

CLIMATE CHANGE, INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT, AND THE 2030 UN AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

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I. INTRODUCTION

The phenomena of climate change, the displacement caused by it, and the United Nations' target to achieve 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) are closely interlinked. The international community is presently facing many challenges, and addressing the problems of climate change is one of them. Internal displacement is one of the worst consequences of climate change.¹ As estimated, by 2050, well over 216 million people will be displaced due to climate change, and the majority of these people will attempt to settle in third-world countries.² Unfortunately, the developed countries that are the main contributors of climate change, are unwilling to address the problems of climate change, adopting *non-entry* policies to keep displaced people and migrants at the border of developing countries.³ The UN adopted the SDGs to eradicate poverty, and Goal 13 addresses the problems of Climate change. The criticism against the SDG is that the document fails to address the problems of displacement.

Therefore, the paper argues that unless the problems of climate-induced displacement is taken seriously, it is very difficult to achieve the SDG.⁴ In this context, the paper is divided into five sections. The first section is an introduction to the problems of displacement. The second section outlines the existing international legal norms that provide rights to the internally displaced, which include the climate-induced displaced groups. The third section identifies the link between climate-induced displacement and problems in achieving SDGs. The fourth section identifies the reasons for the lack of the word 'displacement' in the SDGs and its impact on achieving the target of the SDGs by 2030. Finally, the conclusion summarises the arguments outlined in the paper and urges conscious attempts at reframing policies that include displaced vulnerable people as their exclusive category, instead of being overlooked as part of the disadvantaged people that SDGs aim to address.

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) argues that the current number of internally displaced people in the world today is as high as fifty million, if not more. Such massive scale displacement comes as a result of climate change, disasters, conflict, and other human rights violations.⁵ The phenomenon of internal displacement continues to be a glaring

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¹ Sanjoy Biswas and Md. Akterul Alam Chowdhury, "Climate Change Induced Displacement and Migration in Bangladesh: The Need for Rights-Based Solutions", *available at*: http://www.mcrg.ac.in/rw%20files/RW39_40/13.pdf (last visited on May 19, 2024).

² Climate Crisis, "Climate change could displace 216 million by 2050: Report" *AlJazeera*, Sep. 14, 2021, *available at*: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/14/climate-change-could-displace-216-million-by-2050-report> (last visited on May 22, 2024).

³ B. Mayer, "The International Legal Challenges of Climate-Induced Migration: Proposal for an International Legal Framework" 22(3) *Colorado Journal of International Environmental Law and Policy* 358-416 (2011).

⁴ Christelle Cazabat "The Elephant in the room: Internal Displacement Sidelined at the UN's SDG forum" (July 25, 2018), *available at*: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/expert-analysis/the-elephant-in-the-room-internal-displacement-sidelined-at-the-uns-sdg-forum/> (last visited on May 20, 2024).

⁵ IDMC, "Global Review People Displaced by Conflict and Violence", Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, Norwegian Refugee Council, *available at*: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/> (last visited on May 20, 2024).

challenge of protecting human rights before the international community.⁶ The Internally Displaced People, or the IDPs have fallen into a grey zone as far as the responsibility of the State is concerned. Not only have they been abandoned by the national authorities of their host states, who were responsible for protecting their fundamental rights, but they also do not enjoy the protective measures on an international scale that other vulnerable groups do, such as refugees.⁷ The international community is also restricted by the principle of sovereignty that stops them from providing IDPs with protection and assistance. This has resulted in a significant vacuum within the international legal framework concerning the protection of IDPs.⁸

The IDPs do not have an exclusive legal framework or humanitarian organization dedicated to addressing their problems. On the one hand, the refugees are protected by separate international convention and on the other hand, they have separate international institution.⁹ The only international attention came in the form of the 1998 'UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement' there is otherwise no special attention from the international community to address the problems of these people. Regionally, the African and Asian countries host a massive number of internally displaced people. However, when compared, it is evident that the Asian region is struggling to provide adequate and effective assistance to IDPs. The African countries collectively adopted the African Union Convention, which codified the protection and assistance to the Internally Displaced People as a binding legislation.

