

The United Kingdom, the United States, and the Russian Federation work to extend refugee rights to climate change migrants

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As the UN High Commissioner for Refugees moved closer to drafting resolution papers on the topic of natural disasters, a debate commenced on the current status of these working papers. Japan planned on presenting a “detailed paper without many holes” discussing her plans to donate some of her wealth to the Voluntary Fund Collection, implement disaster hubs as temporary solutions for refugees, and establish permanent shelters for refugees who lack the ability to return home following a natural disaster. Following a comment made by Bangladesh proposing a way for refugees to attain jobs, Canada announced her plan to institute vocational education programs in the areas with refugee camps in order to prepare the refugees for a means of providing for themselves following a disaster.

Upon the completion of the drafts of the two mega resolution papers, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the Russian Federation presented and entertained questions regarding the draft of their resolution concerning the definition of climate change migrants. This group of nations hopes that if this resolution passes migrants that flee their countries due to natural disasters will be able to seek help in refugee camps because currently, they cannot. Bangladesh criticized the draft on its simplicity and lack of substantial substance. The group responded that when a resolution is more complex, it is difficult to get countries to agree with the resolution, therefore, a straightforward resolution will result in the least amount of opposition. The Central African Republic then questioned the group on how they expect to deal with the potential language barrier between migrants and citizens of the areas where the refugee camps are located. Emphasizing the importance of respecting national sovereignty, the United Kingdom stressed that this should not be a drastic issue because the migrants will not be traveling far from their homes. Additionally, the issue does not fall under UN jurisdiction, therefore, there is not much they would be able to do about the issue anyway.

Following this question and answer session, groups prepared to present the rest of the resolution drafts.

