**Committee:** United Nations Framework on Climate Change (COP22)

**Country:** República de Moçambique (Republic of Mozambique)

**Topic #1: Impact of Climate Change on Human Health**

The Republic of Mozambique’s citizens are highly affected by climate change as the geography of the nation makes it vulnerable to droughts, floods, and cyclones. It has been a priority on the political agenda of the nation to manage risks and reduce the impact of natural disasters on the most vulnerable, however several factors such as poverty, limited investment in modern technology, and general weakness in infrastructure, healthcare and sanitary services have hindered the efforts.[[1]](#footnote-1) Droughts are the most pertinent to the Republic of Mozambique, followed by floods and cyclones. These all hinder the efforts to bring more of the state’s population out of poverty, because they equate to loss of crops, outbreak of disease, and a general increase in price for basic necessities. Droughts mainly occur in the central and southern regions, and are often associated with El Niño, but there are also many anthropogenic causes of droughts, such as the excessive use of soils for agriculture, fire wood gathering, and charcoal production.[[2]](#footnote-2) Some common disease outbreaks that occur as a result of droughts include cholera, measles, malaria and other diarrhoeal diseases. However, close to 80% of the Republic works in the agriculture sector, and many families rely on their own agriculture production to feed themselves; it would be near impossible to rid the nation’s dependency on agriculture in the next few years.

As a result, the government of the Republic of Mozambique has been taking action to better prepare and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters; this started after the worst floods in 50 years occurred in the nation between February and March 2000. Close to 700 people were killed, and over 20,000 herds of cattle perished in the floods.[[3]](#footnote-3) The Mozambique Red Cross Society, with the help of funding from the Danish Red Cross, implemented a five year plan shortly after the floods to improve the preparation and response of the hardest hit communities in the future. The program consisted of creating local disaster committees in the selected target communities; members of the Red Cross Society trained and equipped these committees with the proper tools they would need to have access to the government’s early warning system. As a result, it empowered citizens to make a difference in their communities; in 2007, the plan was put into effect during Cyclone Favio. Volunteers went around the community to schools to tell parents not to send their children to school, and people listened because the news had come from people in their community that they were familiar with. Communities had more time to prepare for the cyclone, and parents were not separated from their children as a result of the early warning system; it also led to less injuries and deaths.[[4]](#footnote-4) Moreover, in its National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy of 2012, the government of the Republic of Mozambique identified two main pillars of combatting climate change while improving the risks that its citizens face in case of a natural disaster; adaptation/climate risk reduction and mitigation/low carbon development.[[5]](#footnote-5) Majority of the points set out under the first category touch upon increasing and strengthening the capacity of infrastructure, as well as reducing citizen’s vulnerability to natural disasters and its effects.

The Republic of Mozambique hopes that committee will discuss this topic first, as it lays the foundation to tackling the other two topics. It also would like to see larger nations who are combatting climate change to not neglect smaller nations in the funding of any decisions made by the committee, as the Republic of Mozambique heavily relies on foreign aid to respond to natural disasters and to combat climate change. The Republic of Mozambique is also one of the countries that is heavily impacted by climate change, while not contributing much towards pollution, black carbon and other stimulants.

**Topic #2: Climate Refugees**

The Republic of Mozambique recognizes that climate refugees often face much harder journeys to resettle in another nation than political refugees because they are not legally recognized as refugees. Many citizens of the Republic of Mozambique has been affected by natural disasters, as well as war; there are currently 61,102 internally displaced persons (IDP) in the nation. The Republic of Mozambique is also home to 9.082 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo[[6]](#footnote-6). A number of Mozambicans have also fled from the country due to civil war, with many going to neighbouring Malawi.[[7]](#footnote-7)

Thus, the Republic of Mozambique understands the importance of an international agreement on who is classified as a climate refugee, and believes that the committee should make a clear legal definition of what criteria a person must meet in order to be classified as a climate refugee. Moreover, it believes that a climate refugee should receive the same asylum rights as any other refugee (such as a political refugee). The Republic of Mozambique also believes that the committee should discuss possible parameters of an internally displaced person who moved as a result of a climate related problem, and whether they should be receiving any aid from the government or an Non-Government Organization. This is something that is prevalent within the nation, but has been largely ignored by the government.

The Republic of Mozambique, as a nation who has seen many of its citizens suffer from the long term repercussions of climate change and natural disasters, hopes that a climate refugee can be one fleeing from direct impact, as well as indirect impact such as respiratory illness from a natural disaster. Often, refugees have no medical insurance or the financial means to fund any proper treatment if they are able to seek asylum, and so the Republic of Mozambique hopes that the committee will be able to find a solution to this while defining a climate refugee. In addition, the Republic of Mozambique recognizes that at the present time, many climate refugees come from low lying coastal areas, such as the one along the east coast of the nation. Due to rising sea levels, citizens are forced to flee from their homes to higher ground, especially during a tropical cyclone or a flood.[[8]](#footnote-8) It would like to discuss possible solutions to accommodating these people, as there are many other nations who face a similar challenge – especially the Small Island Developing States. Tuvalu, a small nation in the Pacific Ocean in between Hawaii and Australia, has an agreement with New Zealand that in the case of the country sinking below sea levels, New Zealand will accept its 11,600 citizens.[[9]](#footnote-9) The Republic of Mozambique hopes that the committee can consider this case, and create more partnerships similar to this one to create a backup plan for any nations at risk of sinking below the sea level.

