

UNCHR: Stop the Refugees From Becoming Refugees

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Marielle Baumgartner

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is discussing ways to aid climate change refugees. One working paper is already on the dais waiting to become a draft resolution. Two other working papers are in progress, one sponsored by Canada, and Brazil, and the other by Bangladesh and Thailand.

The working paper sponsored by Canada, and Brazil focuses on the short term, giving refugees in camps a better life by giving the refugees vocational training, temporary work permits, and generally establishing their lives in the area they fled to while their home nation is being rebuilt. When it is rebuilt, the work permits will expire so the refugees need to move back. In addition, Brazil suggests to begin a social media campaign to bring attention to the plight of the refugees. Japan and Kazakhstan add that the paper will include building up the infrastructure of nations prone to natural disasters similar to Japan's infrastructure.

The working paper sponsored by Bangladesh and Thailand focuses on immediately relief to refugees, directly after the disaster occurs. They plan to form different teams focusing on responses to different types of natural disasters around the world, and focusing on one aspect of the dangers facing the refugees - food, water, shelter, etc. To avoid infringing on national sovereignty, there would be guidelines for countries to form these committees for natural disasters themselves, if desired. Forming these teams would even bring jobs to the people of the nation.

Meanwhile, the Russian Federation (Russia) brings up a valid point - both papers focus on the short term and ameliorating refugeehood - not ending refugeehood. She argues, "Our end goal isn't to make these refugees leave their homes behind forever, forget their culture, and adapt to the culture of whatever country they've been shuffled to. We believe that we need a course correction. What are we doing to solve the problem of refugeehood? We believe that the short term plan proposed isn't short term enough and the long term plan isn't looking long-term enough."