
Declaration by Academia within the Framework of COP30

Declaration on the Integral Protection of Environmentally Displaced Persons and Refugees, Other Migrants or Persons in Need of International Protection Affected by Environmental and Climate-Related Factors

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Declaration by Academia within the Framework of COP30 - Construction Process

With the objective of strengthening the formulation of protective responses to the various forms of human mobility induced by climate change, environmental issues, and disasters, as well as to persons impacted by these phenomena, and of reinforcing the role of Academia in such processes, the Research Group "Human Rights and Vulnerabilities" at the Catholic University of Santos (UniSantos) proposed the drafting of the Declaration by Academia for COP30 – officially titled Declaration on the Integral Protection of Environmentally Displaced Persons and Refugees, Other Migrants or Persons in Need of International Protection Affected by Environmental and Climate-Related Factors. The initiative anticipates the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to be held in Belém do Pará, Brazil. For this reason, the document is also titled Declaration by Academia within the Framework of COP30.

The initial proposal was directed to RESAMA (South American Network for Environmental Migrations)[1], and subsequently to expert professors in the field affiliated with institutions hosting the Sergio Vieira de Mello Chair[2] – a partnership between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and universities.

The preparation of the document followed a methodology similar to that used in drafting the Declaration by Academia within the Framework of Cartagena +40 (Declaration on the Integral Protection of Refugees and Other Forcibly Displaced Persons and for the Construction of an Effective Humanitarian Space in Latin America and the Caribbean). This included the creation of a working group to produce the initial draft, collectively authored and shaped by a collaborative division of tasks and continuous openness to critical feedback. The draft will undergo public consultation before being finalised and opened for endorsement by academics, academic institutions, and non-academic organisations.

The working group comprised members of the Research Group "Human Rights and Vulnerabilities," RESAMA, and the Sergio Vieira de Mello Chair at UniSantos, along with expert professors[3].

Given the intensification of climate crises and environmental issues and their unequal impacts on vulnerable populations, alongside contexts marked by structural inequalities and the securitisation and criminalisation of migration, it is urgent to expand and strengthen protection frameworks for environmentally displaced persons, as well as for refugees, other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors. Academia is called upon to intervene critically and constructively in the formulation of lasting, integrated, and intersectional solutions that address the political, legal, and operational challenges of international protection.

[1] In the person of its founder Érika Pires Ramos.

[2] They are: Andrea Pacheco Pacífico (UEPB), Carolina Claro (UnB) and Patrícia Grazziotin Noschang (University of Passo Fundo).

[3] With the participation of Catarine Oliveira Ozores Barroso, Deborah Grajzer, Estela Vieira, Gabriela Mezzanotti, Jade Thomaz Veloso, Luciana Diniz, Marília Papaleo Gagliardi, Ricardo Félix and Samantha Ramos Paixão de Oliveira, and coordination by Liliana Lyra Jubilut and Erika Pires Ramos.

With this Declaration, Academia seeks to: (i) highlight the centrality of protecting people on the move within the frameworks of global climate action; (ii) support positions grounded in scientific evidence; (iii) propose concrete pathways for public policies based on the lived realities of individuals, groups, communities, and affected territories; and (iv) inspire States and other actors to act on the basis of a broader vision committed to human rights, the dignity of displaced populations, and climate justice, reaffirming, within the framework of COP30, the need to build an international protective space that is more just, plural, and effective.

The Declaration by Academia within the Framework of COP30 includes a preamble and 30 recommendations, established by the Working Group based on accumulated knowledge and inspired by previous documents (such as the Declaration by Academia within the Framework of Cartagena +40 and previous efforts regarding mobility, climate change, and disasters), in addition to this narrative section.

The Declaration was originally drafted in Portuguese, with official versions in English and Spanish to ensure accessibility. Preference was given to language that is actionable, comprehensive, and replicable in various contexts, reflecting the document's global ambition. A clear wording aligned with the concept of integral protection was also adopted.

Marília Papaleo Gagliardi and Estela Vieira were responsible for drafting a report on the participatory process behind the Declaration, the initial translations of the document, and the implementation of instruments for public consultation.

On June 13, 2025, during an event hosted by the Sergio Vieira de Mello Chair at UniSantos in celebration of World Refugee Day, the Declaration was presented publicly for the first time in Brazil through remarks delivered by Estela Vieira, reaffirming the role of Academia as a producer of critical knowledge and an agent of normative transformation in the field of international protection.

Subsequently, the document began circulating on 17 June 2025 for feedback from the broader academic community using forms similar to those employed in the Declaration by Academia within the Framework of Cartagena +40.