**Topic #3: Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce GHG Emissions**

The Republic of Mozambique signed the Paris Agreement on April 22, 2016, however has yet to ratify the agreement.[[10]](#footnote-10) The nation has consistently been committed to following guidelines set out by the UN and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and has been a party of the UNFCCC since 1995.[[11]](#footnote-11) The Republic of Mozambique strongly supports the efforts by world leaders to effectively implement the Paris Agreement at this most crucial period in the combat against climate change. The Republic of Mozambique submitted its new climate action plan, the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the UNFCCC on September 30, 2015, ahead of COP21 in Paris.[[12]](#footnote-12)

In the past, the Republic of Mozambique has been an active advocate for commitment to mitigating climate change by other nations, as well as taking action within the nation with its limited resources. In its INDC, the Republic of Mozambique committed to develop actions to mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions, adapt its developmental policies to respond to climate change as well as overall promotion of environmentally friendly practices in its industrial sectors.[[13]](#footnote-13) In 2011, the Republic of Mozambique drafted its Second National Communication, a tool used to assess climate change related performance of a nation.[[14]](#footnote-14) The Republic of Mozambique produces minimal greenhouse gas compared to many other nations, but strongly feels the effects that greenhouse gas has on the climate, and as a result, its citizens. Its main sources of greenhouse gases come from enteric fermentation and manure management, rice cultivation, agricultural soils, prescribed burning of savannas, field burning of agricultural residues in the agriculture sector and the combustion of carbon fuel from its energy sector.[[15]](#footnote-15) The last greenhouse gas inventory taken in 1994 indicated that the Republic of Mozambique creates 9 million tonnes of CO2 a year.[[16]](#footnote-16) The Republic of Mozambique attended the Rio+20 conference in June 2012 to discuss guaranteeing the renewal of political commitment to sustainable development, assessing progress made and gaps in execution of undertakings already made in relation to climate change, and dealing with emerging challenges.[[17]](#footnote-17)

The Republic of Mozambique committed to meet the United Nations “Sustainable Development Goals by 2030” on October 24, 2016.[[18]](#footnote-18) As with many other developing nations, the nation will require aid from the international community to meet these goals. The Republic of Mozambique hopes to discuss the financing of projects/initiatives related to the Paris Agreement during the committee for developing nations who would like to mitigate climate change but are unable to take action without aid. Moreover, it hopes that the committee will discuss possible ways that NGOs and other nations can help countries who would like to ratify the Paris Agreement to do so on a national and community based level. The Republic of Mozambique is also confident that the committee may be able to negotiate an even more ambitious goal in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as this will help to ensure that the original goal from the Paris Agreement is met, even if nations fall short of the new goal in the future.

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2. Ministry for the Co-ordination of Environmental Affairs of Mozambique, “National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA),” accessed November 7, 2016, http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/napa/moz01.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. "2000 Mozambique Flood," accessed November 7, 2016. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000\_Mozambique\_flood [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, "Mozambique: cyclone early warning system in practice," accessed November 7, 2016. http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Case%20studies/Disasters/cs-ewea-mozambique-en.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. “National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy” (see footnote 1) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. UNDP in Mozambique, "Mozambique commits to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals," http://www.mz.undp.org/content/mozambique/en/home/presscenter/articles/2016/10/24/mozambique-commits-to-achieve-the-sustainable-development-goals.html [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Buchanan, Elsa, "Mozambique: 10,000 refugees now living in Malawi camp amid escalating violence." International Business Times, http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/mozambique-10000-refugees-now-living-malawi-camp-amid-escalating-violence-1547997 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. IRIN, "Coastal populations at risk as climate changes," https://www.irinnews.org/fr/node/245833. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. National Geographic, "Climate Refugee," accessed November 7, 2016, http://nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/climate-refugee/ [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, " Paris Agreement - Status of Ratification," Accessed November 7, 2016, http://unfccc.int/paris\_agreement/items/9444.php [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, "Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) of Mozambique to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)," Accessed November 7, 2016, http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Mozambique/1/MOZ\_INDC\_Final\_Version.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. UN Climate Change Newsroom, "Mozambique Submits its Climate Action Plan Ahead of 2015 Paris Agreement," http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/mozambique-submits-its-climate-action-plan-ahead-of-2015-paris-agreement/#downloads [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. “Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) of Mozambique,” (see footnote 11) [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. United Nations Development Programme, "Mozambique," Accessed November 7, 2016. http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/strategic\_themes/climate\_change/carbon\_finance/CDM/mozambique.html [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Republic of Mozambique Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs, "National Report to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) ." Accessed November 7, 2016. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1032mozambique.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. , "Mozambique Submits its Climate Action Plan Ahead of 2015 Paris Agreement," (see footnote 12) [↑](#footnote-ref-18)