

# Redefining The Term Climate Refugees

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**Abstract-** Natural disasters, such as cyclones, often result in widespread homelessness, particularly in small island nations. This phenomenon has brought attention to the concept of environmentally displaced persons. Scholars project that by 2050, the number of individuals falling under this category could escalate from 20 million to 200 million. Such a significant population displacement could trigger international migration driven by climate change, giving rise to the notion of "climate refugees."

The term "refugees" has historically been defined by the 1951 Geneva Convention on Refugees, which is a politically crafted definition. Some argue that recognizing those displaced by climate change as "refugees" could offer them asylum, yet this proposition is highly contentious for various reasons. This paper aims to critically evaluate the proposed solution of classifying individuals as "climate refugees."

A primary concern is the potential broadening of legal terms, which could lead to challenges in providing adequate protection to those in need. This process risks either encompassing all individuals or failing to address the needs of specific cases. The overarching objective is to ensure justice for displaced individuals to aid in their survival, while also crafting policy frameworks for sustainable global solutions in the long term.

**Keywords -**Climate change; Climate Refugee ; Policy framing ; displacement ; Human trafficking

Understanding Climate Induced migration

The concept of climate-induced migration and displacement was first addressed in the 2008 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change during the 14th Conference of Parties (CoP). However, it

was the 2016 UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants that marked a significant moment in how international migration is governed. At this summit, all 193 member states signed the pre-negotiated New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants<sup>3</sup>. Climate-induced migration considers both intensive and extensive risks. Intensive risks involve sudden and severe events like hurricanes and large floods, while extensive risks involve less severe but frequent or persistent events like droughts and local flooding<sup>4</sup>. It's important to note that such migration isn't always negative; it can represent a proactive and planned response to the increasing risks of climate change.

People who migrate due to climate risks theoretically have protection under international laws such as the UN's guiding principle on internal displacement, international human rights law, and the Refugee Convention. However, there's a significant legal gap concerning those displaced across borders who aren't covered by the Refugee Convention<sup>5</sup>.

To ensure the protection of human rights, it's crucial to establish a clear status for climate migrants. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines climate migrants as individuals or groups forced to leave their homes due to environmental changes, whether sudden or gradual, that negatively impact their living conditions<sup>6</sup>. These people may move within their own country or abroad, either temporarily or permanently.

By defining this distinction, authorities can develop policies for the shelter, protection, and rehabilitation of climate migrant<sup>7</sup>s. Some argue that such

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<sup>3</sup> Human Development Report. UNDP (2016)

<sup>4</sup> Emily Wilkinson, et. al., Climate induced migration and displacement: closing the policy gap, OVERSEAS DEV. INST. (2016).

<sup>5</sup> Prepare and adapt: Climate Change and Human Mobility in Paris and Beyond, THE NANSEN INITIATIVE (Nov. 27, 2015) available at – <https://www.nanseninitiative.org/prepare-and-adapt-climate-change-and-human-mobility-in-paris-and-beyond/>

<sup>6</sup> Migration and the Environment, MC/INF/288 (1 Nov. 2007), 94th Session, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Geneva

<sup>7</sup> Koko Warner, Global environmental change and migration: Governance challenges, 748 JGEC 9 (2009).

movement should be labeled as displacement rather than migration, particularly when environmental disasters occur repeatedly, leading to cyclical, preemptive, or permanent relocation due to future risks.

Critics may question whether climate migration warrants immediate attention as a disaster. A disaster is typically defined as a sudden event causing widespread fear, horror, and significant losses for many people simultaneously<sup>8</sup>. This definition has been broadened to encompass weather- or nature-related events. By defining the calamity, social workers can better understand how to approach climate-induced migration and plan interventions accordingly.

Climate change and People affected by it

Rafael Domingo, a father of four who was affected by Cyclone Idai, recounted the harrowing experience of waking up to the sound of howling winds, followed by water flooding into their home. With no time to spare, they hastily gathered their children and fled to higher ground. The devastating cyclone left over 73,000 people homeless in March 2019, according to statistics<sup>9</sup>.