The contributions received included observations from different national and institutional contexts, covering Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, United States, India, Italy, Panama, United Kingdom, Republic of Guinea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegal, and Solomon Islands[4].

[4] Suggestions submitted by Charles Alexandre Souza Armada, Crispin Ngakani, Daniel Granada, Dulcilene Aparecida Mapelli Rodrigues, Erica Bower, Erika Moranduzzo, Felipe Navarro, GS Gilbert, Joseph Salazar, Julio César de Sá da Rocha, Kate Jastram, Lenin Raghuvanshi, Luís Renato Vedovato, Moussatembedouno Faya Mohamed, Patrícia Nabuco Martuscelli, Phil Orchard, Sara Andreia da Silva Castro, and Tamara Wood. In the end, the observations were systematised and incorporated into the final text by a group composed of Liliana Lyra Jubilut, Patricia Grazziotin Noschang, Erika Pires Ramos, Marília Papaleo Gagliardi, and Estela Vieira.

The final stage of the process involved circulating the text for support and signatures between September 18 and November 6, 2025, allowing both individuals and institutions, academic or otherwise, to formally endorse the text.

The "Direitos Humanos e Vulnerabilidades" Research Group, RESAMA, and the Universidade de Passo Fundo worked on analyzing and systematizing public contributions during the suggestion phase, finalizing the document, and throughout the process of dissemination and mobilization to obtain support.

The signing process resulted in 403 signatures, reaffirming the broad engagement of the academic community and civil society in favor of the Integral Protection of Environmentally Displaced Persons and Refugees, Other Migrants or Persons in Need of International Protection Affected by Environmental and Climate-Related Factors.

Declaration on the Integral Protection of Environmentally Displaced Persons and Refugees, Other Migrants or Persons in Need of International Protection Affected by Environmental and Climate-Related Factors[5]

– Declaration by Academia within the Framework of COP30[6] –

Believing in the **relevant role of Academia in the protection of environmentally displaced persons, refugees [7], other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related issues** through theory, practice, and evidence-based practice; the **strength of collective action**; and the **humanitarian imperative to protect** all human beings, **Academia presents this Declaration within the framework of COP30, highlighting key themes and areas of concern in the pursuit of integral protection for these populations.**

This initiative follows the adoption, in 2014 and 2024, of the Declarations by Academia within the Framework of Cartagena +30 and +40 (Declaration on the Integral Protection of Refugees and Other Forcibly Displaced Persons and for the Construction of an Effective Humanitarian Space in Latin America and the Caribbean), mirrors that process, and draws from its text, reflecting common points.

This Declaration continues to adopt the perspective of seeking integral protection [8], understood as the combination of all the rights held by environmentally displaced persons, refugees, other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related issues, whether they derive from their specific migratory status or their human rights as human beings.

Accordingly, and due the need for national and international protection of **environmentally displaced persons, refugees, other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related issues**, Academia seeks to **contribute to its consolidation and improvement through the adoption of protective standards, principles, and actions**, evidence-based practices, and **measures aimed at building an effective humanitarian space**, by adopting this Declaration based on the following foundations:

[5] The original version of this Declaration is in Portuguese. In case of any doubt or divergence regarding language, the Portuguese text shall serve as the main reference.

[6] Document inspired by and based on the Declaration on the Integral Protection of Refugees and Other Forcibly Displaced Persons and for the Construction of an Effective Humanitarian Space in Latin America and the Caribbean - Declaration of the Academy in the Framework of Cartagena + 40, reproducing recommendations with adaptations to specific contexts.

[7] This document adopts a gender perspective in its language, opting for the use of the expressions “refugee person” and “other forcibly displaced persons.” The word “refugee” will be used only when referring to the technical-legal term.

[8] The concept of integral protection adopted here is that proposed by Liliana Lyra Jubilut and Silvia Menicucci de Oliveira (The refugee population in Brazil: in search of integral protection. *Univ. Rel. Int.*, Brasília, v. 6, n. 2, p. 9-38, Jul./Dec. 2008. DOI:10.5102/URI.V6I2.787), who argues in favor of combining the protection derived from human rights regimes and the protection derived from specific migratory statuses, in order to respect all the rights of people in a situation of mobility.

Recalling the prevalence of the protection of human dignity and human rights, their legal reflexes [9], as frameworks for action;

Emphasizing the congruence of the various strands of protection of the human person (International Human Rights Law, International Refugee Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law) and the various dimensions of human rights (civil, political, social, economic, cultural and of collective ownership), also with environmental and climate issues and in times of climate emergency;

Recognising the importance of advocating for a relational approach in human–nature interactions, which emphasises the interconnectedness of all life forms and systems, and the need to adopt holistic thinking in policy-making and in the protection and management of nature as a complex system essential to the maintenance of life on Earth.

