# AUSTRALIAN government RESPONSE

## Call for submissions: Report on addressing the human rights implications of climate change displacement

Australia thanks the United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change for their invitation to provide a submission to inform the Report on “Addressing the human rights implications of climate change displacement, including legal protection of people displaced across international borders”.

Australia welcomes that the UN Special Rapporteur is investigating this important issue.

As outlined in our statement to the 77th Session of the UNGA Sixth Committee in October 2022, the displacement of communities by the impacts of climate change is a reality already felt across much of the Pacific. This reality is existential. Rising sea levels, climate change-induced food and water insecurity through salinisation and drought, and the increasing frequency of natural disasters, all threaten people’s ability to remain where they currently live.

We respect the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement as the key global frameworks for addressing climate change. Noting the far-reaching impacts of climate change, Australia recognises the importance of climate change implications being considered in a range of other relevant mechanisms, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Secretary-General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, and relevant international human rights law treaties.

Australia stresses that Indigenous Peoples and local communities are disproportionately impacted by climate change and should have a voice in global forums such as UNFCCC and other UN bodies to speak truth to their experiences.

Addressing the impacts of climate change and displacement must also be attuned to their particular impacts on the rights of people with disabilities, women, children, and other vulnerable groups.

Australia supports processes underway in the Pacific to develop regional frameworks on these issues and we commend the Pacific’s leadership in this complex and emerging area. We also welcome ongoing activities of international organisations in supporting the Pacific region to consider regional approaches, including sharing the expertise and experiences of First Nations Australians.

We will continue to engage sensitively and respectfully with Pacific Island countries on these issues.

Australia is committed to upholding and contributing to the development of international law in a complex, sensitive and emerging area, that has real life consequences for people whose lives are affected by climate change.

We commend the Special Rapporteur’s important work to draw attention to these issues and thank the Special Rapporteur for providing the opportunity to Member States to make a submission.