Climate change and its repercussions is a real thing, but the slow realization of the The impact of climate change is starkly evident in countries like the Maldives, a small island nation perilously positioned just a few meters above sea level. Statistics reveal that a mere 1-meter rise in sea levels could render island nations such as the Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, and Tuvalu largely uninhabitable. By 2080, if global warming escalates by 1-2 degrees Celsius, an estimated 103 million people could be adversely affected. Bangladesh alone is projected to generate a greater number of climate refugees than the global count at present.

The repercussions of climate change extend beyond rising sea levels and melting glaciers, exacerbating issues of water scarcity and drought. Even under conservative temperature rise estimates, a 1-2 degree Celsius increase could plunge 700-1500

million people into water shortages. Particularly vulnerable are nations downstream from the Himalaya-Hindu Kush mountain ranges, home to approximately half of the world's population.

The continents most severely impacted by these phenomena are Asia and Africa, given their dense populations and climatic vulnerabilities. Africa, with 14 countries already grappling with drought, is projected to see this number escalate to 25 by 2030. The deltas of Egypt and Nigeria face severe repercussions from rising sea levels.

The global ramifications of climate change extend to every continent to varying extents, making the prospect of climate-induced migration a pressing reality. The UK Ministry of Defense's Global Strategic Trend Program anticipates significant migration from sub-Saharan Africa towards the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and Europe between 2007 and 2036.

Thus, the above data shows that climate refugees are a serious issue that should be taken seriously especially when a country is burning (Forest fire in Australia in the year 2020) and glaciers are melting all over the world .

Climate Migration and the Resulting Human Smuggling

When environmental conditions make living in their homes untenable, people are often forced to abandon their livelihoods and seek refuge elsewhere. While many migrate within their country's borders, some are compelled to seek shelter beyond their native boundaries, leading to cross-border smuggling<sup>10</sup>. This smuggling involves procuring illegal entry into a foreign country for financial gain. Migrants facing such circumstances endure significant distress and often fall prey to smugglers, facing extortion, exploitation, and even sexual violence.

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<sup>8</sup> Types of disasters: Definition of hazard, INDIAN FED'N OF RED CROSS(2016) available at – <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/about-disasters/definition-of-hazard/>

<sup>9</sup> Dina Ionesco, Let's Talk About Climate Migrants, Not Climate Refugees, United Nations SustainableDevelopment, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog>

[/2019/06/lets-talk-about-climate-migrants-not-climate-refugees](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/06/lets-talk-about-climate-migrants-not-climate-refugees)

<sup>10</sup> maria christina charletti, human trafficking, natural disaster and situation of crisis: an analysis, with a Focus on the countries of haiti and the philippines, birkbeck uni

Although migrant smuggling itself is a crime against the state, it doesn't inherently violate human rights<sup>11</sup>. However, the entire smuggling process poses numerous human rights risks, including extortion and sexual violence, with victims often unable to seek justice due to fear of persecution or deportation<sup>12</sup>. States have a fundamental responsibility to identify and support all individuals affected by such events to mitigate adverse health consequences.

Anne Gallagher, an advisor on trafficking at the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner, stresses the crucial connection between human rights and abusive migration practices like smuggling<sup>13</sup>. This underscores the importance for human rights advocates to address this issue. Social workers, driven by a mission of social justice and advocacy, are key players in combating trafficking and smuggling<sup>14</sup>. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, they can work alongside law enforcement to provide comprehensive care, including medical, counseling, legal, and financial support<sup>15</sup>.

#### Current Legal Scenario In Different Countries Regarding Environmentally Displaced People

Before suggesting the solutions and suggesting a framework for the problem at hand we need to analyze the current provisions and options available to the Presently, international, and domestic laws addressing the immigration of environmentally displaced people, also known as climate migrants, are deficient in several aspects. As it stands, the only viable pathway for resettlement in another country is by adhering to the categories outlined within the immigration laws of the destination country. However, some nations have taken steps to establish legal frameworks to tackle the issue of climate migration.

One of the pioneering nations in recognizing the social ramifications of environmental changes and implementing preventive measures was the USA, through legislation known as the Immigration and Nationalities Act. Similarly, New Zealand has enacted the "Pacific Access Category" project to address the needs of Pacific island nations' citizens. This project, exemplified by Kiribati President Anote Tong as a "win-win" initiative, allows a limited number of nationals from Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tonga, and Fiji to migrate annually to New Zealand with their families. However, stringent requirements such as age limits, English language proficiency, proof of income, job offers, and visa application fees make the project inaccessible for many candidates, rendering it an "unaffordable dream" for numerous individuals.