Affirming that climate change is a fact and that it is related to human mobility, given that displacements, whether internal or international, are one of its consequences;

Highlighting that, beyond climate change, other environmental and disaster-related issues also act as triggers for forced displacement.

Affirming that disasters are not natural events, but the result of a combination of environmental threats and contexts of social, institutional and territorial vulnerability, and can even be systemic in nature, where exposure and the inability to prevent and respond adequately amplify the impacts, showing that risks are socially constructed and reflect historical structural inequalities;

Recalling that such phenomena exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities, drive forced displacement, and provoke profound social, economic, territorial, and cultural transformations.

Recognising that environmentally displaced persons and refugees, other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors often belong to historically marginalised communities, including Indigenous peoples, traditional communities, and groups oppressed by caste, who face discrimination at various levels rooted in social, economic, and cultural exclusion; and reaffirming the need to address displacement due to environmental factors through a human rights-based intersectional perspective that actively includes these vulnerable populations in policy, protection, and reparation frameworks;

And recognising the efforts of affected communities, civil society, local authorities, and national and international organisations to respond to these challenges.

[9] Jubilut, Liliana L. Itineraries for the Protection of Minorities and Vulnerable Groups: conceptual challenges and approach strategies. In: Jubilut, Liliana L.; Bahia, Alexandre G. M.; Magalhães, José L. Q. (Org.). *Direito à diferença 1: Aspectos teóricos e conceituais da proteção às minorias e aos grupos vulneráveis*. São Paulo: Saraiva.

Stressing that environmental, climate-related, and disaster-related issues can trigger in displacement, creating the need for protection for environmentally displaced persons [10], but also impact people who are already in a situation of mobility and/or displacement (such as refugees and other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related issues).

Recalling that displacements linked to climate, environmental, and disaster-related issues must be understood as a necessity and/or a survival strategy.

Highlighting the significant increase in the number of environmentally displaced persons, refugees, other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related issues, including the following figures:

- 3.3 to 3.6 billion people living in contexts vulnerable to climate change (IPCC) [11];
- Three-quarters of forcibly displaced persons live in countries with high to extreme exposure to climate hazards (UNHCR) [12];
- 40% of the world's refugees and 70% of internally displaced persons are in countries highly vulnerable to climate impacts (UNHCR) [13];
- 45.8 million persons were internally displaced by disasters in 2024, with nearly 30 countries and territories reporting record levels of disaster displacement in 2024 (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre) [14].

Highlighting the need to advance the protection of environmentally displaced persons, as well as of refugees and other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related issues, at national, regional, and international levels, both individually and collectively.

[10] This Declaration adopts the term “environmentally displaced persons” in order to embrace the broadest possible conception, with respect to gender issues and from a protective perspective, and without settling the terminological debates on the subject. These people are also referred to (in doctrine and practical documents) as “environmental refugees”, “climate refugees”, “climate refugees”, “eco-refugees”, “environmental migrants” and “climate migrants”, among others. All these people, who are displaced by climate or environmental triggers, regardless of their legal status, are embraced by this Declaration.

[11] According to . <<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/resources/spm-headline-statements/>>. Accessed June 2025.

[12] According to <<https://www.unhcr.org/publications/no-escape-frontlines-climate-change-conflict-and-forced-displacement#:~:text=3%20in%204%20forcibly%20displaced,exposure%20to%20climate%2Drelated%20hazards.&text=For%20the%20last%2010%20years%2C%20weather%2Drelated%20di>>. Accessed June 2025.

[13] As. <www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/6242ea7c4.pdf>. Accessed June 2025.

[14] As per <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1163176?mc_cid=77f5455c2b&mc_eid=84714ec347>; <https://www.euronews.com/green/2025/05/15/where-conflict-poverty-and-climate-collide-number-of-internally-displaced-people-tops-80-m?mc_cid=77f5455c2b&mc_eid=84714ec347> and <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2025/?utm_source=IOMPRESS+External+Mailing+List+2022&utm_campaign=1126fa132f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_05_13_06_25_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6558f95a63-396135584>. Accessed June 2025.

Recalling the centrality of human dignity and the indivisibility of human rights in the face of the contemporary challenges posed by climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters, whether caused by human activity or not.