However, the Asian is the only region does not have any similar normative framework for dealing with the plight of the IDPs. It is important to note that this region is currently fails to develop any regional human rights mechanism altogether. Hence, the object of this paper is that the 2030 agenda, which seeks to 'leave no one behind', has to address the problem of internal displacement and particularly the impact of climate change on internally displaced people. This paper argues that the global community needs to include IDPs as one of the main agendas of 2030.

II. PROTECTION OF IDPS: LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The existing scholarship discussing the concerns of IDPs is in agreement that the lack of an international and binding legal instrument explicitly designed to address the protection of IDPs, something similar to the 1951 Refugee Convention, is a major trigger behind the insufficient responses concerning issues of internal displacement. The existing international legal guidelines only protect limited, specific needs of the vulnerable groups in question.

⁶ Francis M. Deng, "The Global Challenge of International Displacement" 15(12) *Washington University Journal of Law and Policy* 141-142 (2001).

⁷ Francis M Deng, "Divided Nations: The Paradox of National Responsibility" 19 *Macalester International* 79 (2007).

⁸ Roberta Cohen and Jacques Cuenod, "Improving Institutional Arrangements for the Internally Displaced: Internally Displaced Persons" *Brookings Institution: Refugee Policy Group* (1995), available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/improving-institutional-arrangements-for-the-internally-displaced/> (last visited on May 25, 2024).

⁹ Guy S. Goodwin-Gill, "International Protection and Assistance for Refugees and Displaced: Institutional Challenges and United Nations Reform" *Refugee Studies Centre Workshop 'Refugee Protection in International Law: Contemporary Challenges* (2006), available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/47e8d2a82.pdf> (last visited on May 24, 2024).

It is critical to note that there are a significant number of grey areas within existing international legal frameworks that do not convey clarity on matters of protection of IDPs. The closest to a framework exclusively addressing IDPs that has been developed so far is the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The principles were developed in 1998 at the request of the UNHCR and the UN General Assembly, guided by experts and scholars, meant to instrumentalise and redirect international attention to the phenomenon of internal displacement and measures addressing the same.¹⁰

The Guiding Principles, a total of 30 in number, set forth the expectations with regard to the rights the IDPs were entitled to, and the obligations that state and non-state actors alike were expected to uphold.¹¹

However, these principles only exist on paper in the form of recorded discussions and advice. They have not been acknowledged legally by any of the member states, nor have they been ratified, and therefore, are discounted as binding international law. Nevertheless, the principles compel state and non-state actors alike to reflect on other fields of international law addressing humanitarian concerns – specifically, ‘Human Rights law’, ‘Humanitarian law’, and ‘Refugee law’. Nearly all thirty principles can be traced back to either of these three larger sub-themes.¹² The Guiding principles, although touched upon in the existing larger conventions, aim to draw attention to the protection of the IDPs, as these are the grey areas in international legal frameworks at the moment.¹³

Africa, as a region, has been struggling with high rates of ‘socio-economic’ inequality and deprivation. The forcible displacement of its population has been an additional major concern. It has been observed that Africa has been particularly trying to initiate significant efforts to address the problem of internal displacement, especially in the Great Lake region. Multiple ‘regional’ and ‘sub-regional’ agencies have stepped up to deal with the problem of internal displacement.¹⁴

The first legally binding framework aimed at protecting the internally displaced persons in the ‘African region’ was adopted at the special summit on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs held in 2009.¹⁵ The convention is considered to be a landmark in terms of normative contribution to the dynamic protection measures for the IDPs. It is essentially a comprehensive legal document that strives to cover in detail all phases of displacement – from prevention, to protection, to assistance, and sustainable resolutions. The convention also focuses on the extensive list of triggers behind the issue of internal displacement – including

¹⁰ Francis Deng, “Guiding Principles on Internally Displacement” 33(2) *International Migration Review* 484-493 (1999).

¹¹ *Id.* at 489.