Legislative efforts on this matter are sparse within Europe, with only Scandinavian countries like Sweden and Finland explicitly offering protective status to environmentally displaced people. Other Scandinavian nations have adopted a purposive interpretation of existing legislation to extend protective status to such individuals, as seen in Denmark's case. Denmark granted residence permits to Afghan families affected by famine caused by drought, leveraging the "survival criterion" outlined in the Aliens Act of 1993. Similarly, Norway has engaged in parliamentary debates to address the issue within its Aliens Act. However, concrete legislative action beyond Scandinavia remains limited, leaving environmentally displaced people in a vulnerable position.

The immigration minister explicitly acknowledged the necessity for a legal framework enabling foreign nationals to receive residence permits based on humanitarian grounds, including natural disasters. Belgium also broached the issue of "environmental refugees" in 2006, when Deputy Philippe Mahoux

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<sup>11</sup> Article 3(a), Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000).

<sup>12</sup> Side-events on the margins of consultation for the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, Human Rights Perspective on smuggling of migrants, Concept Note, Global alliance against traffic in women (2017)

<sup>13</sup> How natural disaster can affect human trafficking, ICF (2019) available at <https://www.icf.com/insights/disaster-management/trafficking-victims-in-disasters>

<sup>14</sup> Anne Gallagher, Trafficking, Smuggling and Human Rights: Tricks and Treaties, 12(25) FORCED MIGRATION REV. 8 (2002).

<sup>15</sup> Fariyal Ross Sheriff and Julie Orme, Human Trafficking: Overview, Encyclopaedia of Social Work, 6-8, Feb 2015, DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780199975839.013.945, Accessed on January 17, 2020

proposed a resolution advocating for the acknowledgment of environmental refugees in international conventions. This recommendation urged the government to advocate for the recognition, at the UN level, of a distinct status in international conventions for individuals fleeing environmental disasters. The report, presented to the Belgian Senate by Margriet Hermans on behalf of the Committee on International Relations and Defense, garnered unanimous support.

Despite legislative efforts and adjustments in European countries over the past decade, there have been limited instances of the implementation of these laws pertaining to humanitarian asylum, as observed by Nordic experts. This lack of utilization may be attributed to the absence of provisions allowing states to apply for their nationals to receive Temporary Protective Status, as seen in American legislation. Such options are notably absent in European legislation, potentially contributing to the underutilization of security regulations for environmentally displaced persons, despite the increasing global prevalence of environmental disasters.

However, it's noteworthy that most environmental migrations occur in regions like Africa and South Asia. The limited applicability of these provisions may also stem from a lack of awareness among local populations.

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#### Indian Scenario :-

The diversity of Indian terrain ranges from northern Himalayas to the arid western deserts and encompasses the southern coastal lines and the eastern Sundarbans. This diversity makes the country more susceptible to natural calamities. Majority of the rivers are prone to flooding along with storm surge impacts and greater salt water intrusion which is likely to affect a large number of people due to high population density and poor urban planning<sup>16</sup>In reality, the entire Southeast Asian region is a disaster-prone area and the high population rate further makes it vulnerable. The increasing temperatures, sea level rise, more frequent cyclones, flooding of river systems fed by melting glaciers, and other extreme weather events are exacerbating current internal and international migration patterns.

The gravity of the situation can be understood through an illustration. Assuming Bangladesh faces a climate crisis due to the rising sea level, it may lead to mass migration within the Ganges Brahmaputra deltaic region thus impacting the already complex refugee crisis<sup>17</sup>. India, being economically sounder than the other nations, will attract a mass influx of migrants. The Indian economy is inextricably tied to climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture, and which are already facing multiple stresses, climate induced

<sup>16</sup> Migration and climate change. Research and policy (2017).

