



2020/2042(INI)

06.07.2020

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Development

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

Rapporteur for opinion: Saskia Bricmont

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas climate change and consequential natural disasters have become common drivers of migration, which will be further exacerbated as the climate crisis worsens;
- B. whereas climate-induced migration is strongly related to other factors, including poverty, since when a country lacks the appropriate resources to adapt to climate change, this can aggravate poverty and force people to move; whereas climate change is an important risk multiplier for conflict, drought, famine and migration;
 1. Stresses that climate migration requires a normative framework to bridge existing protection gaps, via various and complementary methods; highlights the definition of climate migration offered by the IOM;
 2. Deplores the fact that, while climate migration is a reality that is set to intensify, people who move for long-term, climate change-related reasons have no effective access to protection in the EU; calls on the Member States and the Commission to put in place protection pathways, which include promoting humanitarian visas, temporary protection, authorisation to stay, and regional and bilateral free movement agreements; proposes that a climate passport be issued to persons coming from a country, or part of it, that will become uninhabitable due to climate change as a way to offer them protection from vulnerability and statelessness; proposes that any change in the environment due to climate change be explicitly listed among eligibility criteria for humanitarian protection; calls on the Commission and Member States to put forward such proposals in international forums, in parallel to other EU initiatives;
 3. Calls for the effective implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, to ensure more effective protection, via complementary pathways and appropriate financing, for persons displaced by the consequences of climate change or natural disasters;
 4. Highlights that the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration identifies climate change as a driver of migration and urges countries to introduce channels and to plan for people who move due to natural disasters and climate change;
 5. Calls on the Commission to enhance and better coordinate less restrictive legal channels for third-country workers and their families, which would include mobility schemes and preferential access for workers coming from a country, or part of it, affected by climate change;
 6. Underlines the ruling of the UN Human Rights Committee of 20 January 2020, which states that countries may not deport individuals facing climate change-induced conditions that violate the right to life; calls on the Member States to consider the risk of violations of the right to life due to climate change as part of their return decisions, notably triggering non-refoulement obligations;

7. Considers that, as part of the reform of the Union's Migration and Asylum Policy, a comprehensive framework should be established, which includes climate-induced migration and displacement as core part of this process.