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EKIN SNY MUN BACKGROUND GUIDE

Committee: International Maritime Organization

Topic: Safeguarding The Rights Of Climate-Induced Migrants



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Welcome Speech/Letter from the Chairboard New York

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the organizing committee, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the EKIN Junior Model United Nations Training Conference. My name is Defne Uysal and I will serve as your President Chair during this conference along with my Co-Chair Fabiola Thomas. We are delighted to have you as part of this esteemed gathering of young minds who are passionate about global issues and international cooperation.

Throughout this conference, we aim to foster meaningful discussions, facilitate diplomacy, and promote understanding of the diverse perspectives held by different nations. Junior Model United Nations conferences provide an exceptional opportunity to refine your research, public speaking, negotiation, and critical thinking skills. As you engage in debates, collaborate with fellow delegates, and draft resolutions, we hope you will seize this chance to broaden your horizons and explore innovative solutions to complex global challenges.

- This background guide has been meticulously crafted to assist you in your preparation for the conference. It provides in-depth analyses of the topics to be discussed, questions to consider to guide your research, and recommended resources for further exploration.
- We encourage you to utilize this guide as a valuable tool to enhance your understanding and develop well-informed positions on the issues at hand.

We are confident that your participation in this Junior Model United Nations conference will be an enriching experience, filled with intellectual growth, inspiring discussions, and memorable moments. Let us come together to forge paths toward a better world and make a lasting impact.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, or requests for assistance. We look forward to meeting you at the conference.

Best regards,

Defne Uysal

President Chair, International Maritime Organization



Welcome Speech/Letter from the Chairboard Izmir

Dear Committee Members,

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome you to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) committee of the Ekin Junior Model United Nations Conference. As we explore the complexities of climate-induced migration, we face a unique opportunity to contribute to meaningful change. Our discussions will be pivotal in shaping policies and frameworks that ensure the protection, dignity, and safety of migrants navigating perilous maritime routes. The IMO's role in creating safe and legal maritime pathways, along with our collective efforts in diplomacy and collaboration, will guide us toward sustainable solutions. We look forward to your engaging debates and innovative proposals.

Warm regards,

Rawad & Alina - Chairperson & Co-Chairperson, respectively - IMO



Description of the Committee

Formation and Mission

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for regulating international shipping and ensuring its safety and sustainability. Established in 1948 and headquartered in London, the IMO's mission is to create a fair, effective, and universally applicable regulatory framework for the maritime industry. This framework primarily works to accomplish the goal, set out by the 14th SDG, of conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.



IMO

Primary Objectives

1. Enhancing safety of life at sea.
2. Preventing pollution from ships and addressing environmental challenges.
3. Establishing uniform international standards for maritime operations.



The IMO achieves these objectives through treaties, conventions, and collaborative efforts with its 175 member states and various industry stakeholders. Notable conventions include:

- **MARPOL:** Focused on preventing pollution from ships.
- **SOLAS:** Ensuring the safety of life at sea.

The IMO's work extends to addressing the implications of climate change and migration, making it uniquely positioned to tackle issues related to climate-induced migrants.



Introduction to the Topic



Climate change is no longer a distant threat; it is a present reality that displaces millions worldwide. Rising sea levels, desertification, extreme weather events, and other climate impacts are forcing individuals and communities to leave their homes. This has led to the emergence of climate-induced migrants who require urgent international attention and protection.

The IMO plays a critical role in addressing the challenges posed by climate-induced migration, especially in maritime contexts. As the authority overseeing global shipping and navigation, the IMO can provide solutions for safe and legal maritime routes, facilitate resettlement, and advocate for the recognition of these migrants' rights.

Delegates in this session are encouraged to explore innovative strategies to safeguard the dignity, safety, and rights of climate-induced migrants while considering the IMO's unique capabilities.



The Current Scenario: A Detailed Analysis



Challenges Faced by Climate-Induced Migrants



1. Legal Gaps: Climate-induced migrants currently lack formal recognition under international law, which complicates their protection.
2. Displacement Hotspots: Coastal and island nations face severe risks, with communities losing their homes to rising seas.
3. Maritime Dangers: Many climate-induced migrants resort to unsafe maritime routes, leading to casualties and crises.
4. Host Nation Strain: Receiving nations often face resource shortages and social tensions.
5. Intensifying Natural Disasters: Climate change and the extreme weather conditions that occur as a result of it have increased devastation caused by natural hazards, leading to a rise in disaster displacement.