<sup>17</sup> Hossain and Hossain. Climate change, sea level rise and coastal vulnerabilities of Bangladesh, Institute of

Forestry and Environmental Sciences (2012)

available at

[https://www.academia.edu/download/7630872/ebook\\_Md.%20L.%20Hossain%20and%20M.K.%20Hossain.pdf](https://www.academia.edu/download/7630872/ebook_Md.%20L.%20Hossain%20and%20M.K.%20Hossain.pdf)

migrants could further exacerbate these stresses<sup>18</sup>. The existing Indian mechanism emphasises more on migration caused by economic or humanitarian crisis but not on environment migration.

This impedes releasing of funds for relocation and resettlement of the migrants. In the year 2005, the Supreme Court of India rejected the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) Act, 1983 and held that all the cases pending before this tribunal would be transferred to the Tribunal constituted under Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964<sup>19</sup>. Thus, no distinction whatsoever has been made by the Supreme Court to determine the driving force which might have compelled the migrants to illegally migrate and seek shelter in the Indian territory. Moreover, the Indian Centre for Migration (ICM), a research think tank to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India identifies only economic transnational migration and no reference to other forms of migration have been enlisted.<sup>34</sup> Critiques argue that India has issues of more immediate concern, such as poverty, sustainable development, population growth, and urbanization<sup>20</sup>.

On the other hand, India also does not take up the issue of climate migration because the world-wide debate on climate migration has not taken into account India's position in this sustainability challenge<sup>21</sup>. The National Action Plan for Climate Change in India (NAPCC) released in 2010 has established a 'National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change' that calls for research on socio-economic aspects of climate change including impacts on migration patterns<sup>22</sup>. However, the report does not even mention once about the climate migration and displacement. For India, internal migrants are estimated at 400 million (Census 2011), approximately one third of the total population, whereas international migrants are estimated at 11.4 million by the World Bank<sup>23</sup>. This is a concerning figure in view of that the impact of climate change will only increase with the coming time. If we initiate to comprehend the implication of

slow-onset events, it is gradually paving way to desertification, soil degradation, coastal erosion and sea level rise. The situation demands effective policy interventions that may increase the quality and quantity of alternatives available to people faced with environmental pressures, therefore preventing human mobility from becoming a humanitarian crisis.<sup>39</sup> Social workers, who act as a bridge between the State and the masses can play an instrumental role in speeding up the implementation procedure because any delayed actions on behalf of State will worsen the situation and hence a timely action is the need of hour.

Why can climate refugees not be defined with the usual definition of refugees?

The United Nations appears to be inadequately prepared to address the rapidly escalating issue, likened to the rapid spread of a wildfire in Australia. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), only 10 million refugees are currently being assisted, highlighting a critical gap in response efforts.

Given the urgency of the situation and the increasing use of the term "Climate Refugees," it is imperative to clarify its definition and implications. Before delving into the concept of Climate Refugees, it is essential to understand the broader concept of Refugees. Refugees are fundamentally a political construct, and their complexities must be recognized accordingly.

As defined in the 1951 Refugee Convention, a refugee is an individual who, due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside their country of nationality and unable or unwilling to return due to such fear. This definition also encompasses stateless individuals who are unable or unwilling to return to their former habitual residence due to similar circumstances<sup>24</sup>.

<sup>18</sup> National Workshop on migration and global environmental change in India. UNESCO. 2014: 7

<sup>19</sup> Sarbananda Sonowal v. Union of India, 2005 5 SCC 665

<sup>20</sup> India Centre for Migration (ICM)  
<https://mea.gov.in/icm.htm>

<sup>21</sup> Ray C. Anderson, the encyclopaedia of sustainability: china, india and east and south-east asia:

Assessing sustainability 61-64 (2012)

<sup>22</sup> India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, Government of India, available at – [https://archivepmo.nic.in/drmanmohansingh/climate\\_change\\_english.pdf](https://archivepmo.nic.in/drmanmohansingh/climate_change_english.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> National Workshop on migration and global environmental change in India. UNESCO. 2014: 7

<sup>24</sup> UN Convention on refugee § 1 (1951).

When considering the term "climate refugees" within the context of the established definition of refugees, several key aspects come into play.