Considering that human mobility in the context of climate change is a complex and multifactorial reality, requiring responses grounded in integral protection and interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral, and intersectional approaches.

Recalling the ethical and legal imperative of non-discrimination, international solidarity, and the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, which must be applied in global migration governance, particularly with regard to human displacement triggered by environmental and climate-related factors.

Recognising the relevant role of Academia in the production of evidence-based knowledge, particularly on the themes of human rights, environment, climate change, and forced displacement.

Considering the fundamental role of Academia in the conceptual development and dissemination of knowledge regarding displacement due to environmental causes or the environmental impacts on refugees and other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related issues.

Recording the academic actions and initiatives on this topic, whether focused on normative dimensions (e.g. the Declaration on International Protection in the context of Disasters and Climate Change by the Refugee Law Initiative) or practical tools (e.g. the International Protection for People Displaced across Borders in the context of Climate Change and Disasters: A Practical Toolkit developed by the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, University of New South Wales; the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, University of California College of the Law, San Francisco; and the School of Law and Human Rights Centre, University of Essex, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)).

Recalling the emphasis given to the theme of environmentally displaced persons and their protection in the 2014 and 2024 Academia Declarations within the framework of the Cartagena Declaration review process.

Celebrating the inclusion of the issue of environmentally displaced persons and their protection in the final 2024 document of the Cartagena Declaration review process (Chile Declaration and Plan of Action – A Framework for Regional Cooperation and Solidarity to Strengthen Protection and Inclusive Solutions for Refugees, Displaced and Stateless Persons, and the Implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees in Latin America and the Caribbean).

Recalling and commending the efforts for the adoption, in 2027, of a global treaty on the protection of persons in the event of disasters^[1], and reinforcing the need to place people and their rights at the centre of such a treaty.

Stressing the need to establish political will and normative protection that effectively ensure an expanded humanitarian space of protection for environmentally displaced persons and for refugees, other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors.

Acknowledging the challenges posed by new forced migration flows – including those triggered by environmental, climate-related, and disaster-related factors – and the imperative need to reconcile State interests with the protection needs of individuals in addressing such challenges. Highlighting the need for systemic migration governance of migration in general and forced migration that reflects the interaction between multi-level protection mechanisms as well as the search for comprehensive protection; the need for complementarity between migration governance and International Law in general, and International Human Rights Law, and the need for continuous protection for people on the move;

Underscoring the relevance of a human rights-based approach to migration and displacement governance, one that takes into account the specificities of migratory situations and protection needs.

Recalling that the legitimacy of State actions must be grounded in human rights for all, regardless of legal status, citizenship, or nationality.

Recalling the existing normative frameworks for the protection of persons, especially those established in the core instruments of International Human Rights Law.

Noting that migration and displacement issues have gained prominence in development debates, as evidenced by the 2030 Agenda and, in particular, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger and Sustainable Agriculture), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 13 (Climate Action), and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions);

Recalling that the Cancun Agreement (COP-16/2010) called on Parties to intensify adaptation actions by undertaking measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation in relation to climate change-induced displacement, migration and planned relocation (paragraph 14, f);

[15] This treaty derives from the 2004 Draft Articles on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters (PPED), drawn up by the UN International Law Commission; with the commitment to adopt it deriving from UN General Assembly Resolution 79/128 of 2024 (<<https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/79/128>>).

Highlighting that the preamble of the 2015 Paris Agreement recognized that climate change is a common concern of humankind and that Parties should, when adopting measures to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations regarding human rights and migrants (paragraph 11), as well as the creation of the Task Force on Displacement established by the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (COP 22, Marrakech, 2016);

Celebrating the fact that COP28 embraced the theme of environmental displacement (paragraphs 122, 125, and 131 of Decisions 1/CP.28 and 5/CMA.5: III. Recommended actions with regard to the funding arrangements), particularly highlighting the call to enhance synergies in efforts related to disaster risk reduction, humanitarian assistance, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction, and displacement, planned relocations, and migration in the context of climate change impacts—as well as specific references to environmentally motivated migrants and refugees.

And that at COP29 it was decided that the final product of the United Arab Emirates–Belém Programme (Decision 2/CMA.5) of two years may include a manageable set of no more than 100 indicators, [including those] capable of capturing relevant information on social inclusion, Indigenous peoples, participatory processes, human rights, gender equality, migrants, children and youth, and persons with disabilities.

