

Protection Measures Relating to Climate Change and Environmental Refugees—International Law Regime and the Practices of the EU and the USA

Blake C. Y. Wang

Department of Law, National Taipei University
151, University Rd., San Shia, New Taipei City 23741, Taiwan
E-mail: blakecyw@mail.ntpu.edu.tw

Abstract

Environmental Refugees constitute a unique phenomenon in the modern international community. These environmentally-displaced persons are affected by climate change or other environmental factors, such as drought, soil salinization, desertification, deforestation, which result in environmental degradation that make their homelands unsafe to inhabit. These people have no alternative but to leave home in search of more secure environments in which to live. Some environmental refugees migrate across borders, while others are internally displaced. The status and definition of environmental refugees are still controversial under international legal regimes. States and international organizations (especially the UNHCR) need to cooperate closely to build the legal foundations of a global governance regime to deal with environmental refugees.

Key Words: environmental refugee, climate change refugee, International Human Rights Law, International Refugee Law, International Environmental Law