¹² Roberta Cohen, “The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement: A New Instrument for International Organization and NGOs” 2 *Forced Migration Review* 31-33 (1998).

¹³ Roberta Cohen, “The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement: An Innovation in International Standard Setting” 10(4) *Global Governance* 459-480 (2004).

¹⁴ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, “Internal displacement in Africa has reached unprecedented levels”, Dec. 06, 2019, *available at*: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/news/internal-displacement-in-africa-has-reached-unprecedented-levels/> (last visited on May 29, 2024).

¹⁵ African Union, African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) (2009), *available at*: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4ae572d82.html> (last visited on May 28, 2024).

but not limited to civil wars, generalized violence, human rights violations, natural and man-made disasters, and development projects.¹⁶

Additionally, the ‘Great Lake Pact’ also lays down specific terms for targeting goals that are indicated in the four key priority areas identified. First one, ‘economic development and regional integration’, second ‘democracy and good governance’, third ‘peace and security’, and fourth ‘humanitarian and social issues’.¹⁷ The last area is crucially relevant to the IDPs in the African region, and is generally addressed by protocols discussing the human rights of the IDPs. These include the ‘GLR Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Populations’ and the another one is the ‘Protocol on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons’.¹⁸

The legal framework in question is followed with adequate sincerity and in accordance with the existing international legal instruments of humanitarian law, as well as the Guiding Principles on internal displacement. The countries in the ‘Great Lake’ region recognized the crucial nature of the issues of displacement and that immediately addressing them was the need of the hour, as they were directly relevant to concerns of ‘peace, security, and development’. One of the main targets has also been create a long-lasting, sustainable condition of security and stability – not to mention reconstructing the region as a whole. The framework played a crucial role in establishing a legally binding structure focused on helping set up a system that prioritizes the needs and protective measures for the IDPS, as well as setting up a stable foundation for the region. In fact, the ‘Great Lake’ region adopted a protocol on IDPs even before the regional convention was adopted, which played a major influential role on the latter¹⁹. Therefore, the Asian countries, in their attempt to set up a regional mechanism to protect the IDPs, can infer valuable lessons from the African regional instrument.²⁰

III. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Internal displacement or the forced displacement usually arises during the armed conflict and other human rights violations. The situations of displacement are very vulnerable because in most of the situations the state involve in displacing the people and they will not protect the interest of these people. In such a difficult situation, in order to protect the interest of these people, the role of human rights and developmental oriented organization is very crucial. Unfortunately, there is no separate international organization established for the protection of these people.²¹ In this situation, what is required is the utilization of different international agencies that are involved in providing humanitarian assistance to the

¹⁶ *Id.*, Preamble of Kampala Convention.

¹⁷ International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, “Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region” (2006), available at: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/law/projects/greatlakes/Pact%20on%20Security%20Stability%20&%20Development.pdf> (last visited on May 26, 2024).

¹⁸ Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (Great Lake Protocol), available at: <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/52384fe44.pdf> (last visited on May 26, 2024).

¹⁹ International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, “Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons”, Nov. 30, 2006, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/52384fe44.html> (last visited on May 26, 2024).

²⁰ S. Chiam, “Asia’s Experience in the Quest for a Regional Human Rights Mechanism” 40 *Victoria University Wellington Law Review* 127 (2009).

²¹ L. M. Sheridan, “Institutional Arrangements for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance in Complex Emergencies of Forced Migration” 14 *Georgetown Immigration Law Journal* 941 (1999).

vulnerable communities. This includes the existing UN human rights organisations. the different origination will come together in providing assistance to the IDPs. This method is often called as a collaborative system. Unfortunately, this system was failed due to the lack of coordination among the different UN agencies.²² In order address this problem, the 'UN Inter Agency Standing Committee' (IASC) was formed to reform the system and finally the 'cluster approach' was adopted for the well coordinate with the existing different agencies to address the problems of IDPs.²³

The adoption of 'cluster approach' enable different humanitarian organization involve in providing assistance to these people. The main purpose of this method is to provide effective coordination with 'humanitarian', 'human rights' and 'development agencies'. Under the new 'cluster approach', the system function at the 'global' and 'country level' and functions even during natural disasters and complex emergencies.²⁴ Additionally, this system will hold agencies accountable for specific aspects of the global and 'country-specific' humanitarian response.²⁵ In this way, the IASC tried to fill the gap of 'accountability and responsivity' which was lacking under the existing international humanitarian agencies.