Celebrating and Reinforcing the Advisory Opinion of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (AO 32/25), Resolution 2/24 of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (AO-187/25), which recognise human mobility induced by climate change as a multidimensional phenomenon that seriously affects human rights, and reaffirm the obligations of States under International Law, and particularly under International Human Rights Law, to protect environmentally displaced persons, refugees, other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental issues against refoulement, as well as to plan and implement adaptation measures in the face of climate change and climate emergency through human rights–based approaches.

Bearing in mind that the protection of environmentally displaced persons, and of refugees other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors., still faces major challenges in terms of recognition, reception, protection, integration (with inclusion in plural societies), and respect for their rights.

Affirming that the protection of environmentally displaced persons, as well as of refugees and other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors, must occur at the national, regional, and international levels.

Underscoring the urgency for the Conferences of the Parties (COPs), especially COP30, to formally recognise the humanitarian implications of the climate crisis, including forced displacements and migration motivated by its adverse effects;

Reinforcing that the pursuit of climate justice and durable solutions requires the effective engagement of multiple actors—States, international organisations, civil society, local communities, and Academia—in the formulation of public policies, legal instruments, and protection mechanisms that promote the right to remain in dignity, the right to migrate, and the right to return when it is safe to do so.

Recognising the key role of instruments of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), the Loss and Damage Response Fund, and the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage, as strategic and operational frameworks to address the impacts of the climate crisis on human mobility.

Underlining that this Academia Declaration does not seek to replace any other document produced within the framework of COP30 or other forums, but rather to contribute to the collective efforts for the protection of environmentally displaced persons, and of refugees and other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors.

Stressing the need for issues at the intersection of the environment and human mobility and for the protection of environmentally displaced persons and refugees and other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors to remain on the agenda of climate change, environmental, and sustainable development debates and actions, and to be incorporated as a subject in their own right.

Believing that it is the duty of the international community to ensure that no person is left behind because of the adverse impacts of climate change.

And considering the urgent need for normative, political, and implementation advances in the protection of human beings in situations of environmental displacement and/or environmental impact, Academia hereby proposes the following 30 RECOMMENDATIONS as guiding principles and pathways, within the framework of COP30 and its core and future negotiations and decision making:

- 1.** That the human dignity and human rights of all environmentally displaced persons and all refugees and other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors are guaranteed, at all stages of the displacement and/or impact processes, in all places and contexts, at all times, paying attention to specific protection needs and from the perspective of comprehensive protection[16].
- 2.** That Human Rights, as legal reflections of human dignity[17], and solidarity and cooperation, already enshrined as normative principles of international law, should be the guiding principles for any action relating to the policy and governance of environmental issues, including in the context of displacement and impacts on migrants in times of climate emergency;
- 3.** That the objectives, principles, foundations and logics of Climate Justice, considering aspects of intergenerational and migrant justice, guide any and all actions relating to the policy and governance of environmental issues, including in the context of displacement and impacts on migrants, and ensuring responses that promote equity, justice and dignity;
- 4.** That the objective of migration actions, norms and policies is the realization of comprehensive protection for environmentally displaced persons, refugees and other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors, with respect for the totality, universality, indivisibility and interdependence of their human rights;
- 5.** That protection of environmentally displaced persons refugees refugees and other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors adopts an intersectional approach, especially regarding race, gender, and class, that addresses specific protection needs, centers affected persons, and is grounded in intersectional anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-misogynist, anti-patriarchal, and anti-ableist interpretation and application, contributing to addressing environmental racism and implementing climate justice.

[16] On the concept of comprehensive protection, see note 7 above.

[17] Jubilut, Liliana L. Itineraries for the Protection of Minorities and Vulnerable Groups: the challenges conceptual and approach strategies. In: Jubilut, Liliana L.; Bahia, Alexandre G. M.; Magalhães, José L. Q. (Org.). *Direito à diferença 1: Aspectos teóricos e conceptuais da proteção às minorias e aos grupos vulneráveis*. São Paulo: Saraiva, 2013.

6. Recognise that disasters, adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation aggravate preexisting vulnerabilities—especially for environmentally displaced persons and for refugees and other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors; should be considered in decisions related to protection and guarantees, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda, including (i) creation and inclusion in domestic or international public policies, (ii) access to and guarantees of human rights for comprehensive protection, (iii) application of the principle of non-refoulement, (iv) recognition of refugee status, (v) access to procedures, and (vi) establishment of other subsidiary protection mechanisms, (vii) inclusion in development plans, programs, or actions, and (viii) inclusion in social protection plans, programs, or actions, or any other measures in the field.

7. That States improve their actions to address the root causes^[1] of displacement due to environmental and climate-related issues and recognise both internal and international environmental displacement as a survival strategy and/or legitimate cause for displacement, in addition to being a necessity in many contexts.