International Action

The international community has recognized the urgency of addressing climate-induced migration. Key initiatives and frameworks include:

1. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030): This global framework emphasizes reducing the risks of disasters, including those exacerbated by climate change. It encourages nations to strengthen resilience and invest in disaster mitigation to prevent forced migration.
2. The Nansen Initiative (2012-2015): A state-led process that focuses on cross-border displacement in the context of disasters and climate change. It provides recommendations on protecting displaced populations and managing migration.
3. The Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD): Established to continue the work of the Nansen Initiative, the PDD supports global efforts to address displacement caused by disasters and climate change through advocacy and capacity-building.
4. Regional Cooperation: Regional bodies like the Pacific Islands Forum and the African Union have developed localized frameworks to address climate-induced migration, focusing on community-based solutions and international partnerships.
5. UNHCR's Guidelines on Climate Change and Displacement: These guidelines provide a foundation for nations to integrate climate-induced displacement into their national policies and international commitments.

By fostering collaboration across nations and institutions, these frameworks aim to create more robust systems to protect the rights and well-being of climate-induced migrants.



Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play a vital role in addressing the challenges faced by climate-induced migrants. Their contributions include:



- Humanitarian Assistance: NGOs such as the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) provide immediate relief, including food, shelter, and medical aid, to displaced populations.
- Advocacy and Awareness: Organizations like Greenpeace and Oxfam raise awareness about the impacts of climate change on migration, lobbying for stronger international policies and legal recognition of climate-induced migrants.
- Capacity Building: NGOs collaborate with local governments and communities to strengthen infrastructure and resilience in areas prone to climate displacement, minimizing the need for migration.
- Research and Data Collection: Institutions such as the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) collect data on displacement patterns, providing valuable insights for policy development and resource allocation.
- Legal Aid and Protection: NGOs work to protect the rights of displaced individuals by offering legal assistance and advocating for inclusive national and international policies.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Recommendations for Creating a Resolution

Challenges Faced by Climate-Induced Migrants

- Develop international agreements recognizing climate-induced migrants' rights.
- Enhance search and rescue operations in maritime regions with high displacement rates.
- Build capacity in host nations to support arriving migrants.
- Promote sustainable development to mitigate climate change effects in vulnerable regions.

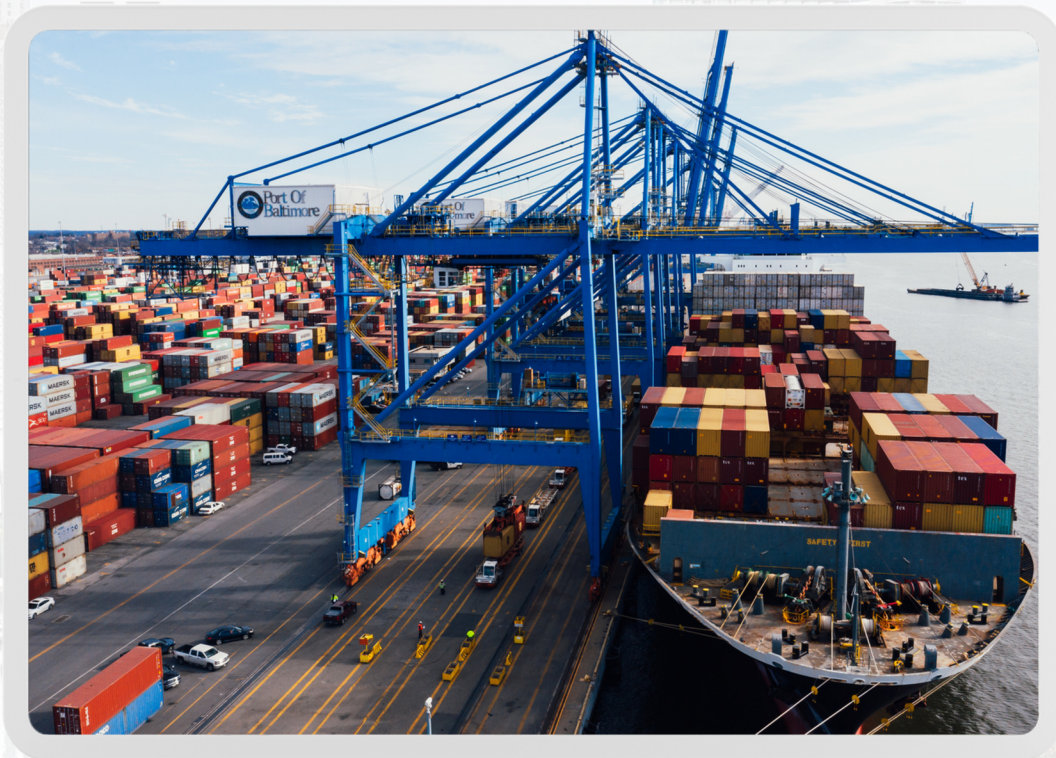
Policy Recommendations and Future Directions

- Introduce IMO-led initiatives for safer maritime migration corridors.
- Advocate for financial support to nations most affected by climate-induced migration.
- Strengthen partnerships with non-governmental organizations to deliver humanitarian assistance.