In summary, the existing international, regional, legal, and institutional frameworks for the protection of IDPs are still in the evolving stage. Unfortunately, today, the number of displaced people is on a sharp rise. As per the statistics, the number of displaced people will reach well over 200 million by the year of 2050. One of the major contributors to this trend is climate-induced displacement. Although the problem is serious, the international community is still not adequately addressing the issue of displacement. For instance, the UN Sustainable Development Goals impose an obligation on countries to achieve the SDG targets by 2030. Many scholars are of the view that it is highly unlikely to achieve the SDG target without addressing the problems of displacement. The following section identifies the link between climate-induced displacement and UN SDG goals.

IV. CLIMATE-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT AND THE ROLE OF SDGs

A serious impediment in the way of successfully achieving SDGs is internal displacement, mostly triggered by the phenomenon of climate change. Multiple consequences follow climate change, from a rise in the sea level to Desertification to great floods – all of which can cause in large-scale displacement of population while remaining within their own national borders. The driving principle behind SDGs is 'leave no one behind'²⁶ – which makes it difficult to achieve SDGs unless countries take active steps to address concerns of climate-induced displacement. The SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the UN to primarily address challenges faced by the global community, as well as to ensure equal opportunities towards a better life without further compromising our environment. The

²² UN General Assembly Resolution on the "Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons", also see "implementing the Collaborative Response to Situations of Internal Displacement, Guidance to UN Humanitarian Coordinators and/or Resident Coordinators and Country Teams, Inter-Agency Standing Committee", Sep. 2004, *available at*: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/focal-points/documents-public/implementing-collaborative-response-situations-internal-displacement> (last visited on May 24, 2024).

²³ T. Morris, "UNHCR, IDPs and Clusters" 25 *Forced Migration Review* 55-56 (2006).

²⁴ *Id.* at 55.

²⁵ *Id.* at 56.

²⁶ Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", United Nations, Oct. 01, 2020, para. 4, *available at*: <http://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda> (last visited on May 28, 2024).

SDGs were intended to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which expired in 2015. Hence, it is important to discuss the MDGs in the context of SDGs.

The Millennium Summit of the United Nations, which was conducted in 2000, saw in its wake the formation of the Millennium Development Goals – a total of eight developmental goals to be fulfilled by 2015. All 191 member states of the UN agreed to collectively help achieve these MDGs – including the elimination of extreme poverty, the empowerment of women, and the promotion of gender equality, eradicating HIV/AIDS, ensuring environmental sustainability, and building a global partnership aimed at collective development.²⁷

The gaps in both the conceptualization and eventual fulfillment of these MDGs are what led to the United Nations adopting the SDGs. These are a total of 17 collective goals that are meant to be a blueprint for building a better, more sustainable future for the collective humanity. These SDGs were adopted in 2015 by the UN General Assembly with a focus on achieving them by the year 2030. The SDGs are essentially a call for action involving all member countries in achieving the common goals of eradicating poverty, improving the infrastructure of health and education, and the immediate resolution of the impacts wrought by climate change on the global environment.²⁸

V. CLIMATE CHANGE, REFUGEES AND PROBLEMS IN ACHIEVING SDGs

The massive impact of climate change on human populations within respective national borders has long been acknowledged. The first report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 1990 clearly stated that the single most noticeable impact of climate change will be evident in the patterns of human migration.²⁹ The report also estimated that nearly 150 million people, by the end of 2015, could be experiencing displacement triggered by factors such as floods, storms, water scarcity, desertification, and other climate-change induced conditions. Scholars and practitioners alike have stood on the agreement that not only would climate change result in a mass exodus of people, but it is also the developing countries most likely to bear the costs of such displacement. In fact, it may also result in further limiting people from accessing basic human rights, not to mention the fulfillment of the SDGs.³⁰ Scholars have also noted the need for caution as conditions of climate change can even lead to rising conflicts, thus triggering displacement.

