Integrating Climate Mobility into Global Environmental Governance

Strategic frameworks must actively bridge the historical separation between international migration management and global climate change architecture. The structural foundation for this integration rests upon the 2010 Cancún Adaptation Framework, adopted under Paragraph 14(f) of the UNFCCC COP16 outcomes. The Cancún framework represents the first universal multilateral acknowledgment that climate change adaptation requires coordinated global efforts to understand, plan for, and manage climate-induced displacement, migration, and planned relocation. By embedding these provisions into modern state adaptation reporting, the

international community can transition from treating displacement as an isolated emergency to incorporating human mobility directly into national climate adaptation strategies and international green financing pipelines.

3. Operationalizing Managed Retreat and Relocation Treaties

On the strategic and operational front, the international system must proactively support frameworks for Planned Relocation before territories become completely uninhabitable. Using spatial mapping data from the DTM, international bodies must establish standard operating procedures to help highly vulnerable communities relocate safely and collectively. This approach focuses heavily on securing international donor commitments to preserve community cohesion, protect indigenous statehood, and prevent the chaotic, unprotected emergency flights that trigger regional instability.

4. Creating Flexible Immigration Pathways

The strategic toolbox must include blueprints for concrete domestic immigration reforms in destination states. This involves streamlining entry procedures through the introduction of standardized Humanitarian Disaster Visas, expanding regional labor migration quotas specifically for climate-impacted populations, and broadening the use of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) during severe environmental crises. By providing clear, regularized legal pathways, states can effectively protect human dignity while mitigating the rise of irregular, dangerous migration routes controlled by transnational smuggling networks.

Ultimately, the way forward must balance realism and innovation. By grounding proposals in regional customary law, binding institutional duties like the Kampala Convention, foundational mandates like the Cancún Adaptation Framework, and pragmatic financial harmonization, such as connecting the UN Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage directly with IOM's field logistics delegates can craft resolutions that not only alleviate immediate humanitarian suffering but also set the foundation for durable peace, security, and stability across global migration corridors.

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