



2020/2042(INI)

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# DRAFT REPORT

on the impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations in developing countries  
(2020/2042(INI))

Committee on Development

Rapporteur: Mónica Silvana González

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## MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

### on the impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations in developing countries (2020/2042(INI))

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Articles 208 and 209 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
  - having regard to the European Consensus on Development and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular Goals 1, 10, 11 and 13,
  - having regard to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement of 2015, the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) of 2013 and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction of 2015,
  - having regard to the Nansen Initiative Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change, endorsed in Geneva in 2015, and the work of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD),
  - having regard to the section on climate change and development in its resolution of 28 November 2019 on the UN Climate Change Conference in Madrid (COP25)<sup>1</sup>, and in particular paragraphs 50 and 106-115 thereof,
  - having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the opinions of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Development (A9-0000/2020),
- A. whereas the impacts of climate change include increases in the frequency and gravity of storms, floods, landslides, extreme heat waves, droughts, forest fires and other disasters, as well as slow-onset developments such as rising sea-levels, coastal erosion, salinisation, gradual changes in rainfall patterns and the decline and displacement of animal and plant populations;
- B. whereas developing countries are more exposed and whereas the poorest and already most vulnerable populations in these countries are even worse affected, because their dwellings tend to be located in areas more prone to flooding, landslides, drought, etc., because they lack the means to increase their resilience and because they tend to live from agriculture, fishing and other activities based on natural resources, the presence of which may decrease or even cease;

<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P9\_TA(2019)0079.

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- C. whereas poverty and inequality are both a cause and an effect of vulnerability; whereas reducing poverty and inequality is therefore intrinsically linked with climate action and must more clearly guide the EU's development policy, with support from other EU policies affecting developing countries, as stipulated by Article 208 of the TFEU;
- D. whereas vulnerability to the impacts of climate change is also both a cause and an effect of conflicts and whereas addressing this vulnerability is hugely important for conflict prevention;
- E. whereas the basic principles of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development include leaving no one behind and addressing the needs of those furthest behind first; whereas a comprehensive strategy is needed for implementing this in the EU's climate-related policies;
- F. whereas poverty and inequality should be understood in a wide sense that includes deprivation of access to vital resources of all kinds, as well as discrimination, which reduces possible life choices and adaptation capabilities; whereas women, children, elderly people, persons with disabilities and indigenous people are often subject to discrimination;
- G. whereas women suffer disproportionately from the impacts of climate change, owing not least to the agricultural tasks they carry out but also to the discrimination they suffer in terms of access to land and services, participation in decision-making and respect when embarking on activities traditionally dominated by men; whereas women are also strongly over-represented among people displaced for reasons related to climate change;
- H. whereas the COVID-19 pandemic drastically increases vulnerabilities in developing countries both through its direct impact on public health and through its many deepening economic effects; whereas both the pandemic and climate change are eroding public finances while at the same time increasing financing needs, including for social protection and services;
- I. whereas the governments of developing countries must lead efforts to reduce vulnerabilities, increase resilience and strengthen support capacities, but the EU, its Member States and other developed and emerging countries must radically scale up their actions, given that the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that are causing climate change were emitted almost exclusively by them, their emissions remain totally dominant, they possess badly needed resources for effective climate action, and they have made important commitments in this respect; whereas, for all these reasons, the EU, its Member States and other developed and emerging countries have a moral obligation to do much more;
- J. whereas developing countries' payments on their debts drain their capacities to deal with the climate and other crises and to support their most vulnerable populations; whereas international efforts to prevent debt distress and enable orderly debt workout must therefore be intensified;
- K. whereas international financing of climate action in developing countries remains extremely insufficient and focused on emissions reduction, despite the particularly urgent need for adaptation action; whereas, however, the main mitigation efforts must

take place in developed countries, where emissions are up to more than a hundred times higher per capita;

- L. whereas adaptation action should mainly focus on the most vulnerable and should include increasing the resilience of their dwellings, and the infrastructure they depend on, to extreme weather events, improving their food and water security, helping subsistence farmers to adapt their agricultural methods to changes in rainfall and temperature patterns, and helping poor people in increasingly uninhabitable areas to re-settle;
  - M. whereas, according to the World Bank, by 2050, without concrete climate and development action, over 143 million people in just three regions (Latin America, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa) could be forced to move within their own countries to escape the slow-onset impacts of climate change;
  - N. whereas the ruling by the UN Human Rights Committee in the case of *Teitiota v New Zealand* acknowledges a legal basis for refugee protection for those who face an imminent threat to their life on account of climate change;
1. Recalls that the world is badly off track to reach the agreed objective of limiting global heating to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels while pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C; is alarmed by the impacts of this on developing countries; condemns the failure of world leaders to take adequate action and calls for the EU to make its European Green Deal an example of such action;
  2. Calls on the Commission to prepare a comprehensive strategy for the EU's contribution to limiting the impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations in developing countries through:
    - the pursuit of rapid, radical curbing and reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions, including through [reducing EU's GHG emissions by 65% by 2030, which is the science-based target needed to help keep global temperature rise below 1.5C degrees own emission cuts](#);
    - the reduction of general vulnerability through poverty and inequality ~~eradication~~reduction, as well as addressing specific vulnerabilities to impacts of climate change resulting, for example, from the locations of dwellings and the bases of livelihoods,
    - increased support for developing countries' capacities to take such action with resources mobilised by themselves and with the help of international climate financing and other assistance,
    - affirming and seeking widespread, binding recognition that migration is becoming ever more necessary as part of the response to the impacts of climate change, and proposing international arrangements for managing climate migration,
    - increasing capacities to rapidly respond to needs for humanitarian aid, as global heating will inevitably keep increasing such needs;

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3. Calls for a specific budget line under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument for actions to limit and manage the impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations in developing countries;
4. Considers that the strategy must include ~~reducing efforts to eradicate~~ poverty and inequality as foreseen by the Agenda 2030 in general as a means to reduce risks and harm caused by climate change;
5. Reaffirms its commitment to poverty reduction and eradication as the fundamental objective of the EU's development policy and to the implementation of policy coherence for development, especially in industrial, commercial, agriculture, investments and migration policies; intends to strengthen its own contribution to this implementation, with a view, in particular, to helping to build an adequate EU response to the evolving climate crisis;
6. Reiterates its call for a commitment by the EU and its Member States collective Official Development Assistance to 0.7% of EU GNI before 2030 and to significantly increase the adaptation finance they provide and points once more to the need for progress on the issue of loss and damage, for which additional resources should be raised;
7. Calls for climate-related EU gender funding to be scaled up and for urgent gender-based climate action focused on women to be established in the design, ~~and~~ implementation and monitoring/evaluation of preparedness, mitigation and adaptation programmes;
8. Expresses its support to young people and recognises their valuable contribution in raising global awareness of climate change and the need to empower younger generations; underlines the importance of intercultural dialogue with migrants and refugees in order to raise awareness of climate change and also to combat all racist and discriminatory practices against migrants;
9. Calls for a common and coordinated international response led by the EU aimed at making progress in the implementation of recognition, protection and support measures for people who are compelled to move within and between countries in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, included slow-onset effects of climate change; encourages the Union to analyse and adopt new approaches, considering examples of regulation at regional level such as the Kampala Convention, and to promote the incorporation of, inter alia, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into the domestic laws of EU Member States and of third states through bilateral and regional agreements;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.