8. The implementation of preventive and adaptation measures to climate with a focus on preventing forced displacement, including investment in resilient infrastructure, early warning systems and risk and disaster mitigation strategies focused on vulnerable communities.

9. That States, individually or collectively, establish comprehensive and inclusive responses and forms of protection, taking into account existing and future normative frameworks, for persons displaced by environmental factors, including those arising from climate-related issues or disasters, whether sudden-onset or slow-onset, as well as rights violations that may result from environmental factors, either through the broad interpretation of more protective regional concepts, understanding socio-environmental and climate issues as part of the human rights framework and therefore encompassed within situations of serious and widespread human rights violations or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order, or through the creation of a specific migratory status for persons displaced in the context of climate change and/or disasters, also referred to as permanent environmental displacees, or through the creation of a specific migratory status for temporary environmental displacees, or through the combination of two or more of these recommendations;

[18] That the region's states improve their actions to tackle the root causes of environmental and climate displacement and recognize internal or international environmental displacement as a survival strategy and/or a legitimate cause of displacement, as well as a necessity in many contexts;

- 10.** That States, individually or collectively, establish forms of protection for persons displaced by environmental factors who do not cross international borders, in accordance with the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the 2010 IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, and also drawing inspiration from the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa – Kampala Convention (2009), as well as for refugees, other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors, ensuring access to human rights and social protection in general, but also to forms of protection that respond to their specific vulnerabilities and needs;
- 11.** That States adopt rights-based and needs-based approaches to the protection of persons displaced internally or internationally by environmental factors, and of refugees, other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors, and that they make efforts to provide humanitarian assistance regardless of ethnic, religious, political, or social motivations, and with legal safeguards against discriminatory practices where necessary;
- 12.** That States adopt binding legal frameworks for the protection of human mobility in the context of climate change and disasters with a view to durable solutions, including the development of a specific legal status for environmentally displaced persons, ensuring rights and protections for environmentally displaced persons, whether internal or international, based on existing and new normative frameworks, and for refugees, other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors.
- 13.** That States expressly integrate displacement due to disasters and climate-related consequences into regional or bilateral free movement agreements, as well as into national protocols and disaster prevention, management, and response plans.
- 14.** That States adopt broader approaches that consider economic and non-economic losses suffered by internally and internationally displaced persons and refugees and other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors, and by communities.

- 15.** That adaptation measures be developed in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, traditional communities, and affected urban and rural populations, guided by the specific needs of each community and region, bearing in mind that the protection of livelihoods, well-being and socio-bio-cultural systems must be taken into account in the planning and implementation of adaptation, being essential that the adaptation measures and economic resources allocated to communities generate effective results, especially to prevent forced human mobility, preserving the livelihoods and ways of life of communities and their permanence in the territories with dignity and security;
- 16.** That public policies and legal mechanisms be implemented to ensure safeguards for planned relocation, permanent resettlements, and for entire communities in contexts of imminent or past risk of communities affected by climate risks and disasters, to be carried out only as a last resort or in cases of the explicit will of the population, with prior, multidimensional, and contextualised planning, ensuring that the entire process takes place on the basis of principles of dignity, human rights, and full and informed community participation at all stages of the process, and, if Indigenous populations are involved, such processes must also respect collective rights to culture and self-determination, and be based on free, prior, and informed consent;
- 17.** That States adopt concrete measures to protect the land and housing rights of displaced populations, especially vulnerable groups, through documentation regularisation, conflict mediation, and strengthening of land legislation, ensuring gender equality in land access.
- 18.** That States incorporate into their environmental and migration policies the protection of the cultural identity and spiritual heritage of communities affected by environmental and climate-related events, respecting traditional knowledge and promoting its integration into adaptation and resilience strategies.
- 19.** In cases of multi-destination migration and displacement, the risks of community disintegration, unequal access to services, and social tensions are prevented, by ensuring transparent allocation criteria and equity in State responses, as well as strategies for family reunion/reunification;
- 20.** That the participation of environmentally displaced persons, whether internal or international, of refugees, other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors, and of affected communities in debates, normative definitions, policy design, and the implementation of the normative architecture be guaranteed, broadened, and effective, and that their contributions be recognised;