The UN ‘General Assembly’ adopted a resolution in the year December 2009 that went on to recognize that even natural disasters can trigger internal displacement. Concerns were also raised that the phenomenon of climate change could also speed up the impact of natural disasters like droughts or mudslides.³¹ To this effect, the ‘Conference of the Parties to

²⁷ United Nations, United Nations Millennium Development Goals, available at: <https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/> (last visited on May 25, 2024).

²⁸ *Supra* note 26.

²⁹ Brookings Institution, “Climate Change and Internal Displacement” (2014), available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Climate-Change-and-Internal-Displacement-October-10-2014.pdf> (last visited on May 27, 2024).

³⁰ Emily Wilkinson, Lisa Schipper, *et.al.*, *Climate Change, Migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (London: Overseas Development Institute, 2016), available at: <https://media.odi.org/documents/11144.pdf> (last visited on May 29, 2024).

³¹ UN General Assembly, *Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons*, GA Res 64/162, GAOR, UN Doc A/RES/64/162 (Dec. 18, 2009), available at: <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/64/162> (last visited on May 29, 2024).

the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change’ that was held in 2010 recognized on principle that mobility, including planned relocations, would serve as an important strategy against climate change.³² The ‘Cancun Adaptation Framework’ advocated for all involved parties to make better efforts in terms of understanding and taking steps to address displacement caused by climate change, and planned relocation efforts on both national and global levels.³³

VI. IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Drastic changes in living conditions as a consequence of climate change may result in mass migrations, generally within the same national borders as people seek stable, secure living conditions in addition to better employment opportunities. However, if such intentional relocations are not successful or people move to urban overpopulated areas that cannot accommodate them, they may be victims of a second displacement. This displacement can often be cyclical in nature as people are forced to move from their original roots in the hope of better security and livelihood conditions.³⁴

The impact of ‘climate change’ on internal displacement is also dictated by factors such as a growing population, rapid urbanization, increased ‘human mobility’, and ‘food’, ‘water’, and ‘energy security’.³⁵ Even regional factors such as governance conditions can affect the extent of displacement happening. Within such a context where pre-existing socio-economic factors play a role – climate change can become a multiplier, magnifying the already-happening impact. That is to say that, alongside the obvious negative impacts, the phenomenon of climate change may also trigger potential conflicts leading to further displacement. It may also result in increased demand over limited resources, including habitable space and employment opportunities – all of which may lead to additional displacement.

Unpredictable natural calamities such as floods or cyclones are expected to become even more intense and untraceable due to climate change, leading to mass displacements of unplanned nature. Traceable, slow moving conditions such as food scarcity or lack of jobs also trigger displacements – already observed throughout the world. Particularly in Asia and Africa, the already-vulnerable populations are the ones most affected by climate change. An estimated 12 million people in the Horn of Africa required large-scale humanitarian assistance due to the 2011 drought. In particular, Somalia faced multiple obstacles due to drought, including crop failures and rising inflations and even food scarcity. The end result was a massive famine that put nearly 4 million people at risk, necessitating large-scale humanitarian assistance.³⁶ It is difficult to establish direct causal relationships between climate change and the displacements it triggers. The triggers of climate change are multifold, as are the results. For example, melting glaciers can be caused by climate change, but also due to deforestation, which is a human action. Since it is difficult to differentiate

³² UN, “United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change”, *available at*: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf> (last visited on May 29, 2024).

³³ UNFCCC, “Cancun Adaptation Framework”, *available at*: <http://unfccc.int/adaptation/items/5852.php> (last visited on May 28, 2024).

³⁴ *Supra* note 29.

³⁵ *Supra* note 30 at 209.