Firstly, climate migration primarily occurs within a country's borders, or individuals may seek refuge in a third country without the direct involvement of international agencies. In cases of internal migration, responsibility lies with the respective government, and those displaced would be termed as climate migrants rather than refugees. However, as climate change increasingly contributes to displacement on a larger scale, the distinction between climate migrants and refugees becomes blurred, especially considering the multitude of factors involved such as humanitarian, political, social conflict, and economic grounds.

Secondly, the term "refugees" is inherently political and revolves around considerations of national security. Conversely, addressing climate refugees requires a more humanitarian approach rather than a purely political one. Attempting to merge the concept of climate refugees with the existing refugee framework outlined in the 1951 Refugee Convention could lead to legal and conceptual confusion. Consequently, there is a need to either amend the existing convention, which entails a lengthy political process, or create a new convention specifically tailored to address climate-induced displacement.

Thirdly, the Refugee Convention defines persecution based on specific grounds such as race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political oppression. However, climate refugees do not fit neatly within this framework as they do not face persecution in the traditional sense. This was highlighted in a 2009 Australian case where a claim for climate refugee status from a citizen of Kiribati was rejected. The tribunal concluded that the harm caused by climate change, while acknowledged, did not constitute persecution based on the grounds outlined in the Refugee Convention. In summary, the concept of climate refugees presents complex challenges that require a nuanced understanding and potentially new legal frameworks to address effectively<sup>25</sup>.

In conclusion, according to the definition outlined in the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, individuals migrating due to climate change are unlikely to qualify as refugees. Consequently, they are unable to access the

protection afforded by the Convention or seek refugee status under national immigration laws that align with its definition, including those granting permanent residence status to refugees.

The Refugee Convention, when read alongside the 1967 Protocol, sets a narrow scope for who qualifies as a refugee. Even individuals fleeing their home countries due to war may not necessarily meet the Convention's criteria, though they might be covered by regional refugee protection measures.

Article 1(A)(2) of the Refugee Convention specifies five grounds of persecution: race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, and political opinion. Migration resulting from climate change is unlikely to fit within this definition of persecution, as it does not involve targeting individuals based on these specific grounds.

Furthermore, the Convention mandates that individuals seeking refugee status must be outside the country of which they are residents. Therefore, even if victims of climate change could demonstrate persecution based on one of the enumerated grounds, they would need to leave their country before being eligible to claim refugee status under the Convention<sup>26</sup>.

#### Suggested Course of action

For the current situation of environmentally displaced people :- While we are talking about the climate displaced people we have to take the account of the El-Hinna's 1985 report that provides an insightful analysis of the circumstances that compel individuals to vacate their residences. He categorizes these situations into three distinct groups, which necessitate careful consideration when formulating legislation to address environmental displacement.

Firstly, individuals may experience temporary displacement due to disasters, whether originating from natural forces or human activities. An illustrative instance of natural disaster-induced displacement occurred during the eruption of the Soufriere Hills Volcano on the Caribbean island of Montserrat from 1995 to 1998. This event compelled approximately 7,000 individuals to evacuate their homes. Such acute occurrences align with involuntary migration, presuming that volcanoes lack ulterior motives.

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<sup>25</sup> Rafael Leal-Arcas, Climate migrations: Legal Options, Queen Mary University of London, 67-69

Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3JB, United Kingdom.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid 3

Technological disasters, on the other hand, are entirely anthropogenic but share temporal acuteness with natural disasters, inevitably triggering migration. For instance, the evacuation following the release of a toxic cloud from the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant in 1979 led to the displacement of 144,000 individuals from central Pennsylvania. Unlike natural disasters, technological disasters primarily stem from human decisions regarding technology rather than incidents spurred by natural circumstances.

Secondly, there are those who face permanent displacement due to significant environmental transformations, such as the construction of dams. Notably, El-Hinna includes individuals removed from their lands due to warfare tactics in this category. For instance, during the 1960s and 1970s, a large-scale displacement of rural Vietnamese citizens occurred due to the use of defoliants by the United States. Herbicides like Agent Orange were employed to destroy crops and forest resources, compelling rural populations to migrate to urban areas for survival. Similarly, during the Salvadoran Civil War, efforts to induce migration by disrupting the ecosystem took place. Government forces utilized land mines and bombed fields to hinder agricultural development, leading rural inhabitants to flee to cities or refugee camps. Likewise, land mines in Kurdish regions of Iraq, especially near wells and roads, have discouraged agricultural activities.