- 21.** Ensure that in cases involving multiple origin communities, inclusive and culturally sensitive participatory mechanisms are implemented to address the complexities of social integration.
- 22.** That the participation of other stakeholders, such as civil society and academia, in debates, normative definitions, policy designs and the application of the normative architecture is guaranteed, expanded and effective;
- 23.** That States and international institutions promote the creation of intersectoral committees and permanent consultation mechanisms, with the participation of affected persons, civil society, and Academia, for mapping, diagnosis, and the formulation of evidence-based policies, such as the application of the consensual approach for measuring the deprivations caused by multidimensional poverty, for the protection of environmentally displaced persons and of refugees, other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors; and that they create mechanisms to assist States in mitigating the factors that contribute to displacement triggered by climate and environmental drivers, as well as the States impacted by them;
- 24.** That the production of informed and disaggregated data collected and processed during and after environmental and climatic events be developed and improved, thus allowing losses and damages to be quantified, and public policies to be developed and improved to meet the specific needs and vulnerabilities of displaced populations or those in internal and international mobility caused by the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, considering an intersectional approach of gender, age, race and ethnicity and other social markers;
- 25.** That a global baseline for data on environmental displacement be established to facilitate consistent cross-country comparisons and learning, directly supporting more accurate assessments of loss and damage, scale and impact quantification, and robust evidence for financial and technical assistance claims—these data being crucial to prioritize responses within UNFCCC mechanisms such as the Loss and Damage Fund and the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage.
- 26.** That human mobility linked to environmental and climate factors be integrated into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Communications to the UNFCCC;

- 27.** That the structure of indicators of the Global Goal on Adaptation be integrated with mobility-related metrics, in order to monitor risks and elements of adaptation, using tools and databases already established by the international human mobility community, with a view to stronger standardisation; and that substantial financing and commitments for adaptation be ensured within the framework of the new collective quantified goal on climate finance (NCQG), as well as for prevention of and responses to environmental displacement and for the integral protection of environmentally displaced persons and of refugees, other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors, with the guarantee of adequate resources, including through the fulfilment of climate finance commitments under the Paris Agreement, such as contributions to the Green Climate Fund (GCF);
- 28.** That States commit to train, capacitate, and update public officials and partners on environmental, climate, humanitarian, migration, refugee, environmental racism, and climate and migrant justice topics and their intersections.
- 29.** That environmentally displaced persons and refugees other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors have all their rights respected, based on the minimum standards established in core international instruments, including the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (1948), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951), the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954), the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1967), the American Convention on Human Rights (1969), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979), the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees (1984), the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984), in the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture (1985), in the Declaration on the Right to Development (1986), in the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador) (1988), in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), in the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992), the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action (1993), the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) (1994), the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons (1994), the Declaration of San José on Refugees and Displaced Persons (1994), the Guiding Principles on Internally Displaced Persons (1998), the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (1999), the Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on the the Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on the Prevention, Suppression and Punishment of Trafficking in

Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000), the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001), the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mexico to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America (2004), the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), the Principles and Good Practices for the Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas (2008), the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (2009), in the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (2010), the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance (2013), in the Declaration of Brazil: A Framework for Regional Cooperation and Solidarity to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Stateless Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean (2014), in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change (2015)^[1], the Paris Climate Agreement (2015), the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016), in the Declaration of the Regional Conference of San Pedro Sula (2017), in the 100 Points of Brasilia (2018), in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018), in the Global Compact on Refugees (2018), in the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (2018), in the VIII Joint Declaration of the Quito Process (2022), in the Chile Declaration and Plan of Action (2024) and in all the other documents that make up the hard core of protection for human beings, or that guarantee protection for the legal reflexes of human dignity, in the internal or international context;

AND

30.

That environmentally displaced persons and refugees, other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors have access to rapid and effective remedies (judicial, administrative and/or of other kinds) at the national, regional, and international levels, for the guarantee of their rights, including access to justice, to the judiciary, and to due process of law, as well as engagement and dialogue with human rights regimes; and that States fulfil their commitment to guarantee integral protection to all persons (especially to environmentally displaced persons and to refugees, other migrants or persons in need of international protection affected by environmental and climate-related factors) in their laws, actions, policies, and procedures, grounded in human dignity.

[19] Follow-up to the Nansen Initiative process. More information at: <https://disasterdisplacement.org>.