³⁶ Elizabeth Ferris, “Climate Change and Internal Displacement: A Contribution to the Discussion” *Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement* (2011), *available at*: <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4d6e0bfe2.pdf> (last visited on May 30, 2024).

between the different factors behind displacement, it is also critical that we take a holistic approach to understand the impact of climate change on mass migration.

VII. INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SDGs

Achieving the fulfillment of SDGs is not removed from the fate of displaced populations. Rather, forced migration plays a massive role in the implementation of the SDGs, whether triggered by climate change or any other factors.³⁷ However, it is completely unjust that the agenda of SDGs do not explicitly include the plight faced by displaced populations. The UN secretary general in his synthesis report, went to clearly state that the new framework has to remedy such an injustice and ‘must not exclude displaced persons, or persons affected by conflict.’ In order for the states to prove their commitment to development that protects the vulnerable, special attention must be reserved for the plight of vulnerable people, including displaced persons.³⁸

Even though migrants and refugees are included in the framing paragraph of the SDGs, only two out of the 169 stated targets actively include refugees or migrants. On the other hand, displacement is referred to in the Paris Climate Agreement. Making the problems of internal displacement part of humanitarian planning is the immediate need of the hour.³⁹

In fact, while each of the goals explicitly focus on equality and universality, the needs of Internally Displaced Persons still need to be integrated into the implementation of SDGs – from policies to funding to explicitly marked funds. The first goal of complete eradication of poverty, and the second goal of eradicating hunger, must also consider the socio-economic consequences climate change poses for the vulnerable groups. The fifth goal of achieving gender equality, the eighth goal of achieving economic parity, and the thirteenth goal dealing with climate justice will require that both the design and the delivery of these development programs make space for the displaced people as well. Refugees and displaced people will need to play a significant role with regard to peace-building process in conflict zones.⁴⁰

The SDG ‘Goal 10’ provide provision for reduced ‘inequalities and SDG ‘Goal 13’ stress on the ‘climate action’ need to include IDPs as a subject to focus on their development. In ‘Goal 16’ discuss on ‘peace, justice and strong institution’, unless the internal displacement or the problems of forced migration properly addressed it is difficult to achieve peace in the region.⁴¹

³⁷ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, “Leaving no one behind: internal displacement and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development”, *available at*: <http://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/45943> (last visited on May 30, 2024).

³⁸ Tackling internal displacement through the SDGs, *available at*: <http://www.sustainablegoals.org.uk/tackling-internal-displacement-sdgs/> (last visited on May 28, 2024).

³⁹ Derek Osborn, Amy Cutter, *et.al.*, “Universal Sustainable Development Goals: Understanding the Transformational Challenge for Developed Countries”, Stakeholder Forum, commissioned by the UN Development Program (Geneva, Switzerland: UNDP, 2015), *available at*: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1684SF_-_SDG_Universality_Report_-_May_2015.pdf (last visited on May 30, 2024).

⁴⁰ UNDP, “Sustainable Development Goals- Background on the Goals”, *available at*: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/background.html> (last visited on May 29, 2024).

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

In order to achieve the ‘SDGs’ by 2030 – the government need to address peoples’ vulnerabilities in order to truly address the needs of ‘sustainable development’. Similarly, humanitarian agencies and actors must also join hands to address the unique need of displaced populations. To summarize, it will be a great disservice to one of the most critically vulnerable groups if states and non-state actors indeed fail to include addressing the concerns of displaced people within the implementation agenda of SDGs.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The ‘phenomenon of internal displacement’ is likely to have an adverse impact on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. While the SDGs are indeed committed to ‘leaving no one behind’, they cannot be fulfilled without making space for solutions to address the issue of displaced people on a global level. Both climate change and displacement are two major global concerns – both in need of cooperation on both national and international levels. The 2030 agenda aim to bring countries together to achieve a common future of dignity and safety where everyone has access to essentials, education, healthcare, and legal documentation to secure a stable future. Strong advocacy that will take on the battle for the displaced people’s inclusion in regional SDG achievement plans, is the need of the hour. It is critical that we reiterate the significance of fortifying capacities to deal with the imminent needs of displaced people at both national and global levels.