

FORUM: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

QUESTION OF: Establishing international measures for the protection of Sinking States in the Pacific

SUBMITTED BY: Australia

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Committee,

Acknowledging the importance of implementing international measures to protect sinking states in the Pacific,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Noting with approval that no one shall be left behind as balanced development is implemented throughout the United Nations,

Taking into account the objectives of the 2015 Paris Agreement,

Understanding that climate change poses a real and imminent threat to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) from across the Pacific, which are under immediate threat from rising seas, extreme weather, and a decaying biosphere,

Considering that it is the duty of the world community to guarantee the rights, the sovereignty, and the existence of these fragile states,

Understanding the realities of these states with environmental loss come challenges such as relocation of population, economic distress of the state, and resilience of infrastructure,

Deeply concerned by the alarming sinking states in the Pacific Ocean caused by global warming and pollution across the globe,

1. Commits to full transparency and accountability among countries involved in discussions on sinking states, ensuring inclusive decision-making processes that strengthen trust and foster cooperation by:
 - a) providing access to all documents, official or in progress,
 - b) ensuring that associated countries collaborate appropriately despite any past disagreements by:
 - i. relying on formal and just decision making processes suggested by the UN,
 - ii. fostering open and regular communication,
 - iii. setting clear goals on achievements,
 - c) requesting that all delegations contribute to the advancements of forthcoming projects made for the protection of sinking states by:
 - i. splitting workload and encouraging the creation of conferences arguing possible or undergoing issues,
 - ii. being open to discussing working practices,
 - d) supporting the establishment of a Climate and Disaster Relocation Advisory Panel, which would include delegates from the affected states to formulate guidelines and best practices on voluntary resettlement and other measures of protection of communities who would be bereaved of their homeland, such as but not limited to:
 - i. representatives of climate science,
 - ii. experts on disaster risk, and lawyers in international law;
2. Encourages the gradual reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in all Member States, in order to mitigate the effects of climate change on low lying islands near to sea level, reducing global sea level rise and extreme weather events, through means such as but not limited to:
 - a) limiting the use of non-renewable energy sources and transitioning to renewable ones through:
 - i. subsidizing renewable energy projects (solar, wind, and hydro), which encourages their use and reduces reliance on fossil fuels,

- ii. gradually retiring coal and oil infrastructure while phasing out new fossil fuel projects to accelerate the transition to clean energy,
 - b) implementing laws and regulations, which ensure accountability and measurable progress, such as:
 - i. Carbon Pricing, which will encourage industries to adopt cleaner technologies by incentivizing reductions through cost pressures,
 - ii. setting strict emission limits for industries, vehicles, and power plants, which ensure emissions are reduced at their source,
 - c) endorsing sustainable transportation policies, which promote cleaner, more efficient mobility options, such as but not limited to:
 - i. supporting Electric Vehicle adoption through subsidies,
 - ii. charging infrastructure, and tax incentives,
 - d) requiring biofuels or other low-carbon fuel for vehicles and machinery, while parallelly supporting waste management, which promotes resource recovery and efficiency, through:
 - i. capturing of methane emissions from landfills and wastewater facilities,
 - ii. diverting organic waste from landfills through recycling and composting;
- 3. Recommends the creation of a United Nations (UN) Task Force on Sinking States, consisting of representatives from vulnerable nations, international experts, and donor countries that will be committed in ways such as but not limited to:
 - a) regularly assessing the impacts of climate change on sinking states, so as to develop disaster risk reduction measures,
 - b) developing guidelines for sustainable relocation, land-use planning, and cultural preservation,
 - c) facilitating knowledge-sharing on innovative solutions, such as floating infrastructure and nature-based solutions like mangrove restoration,
 - d) ensuring that member states remain committed to recognizing and upholding the territorial and maritime sovereignty of any and all sinking states;

4. Endorses the commitment of all member states to contribute technologically and scientifically, towards preventing further harm to affected sinking states, by requesting equipment from UN organisations such as Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), including:
 - a) seismic sensors,
 - b) hydro-acoustic sensor,
 - c) advanced software and computers,
 - d) technical training on how to use this software and equipment;

5. Encourages the offer of longer-term resilience and green bonds from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to:
 - a) fund initiatives such as sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, and reforestation, thus addressing immediate climate impacts while directly contributing to economic growth,
 - b) minimize losses from natural disasters and ensure environmental development,
 - c) support evacuated populations financially, while keeping the endangered communities, their local economy and industry running;

6. Advocates for the protection of shorelines of Sinking States, by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through:
 - a) creating reefs or breakwaters to reduce incoming wave energy and the first line of protection from hazards,
 - b) implementing engineered structures to replace or augment the protection from bluffs and dunes that have been destroyed;

7. Proposes the creation of artificial islands, funded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) due to the irreversible damage that climate change has caused so as to:

- a) mediate the impacts of sea level rise with elevation,
- b) ensure the preservation of cultural heritage of the sinking states,
- c) create a place for displaced people due to natural disasters and climate change.

Amendment Form:

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