Thirdly, there are those who migrate as a result of the gradual deterioration of environmental conditions. Unlike refugees from disasters and forced evictions, these individuals have some agency in deciding when and how to move in response to deteriorating environments. They are often referred to as "environmental emigrants" to acknowledge the complexity of their migration choices. While refugees from disasters and forced evictions have little control over displacement resulting from environmental changes, ecological migrants have some agency in responding to environmental shifts. Only when environmental degradation reaches catastrophic levels do these individuals become recognized as refugees.

Currently, these three categories of people are the most vulnerable and should be prioritized in policy frameworks. In response to the limitations of existing laws, various proposals have emerged for multilateral international legal frameworks aimed at protecting environmental refugees.

Proposals for addressing climate-induced migration stem from various legal frameworks, including those concerning migrants, human rights, and environmental law, as well as literature advocating for the recognition and study of environmental refugees. While many plans for new multilateral agreements share commonalities, they diverge on key aspects. Some initiatives aim to address both internal and cross-border climate migration, while others focus solely on cross-border movements out of respect for domestic sovereignty. However, not all stakeholders agree on the necessity of developing a new multilateral protection instrument for climate migration. Skeptics argue for improving existing migration mechanisms within national immigration laws instead of creating a new international instrument. Another option proposed is the development of regional responses to climate-induced migration within an international framework, considering that individuals affected by climate change may be more inclined to migrate within their own countries.

Regulating climate-induced migration is challenging, but discussions and collective action are essential. Given that the issue of refugees falls under the jurisdiction of the security council, opening up the definition of refugees might not be advisable. Therefore, a collective action approach, particularly at the regional level, is crucial, as the focus should be on addressing migration patterns resulting from climate change. Countries must anticipate the possibility of mass migration due to climate-induced changes and engage in discussions to facilitate collective action.

A new multilateral convention is deemed necessary to effectively address the plight of environmentally displaced people. While concerns about the time and potential harm to refugees during the process of drafting such a convention are valid, governing an international issue without a legal framework would be nearly impossible. Until an international convention is ratified, regional and collective approaches should guide efforts to address climate-induced migration. The recent discussions initiated by the UN highlight the urgency of the matter, urging international bodies and states to collaborate in finding solutions for environmentally displaced populations.

In advocating for the development of a new multilateral convention, it is essential to consider national interests that may support or oppose such an

instrument, as well as domestic factors that could influence a state's stance on the issue.

When considering strategies to address climate-induced migration, the choice between a soft-law or hard-law approach depends on various factors. A soft-law approach, which involves non-binding agreements or guidelines, may offer flexibility and encourage cooperation among nations without imposing strict legal obligations. However, it may also lack enforceability and fail to provide adequate protection for displaced populations. In contrast, a hard-law approach, characterized by legally binding treaties or conventions, could ensure greater accountability and provide clearer rights for affected individuals. Yet, it may face challenges in achieving universal participation and implementation.

The depth and breadth of the agreement are crucial considerations. A comprehensive agreement should encompass both internal and cross-border climate migration, addressing the needs of both migrants and host communities. It should include compliance provisions to ensure adherence to agreed-upon standards and mechanisms for resource allocation, possibly through established funds like the Adaptation Fund or the Green Climate Fund. The governance of these funds should be transparent and inclusive, with clear rules and procedures to prevent misuse or misallocation of resources.

Alternative funding approaches not tied to existing international frameworks like the UNFCCC/Kyoto Protocol could offer more flexibility and effectiveness in addressing climate-induced migration. Regional agreements in potential immigration "hot spots," such as the U.S.-Mexico or North Africa-EU regions, may also hold promise in addressing migration challenges within specific geographical contexts.

In conclusion, climate-induced migration poses significant challenges that require both regional and global responses. While regional actions may focus on discussions and discourse, global action should involve exploring various alternatives, including expanding existing legal frameworks, incorporating migration protocols into climate change conventions, and providing temporary aid to affected populations. However, ultimately, the establishment of an international multilateral convention remains the most urgent and essential step in addressing the plight of environmentally displaced people.