Questions to Consider

- How can the IMO enhance maritime safety for climate-induced migrants?
- What measures should be taken to ensure legal recognition and rights for these migrants?
- How can the international community support host nations receiving climate-induced migrants?
- What role can sustainable development play in preventing displacement?





RESEARCH AIDS

A small “How to?” for your pre-committee research by your chairboard

Having solid research and becoming confident in your knowledge before walking into the committee is the first step of the process. Research well, become well versed in the topic and your country. Don't forget that during the conference you will be playing the part of a knowledgeable and experienced diplomat. Do the research, act the part!

Step 1: Get the Basics Down

- **The Committee**

- a. Read through the “about” section of the committee's website (<https://www.imo.org/>)
- b. Answer the questions; “What is the goal of this committee?” What does this committee have a say/authority over?” “What has this committee done in recent years?” “What has been the role of my delegation in this committee?”

- **The Agenda Item**

- a. Read an article on the topic by a UN organization. (In our case UNHCR, IOM, IMO) ex: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/climate-change-and-displacement-myths-and-facts>
- b. Read an article relating to your delegation's stance on the issue. This can be a government page discussing a policy or a news article about a country specific issue.
- c. Get a general sense of what we are going to be discussing in committee
- d. Note confusing words from your research

Step 2: Define Your Terms

Note: Climate Refugee and Climate Migration are terms which lack official definitions in international law and have been the topic of discussion surrounding the issue. Throughout your research you may see these used with slight variation. Sources like UNHCR can help you improve your understanding of it. This term is one to take a careful look at when conducting research as we will have to define it for it to be a part of our conversation committee. Our agenda has similar terms which may not have exact legal definitions. Define them for yourself in accordance with your country's policies. In such cases there are no wrong definitions, only different perspectives.

- Look up the definitions of the words you have taken note of on Oxford Dictionary or from international organizations
- Take a look at some must know words noted down below in the terms and concepts section of the guide.

Step 3: Make Connections

The Agenda

Making connections is a strong learning tool to spark genuine interest in even the most seemingly “uninteresting” topics. Use it to your advantage, tie it to issues that you are passionate or simply curious about. It’ll be easier to write about, we promise!

Answer the questions:

- What are events I’ve heard of that seem related? (examples can be found above in the “Recent Events” section)
- Are there people in my country or community that have been affected? If yes, how so?
- What are some issues I’ve heard of on the news that may be related?

Your Delegation

- What are some basic facts about this country?
- What do I already know?
- In what ways is my country related to the agenda item?
- What views does the current administration of my country have on this issue?
- What are some speeches, interviews, articles I can find on the issue by politicians, diplomats or journalists from this country?
- How can I best represent the views and information I have gathered?





Step 4: Concrete Evidence and Policy

- What are the countries most relevant to the issue at hand?
- What have these countries or international organizations done so far?
- What are my delegation's policies regarding the issue?
- What policies can I come up with in line with my country's views?

Step 5: Create Usable Notes

Write readable notes that you can use to share your knowledge with other delegates. Make sure they are easy to read and access when writing or speaking.

Sources to look into:

1. [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)
2. [International Maritime Organization](#)
3. [International Organization for Migration](#)
4. [UN High Commissioner for Refugees](#)

Terms and Concepts



- **Climate-Induced Migration:** Movement due to climate-related factors like rising sea levels or desertification. Climate Refugee and Climate Migration are terms which lack official definitions in international law and have been the topic of discussion surrounding the issue. Throughout your research you may see these used with slight variation. Sources like UNHCR can help you improve your understanding of it. This term is one to take a careful look at when conducting research as we will have to define it for it to be a part of our conversation committee.
- **Loss and Damage:** Adverse impacts of climate change that cannot be mitigated.
- **Host Nation:** A country receiving displaced individuals.
- **Resettlement:** Relocation of migrants to new, safer area