

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: Afghanistan

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Venezuela

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

Recognizing the need for measures to be taken to reduce risks, adapt to climate change and allocate resources effectively to safeguard nations affected by rising sea levels,

Acknowledging the previous international attempts made to address the issue faced by sinking states, including but not limited to the Kyoto Protocol's emphasis on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the Paris Agreement's commitment to limiting global temperature rise to ensure the survival of these nations,

Emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in providing financial and technical assistance to Pacific Island nations and other at-risk states,

Recognizing the dire and immediate threats posed by climate change and rising sea levels to the vulnerable inhabitants of the Sinking States in the Pacific,

1. Encourages the undertaking of scientific research and continuous monitoring to gain a deeper understanding of the causes of sea-level rise and to develop effective strategies for its prevention and mitigation by:
 - a) requesting the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to produce biennial reports focusing on sea level rise in the Pacific, including factors like tides and coastal erosion,

- b) establishing a Pacific Climate Monitoring Initiative (PCMI) to measure annual water level increases and identify high-risk areas,
 - c) promoting research into innovative climate adaptation technologies, such as artificial islands and floating infrastructure,
 - d) mandating the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to publish yearly reports on water-level changes and their effects on Pacific nations;
2. Urges the establishment of supportive programs to provide assistance to populations affected by sinking states, by:
- a) allocating financial funds to support the long-term recovery and adaptation of impacted communities, focusing on sustainable infrastructure, relocation initiatives and climate-resilient economies,
 - b) encouraging partnerships among governments, international organizations and the private sector to deliver aid efficiently and develop local capacity for disaster risk management and adaptation strategies,
 - c) guaranteeing that vulnerable populations, such as indigenous groups and people that have limited access to resources, are given priority in the allocation of assistance and actively participate in the decision-making processes concerning their recovery and adaptation;
3. Supports the incorporation of comprehensive educational programs and awareness campaigns, in partnership with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), on climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable practices, including:
- a) encouraging the development of curriculum materials on climate change, rising sea levels and practical solutions for adaptation and mitigation,
 - b) promoting international partnerships with organizations, NGOs and governments to offer technical, financial and educational resources for curriculum development and implementation in these states;

4. Calls upon all member states for enhanced collaboration, through international frameworks like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) to:
 - a) address climate originated challenges that effect the states in the Pacific such as:
 - i. melting of the glaciers,
 - ii. rising sea level,
 - b) strengthen early warning systems and disaster response mechanisms in the Pacific region with member state's technical and scientific support,
 - c) transfer sustainable coastal protection and adaptation measures by:
 - i. armoring the shoreline by seawalls, retaining structures, and storm surge barriers,
 - ii. elevating land by sand replenishment, and engineered dunes;
5. Recommends the creation of an adaption program consisting of water management systems in Sinking states that will include:
 - a) the constructions of dams, flood plains and other anti-flood mechanisms in countries at risk,
 - b) the expanded use of water-conserving techniques and rainwater harvesting;
6. Encourages the plantation of salt-tolerant crops, including specialized rice, barley, and mangroves, in vulnerable regions to ensure continued agricultural productivity despite rising sea levels and soil salinization, and further:
 - a) supports the implementation of hydroponic and vertical farming systems to maximize food production in limited spaces and reduce dependency on traditional soil-based agriculture, especially in areas heavily affected by saltwater intrusion,
 - b) recommends providing training and resources for farmers to adopt these innovative agricultural techniques, ensuring the long-term sustainability of food systems in affected communities;

7. Calls for the creation of a multi-faceted "Sinking States Resilience Program," focused on the comprehensive adaptation strategies for vulnerable island nations, which includes:
 - a) organized economical and humanitarian support to the islands by the global community,
 - b) organized scientific effort to research new solutions or expand on the ones at hand
 - c) strongly encourages, the rapid adaptation of measures which aim to save and maintain the natural heritage of sinking states which can be achieved by measures such as but not limited to:
 - i. partnering with the United Nations Educational, Social, Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to digitally archive the cultural heritage, languages, and traditions of Pacific sinking states,
 - ii. providing support and shelter for displaced people through cultural and social integrations programs;

8. Suggests the creation of artificial islands for the inhabitants to lean back on in case of evacuation of the natural islands such as but not limited to:
 - a) floating islands and platforms: engineered floating structures, that remain buoyant on the water could be anchored or mobile, adjusting to sea-level changes, and could host residential, commercial, and agricultural spaces,
 - b) land Reclamation and Artificial Islands: new land is created by filling shallow seas or lagoons with sand, soil, and rock on which artificial islands are then constructed, providing a stable base for homes, infrastructure, and green spaces tailored for permanent habitation.

Amendment Form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/d76QfQGqew>