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25. Centro para la Observación Migratoria y el Desarrollo Social en el Caribe - Republica Dominicana
26. Chair in International Forced Migration, Inclusion and Human Rights ode to the University of Guadalajara
27. CICrA Justicia Ambiental, España
28. Ciudadanía Inteligente - Latin America
29. Climate Refugees - USA
30. Comisión de Acción Social Menonita/Programa Gestión de la Movilidad Humana - Honduras

31. Comissió Catalana d'Acció pel Refugi - Espanha
32. Comunidad Indígena Guaraní Estación el Tabacal
33. Conselho Municipal da Diversidade Sexual e de Gênero de Peruíbe/SP
34. Curul del Putumayo de la Cámara de Representantes por el Pacto Histórico - Colombia Humana
35. De Mello Chair, University of California College of the Law, San Francisco
36. Defensoria Pública-Geral da União (DPU) - Brasil
37. Educação Sem Fronteiras - Brasil
38. Enda Colombia - Colombia
39. Escuela de Altos Estudios en Ciencias Sociales, Universidad Nacional de San Martín - Programa Migrantas en Reconquista (Argentina)
40. Escuela Popular Comunitaria el Cerro Vive - Colombia
41. Faculdade de Direito de Sorocaba (FADI) - Brasil
42. Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales - Sede Ecuador
43. Fórum Baiano de Direito Humano à Alimentação Adequada - Bahia/ Brasil
44. Fórum Internacional Fontié ki Kwaze - Fronteiras Cruzadas
45. Fundação Escola Superior do Ministério Público - RS - Brasil
46. Fundación ALMALINA - Colombia
47. Fundación de Mujeres Luna Creciente - Ecuador
48. Grupo de Estudos em Política e Direito Ambiental Internacional (GEPDAI)
49. Grupo de Pesquisa Direitos Humanos e Vulnerabilidades (Universidade Católica de Santos - UniSantos)
50. Grupo MIGRA - Migrações, Mobilidades e Gestão Contemporânea de Populações (CNPq) - Brasil
51. GT Migraciones y Fronteras Sur-Sur (CLACSO)
52. INCT Caleidoscópico - Brasil
53. Ingeniería Sin Fronteras - Espanha
54. Instituto Águas Resilientes - Brasil
55. Instituto Árvores Vivas - Brasil
56. Instituto Estou Refugiado - Brasil
57. Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración, AC (IMUMI) - México
58. Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo, Centro de Estudios de Género (INTEC,) - República Dominicana
59. International Business School, Manchester, UK
60. International Institute of Humanitarian Law (Sanremo Institute), Department of International Refugee Law and Migration Law - Italy
61. International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) - USA
62. Jamaa Resource Initiatives, Kenya
63. Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement - JVE - Togo
64. Jusclima Coletivo Climático - Brasil
65. Latinas en Poder - Estados Unidos
66. Liga Acadêmica de Estudos para Paz e Análise de Conflitos (UFPB)
67. MAP Indigenous Research Climate Cooperative Centre - Australia
68. MIGRAIDH/CSVM - Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM) - Brasil
69. Mobiliza Consciência - Brasil
70. New Women Connectors - Netherlands

71. Niue Australian Vagahau Association (NAVA)
72. Observatório Latino-americano de Mobilidade Humana, Mudança Climática e Desastres (MOVE-LAM)
73. ONG Identidade Humana - Brasil
74. Participatory Research & Action Network (PRAAN) - Bangladesh
75. Porgera Red Wara (River) Women's Association Incorporated (PRWWA INC.)
76. Programa de Pós-graduação em Desastres Naturais/UFSC - Brasil
77. Programa de Pós-graduação em Direito e Relações Internacionais da Universidade Federal de Sergipe
78. Public Association "Dignity" - Kazakhstan
79. Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law – Sweden
80. Red Académica Latinoamericana sobre Derecho e Integración de las Personas Refugiadas (Red LAREF)
81. Red de Jóvenes para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres- Colombia
82. Red de Mujeres de las Américas y el Caribe para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres - LAC
83. Red Jesuita con Migrantes Latinoamérica y el Caribe (RJM LAC) - Regional
84. Rede Sul-Americana para as Migrações Ambientais (RESAMA) - Brasil
85. Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados para Latinoamérica y el Caribe - JRS LAC - Colombia
86. Sin Fronteras IAP- México
87. Sociedade Brasileira de Proteção Humana - Brasil
88. Somali Youth Development Foundation (SYDF)
89. Study and Research Centre on Environmentally Displaced Persons (NEPDA)
90. The Climate Reality Project Brasil - Brasil
91. UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union – Italy
92. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) - USA
93. Universidade Estadual do Ceará (UECE) - Brasil
94. Universidade Federal da Integração Latino-Americana (UNILA)
95. Universidade Federal de Pernambuco - UFPE
96. Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina – Brasil
97. Universidade Federal Fluminense - Brasil
98. University of California College of the Law, San Francisco - Center for Gender & Refugee Studies - United States
99. University of Wollongong Future of Rights Centre- Australia

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