

**Recommendation sent to the Conference of Rio+20, Symposium of Limoges, October 1st
2011**

RECOMMANDATION N°10

A PROTECTION FOR THE ENVIRONMENTALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

- Considering the alarming condition of the global environment and the increasing rate of its deterioration,
- Considering that these negative environmental phenomena produce victims who encounter injury to their health and their dignity, and even impairment of their fundamental right to life,
- Considering that the gravity of environmental harm necessitates the displacement of individuals, families and populations,
- Considering that the exponential growth and clear foreseeability of such movements constitute a threat to the stability of human societies, the preservation of cultures, and world peace,
- Considering the many appeals from non-governmental organizations to recognize a status for environmentally-displaced persons, and insisting on the urgent necessity of responding to their plight,
- Considering that several international declarations underline the existence of this category of displaced persons (Principle 18 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, concerning ecological assistance, June 1992; Agenda 21, Chapter 12, 12.47 ; and the Directive principles relating to internally displaced persons),
- Considering the numerous international conferences that also refer to such situations, including:
 - a) the Kyoto Conference (1997) and that of The Hague (2000) which set forth the risks of large migrations linked to climate change,
 - b) the World Conference on the Prevention of Natural Disasters (Hyogo, January 2005) which insisted on prevention linked in particular to ecological refugees,
- Considering that certain organs of the United Nations have spoken of this matter:
 - a) The General Assembly of the United Nations in resolutions 2956 (1972) and 3455 (1975) on displaced persons, resolution 36/255 of 17 December 1981 on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system in the face of natural disasters and other catastrophes, resolution 43/131 of 8 December 1988 on humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and emergency situations of the same type, resolutions 45/100 of 14 December relative to humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and emergency situations of the same type, resolution 49/22 of 13 December 1994 concerning the international decade for the prevention of natural disasters,
 - b) The Security Council (5663rd session of 17 April 2007) making the link between the impact of climate change and international security, in particular in respect to persons who risk displacement by 2050;
 - c) The Secretary General of the United Nations in his message of 5 June 2006 exhorting governments and societies through the world to think of those who cannot subsist in arid zones and will become ecological refugees,
- Considering that the specialized institutions of the United Nations such as the World Health Organization, UNESCO, the World Bank, and other institutions in the United Nations system, such as the High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the United Nations Development Programme, regional organizations such as the Council of Europe, the European Union, and the African Union have drawn attention to the challenges of environmental migrations,
- Considering the international agreements that already take into consideration environmental displacements, notably:

- a) The International Labour Organization's Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries of 27 June 1989;
 - b) The Convention to Combat Desertification of 12 September 1994;
 - c) The African Union's Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa of October 22, 2009;
- Considering Principles Nansen prepared 6 and 7 June 2011,
 - Considering article 14 § f) Cancun agreements .
1. Proposes the adoption of a new international convention on environmental displacement that includes a clear definition of "environmentally displaced persons".
 2. Proposes to establish an institutional mechanism unprecedented protection of environmentally both those displaced within their own country and those who are displaced to other states .
 3. Proposes the adoption of common rights for environmentally displaced internally-and inter states –persons including: Right to assistance, Right to water and to subsistence food aid, Right to health care, Right to juridical personality, Civil and Political Rights, Right to housing, Right to return, Right to respect for the family, Right to work, Right to education and training, Right to maintain cultural specificity.
 4. Proposes the adoption of key principles of international law, international environmental law , international law of human rights, international law of refugees and displaced persons including: Principle of Solidarity, Principle of humanity, Principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, Principle of effective protection, Principle of non-discrimination, Rights to information and participation, The Right to Displacement, The Right to Refuse Displacement.
 5. Recommends the establishment of an institutional mechanism for cooperation with the National Commissions on Environmental Displacements in each State Party, in charge of reviewing applications for recognition of the status of a World Agency for Environmentally-Displaced Persons composed of a scientific council, board of directors and a secretariat.
 6. Recommends the establishment of a mechanism to monitor the proper implementation of the Convention through Conferences of the parties and national reporting.
 7. Encourages the creation of funding mechanism with the World Fund for the Environmentally-Displaced persons.