

**Code:** UNEP/1/3

**Committee:** United Nations Environment Programme

**Topic:** The Disproportionate Impact of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise in Small Island Developing States

1 *The United Nations Environment Programme,*

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3 *Acknowledging* the disproportionate impact of the climate change on the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in  
4 accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 56/645,

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6 *Referring* the UNEP's three steps of approach philosophy: prevention, mitigation, and rehabilitation of  
7 environmental damage to solve the problem,

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9 *Reaffirming* the importance of the short term-goals utilizing carbon monitoring, sustainable landscape management  
10 and other sustainable methods in order to mitigate the destruction due to natural disasters,

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12 *Recognizing* the importance of assisting nations that depend on fossil fuels but lack the financial capacity to  
13 transition their economy and industry towards more renewable energy,

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15 *Observing* the lack of adaptation projects to enhance environmental sustainability globally,

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17 *Fully Aware* of the need to establish research and development capabilities for the growth in sustainable technology  
18 in light of this growing issue,

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20 *Further realizing* the chance that if the SIDS do experience unforeseen natural disasters, a long term goal must be in  
21 place for the security of potential temporarily displaced peoples, according to Climate Change Secretariat  
22 (UNFCCC),

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24 *Recalling* the General Assembly's resolution 3/217 as of 10 December 1948 recognizing the inherent dignity, and  
25 equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family,

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27 *Recalling* the General Assembly's resolution 46/182 as of 19 December 1991 deciding that in the event of an  
28 emergency it is the responsibility of the Member States to provide humanitarian assistance in accordance to the  
29 principles of the humanity, neutrality and impartiality,

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31 *Recognizing* the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) mandate for management of persons displaced due  
32 to environmental events due to climate change,

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34 *Noting* General Assembly resolution 65/159 of December 20, 2010, entitled 'Protection of global climate for present  
35 and future generations of humankind,'

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37 *Recognizing* the lack of resources and capacity of small developing nation and having examined several  
38 possibilities,

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- 40 1. *Encouraging* the communication and cooperation in the community, national, regional and international  
41 level to solve the disproportionate impact of climate change and sea level rise in Small Island developing  
42 states;
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44 2. *Encourages* UNHCR to extend the status of displaced persons to those citizens of SIDS in the event that  
45 member states cannot mitigate the most severe impact of natural disasters;
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47 3. *Calls upon* the UNHCR to recommend all Member States to voluntarily submit a comprehensive annual  
48 report of current asylum intake, asylum capacity and official statement of national policy, in specific  
49 relation to potential displaced peoples;
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51 4. *Adopts* the climate displacement protocol in parallel to the United Nations Framework Convention on  
52 Climate Change (UNFCCC) in order to aid persons affected by natural disasters;

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5. *Encourages* that the guidelines within the planned relocation and UNFCCC document are followed with diligent and efficient measures when at all possible;
  6. *Recognizes* the Climate Change: Small Island Developing States, submitted in 2005 by the Climate Change Secretariat, are suggestions which discuss the possibility of migration of displaced persons due to natural disasters;
  7. *Recommends* all Member States accept those seeking asylum due to natural disasters;
  8. *Calls* for Member States to adopt climate change adaptation projects to enhance environmental sustainability globally with emphasis on adaptation of sustainable energy practices, management of natural resources and maintenance of biodiversity, human and wildlife habitability with consideration of the following areas:
    - a. data gathering by:
      - i. monitoring of sea and shorelines, and
      - ii. consulting of local, indigenous populations in regards to traditional knowledge of environmental sustainability and experience of climate change,
    - b. coastal management technologies such as:
      - i. sustainable innovations such as implementing dams parallel and perpendicular to the coastal line, expanding coastlines, and utilizing adaptable algae to replenish bleached coral reefs,
      - ii. supplying the sea with the sediments to restore beaches,
      - iii. where possible, utilizing sustainable natural resources to adapt to sea level rise, including the utilizing of floating farms to contribute to marine horticulture and mitigating the negative impacts of climate change on coastal communities as exemplified in Bangladesh,
    - c. sustainable land use planning will help increase the area of protected forest zones to conserve biodiverse, vulnerable forested areas,
    - d. health promotion through:
      - i. civil emergency preparedness plans, implemented at all levels of health care systems, that take into account the basic holistic human needs, such as securing food, drinkable water, stable shelter and access to primary and secondary health services, and
      - ii. improvement of the potable water and urban waste water infrastructure coupled with the strengthening of the monitoring capacities;
  9. *Recommends* utilization of risk assessment tools such as HEAT (Hands on Energy Adaptation Toolkit) to identify states' climate vulnerability and adaptation options for energy supply use chains: HEAT is an accessible interactive resource that provides step by step guidelines and analytical framework to help policy makers connect with stakeholder groups;
  10. *Commends* the involvement of the World Bank's Global Environment Facility Program in providing financial assistance for Member States that wish to transform their economy to renewable energy sources to mitigate carbon emissions, but do not have the financial capacity to do so for a rapid transition of their energy sectors;

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11. *Calls upon* the Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability (PROVIA) Steering Committee as the primary expert panel entrusted with determining concrete solutions and allocation of funds for the purpose of augmenting the capacity of developing nations to implement green energy initiatives, in concert with the Climate Adaptation Fund, to come up with solutions to allocate funds and to determine where this money is best utilized to minimize the impact of climate change on SIDS;
12. *Encourages* periodic review of the PROVIA steering committee biannually in order to ensure the continued success in efficient allocation of these funds, with reviews conducted by UNEP commission members who will determine if a steering committee member is found to be unsatisfactory and therefore removed from their position in favor of another UNEP reviewed expert to take their place;
13. *Stresses* the importance of subsidizing renewable sources of energy in replacement of fossil fuels by:
  - a. all Member States considering their potential solutions as an investment that provides both promising returns and a promising future, and
  - b. developed nations promoting research and development on clean energy and new sustainable technologies returns and a promising future.