

Post-COP30 Debate on Climate-Induced Migration: Brazil's Policies Towards a Governance in The Amazon Region

Debate post-COP30 sobre la migración climática: políticas brasileñas para una gobernanza en la Amazonia

O debate pós-COP30 sobre migração induzida pelo clima: políticas brasileiras para a governança na região amazônica

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ABSTRACT:

The debate on human displacement caused by global warming was consolidated at the 30th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP30), held in November 2025 in Belém, in the Brazilian Amazon. This article addresses efforts towards regional Amazonian governance for migration and refuge. Initiatives in recent years have involved significant mobilization of various sectors of Brazilian society in response to forced migrations due to the intensification of extreme events, such as unusual droughts and floods. The text analyzes the political dynamics and the renewed popular participation in migration policy decisions, discusses the causal link between climate change and human displacement, and the prospect of building global migration governance, with emphasis on recent initiatives adopted in South America and its Amazonian territorial context.

RESUMEN:

El debate sobre los desplazamientos humanos provocados por el calentamiento global se consolidó en la 30ª Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático (COP30), celebrada en 2025 en la ciudad de Belém, en la Amazonía brasileña. Este artículo aborda los esfuerzos en favor de una gobernanza regional amazónica para la migración y el refugio. Las iniciativas de los últimos años involucraron una movilización de sectores de la sociedad en Brasil, en respuesta a las migraciones debido a eventos extremos, como sequías e inundaciones inusuales. El texto analiza las dinámicas políticas y la retomada de la participación popular en las decisiones sobre política migratoria, discute el nexo causal entre el cambio climático y los desplazamientos y la perspectiva de construcción de una gobernanza migratoria global, con énfasis en las iniciativas recientes adoptadas en América del Sur y su enfoque territorial amazónico.

RESUMO:

O debate sobre deslocamentos humanos provocados pelo aquecimento global se consolidou na 30ª Conferência das Nações Unidas sobre Mudança do Clima (COP30), realizada em novembro de 2025 na cidade de Belém, na Amazônia brasileira. Este artigo aborda os esforços em prol de uma governança regional amazônica para a migração e o refúgio. As iniciativas dos últimos anos envolveram mobilização significativa de diversos setores da sociedade no Brasil, em resposta às migrações forçadas devido à intensificação dos eventos extremos, como secas e enchentes incomuns. O texto analisa as dinâmicas políticas e a retomada da participação popular nas decisões sobre política migratória, discute o nexo causal entre mudança do clima e deslocamentos humanos e a perspectiva de construção de uma governança migratória global, com ênfase nas iniciativas recentes adotadas na América do Sul e seu recorte territorial amazônico.

1. Introduction

The impacts of climate change are triggering and intensifying human migrations across every part of the world. In South America, in the last decade, the Amazon river basin suffered uncommon severe droughts, floods and heat that affected and displaced riverside and forest communities, Indigenous groups and traditional populations. The phenomena challenge the institutional frameworks of migrant and refugee protection in countries like Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador. In the Amazon as a whole – the region comprises nine countries – domestic and international migrations have shown significant changes in patterns of origin of displaced peoples, their social condition, distribution and selectivity. It requires different approaches on human mobility, and diversity of public policies for social and economic integration of migrants (Aragón, 2017).

The 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30), held in November 2025 in Belém, an Amazonian metropolis on the edge of the rainforest, was a paradox diplomatic event. The Conference and the People's Forum, which took place in parallel in the Brazilian city, were promising in many respects, but also revealed a lack of consensus in addressing global warming and climate-induced migration.

The discussions focused on how policymakers, civil society, and international organizations can take steps to mitigate and adapt to the effects of the climate crisis, including large-scale human displacement, both internal and international. Responses were diverse and came from a wide range of nations, economic sectors, and organizations. In the end, COP30 presented some progress on climate adaptation and a just energy transition, although its final document, marked by disagreements, did not mention overcoming dependence on fossil fuels or combating deforestation, two important factors that cause global warming and human displacement.

South America as a continent, particularly the Amazon and Plata river basins, has human settlements highly susceptible to the consequences of extreme events generated or aggravated by climate change. In the Amazon, intense rainfall has caused exceptional flooding in the first months of each year, during the summer of the Southern Hemisphere. From mid-year until the end of the second half of the year, the same areas have been drastically affected by drought. In the last five years, the Amazon River and its tributaries, which together hold the largest volume of fresh water in the world, have reached their lowest level ever recorded.

The consequences have been devastating for wildlife and vegetation. Thousands of people have migrated. This phenomenon has occurred every year since 2021, with dramatic consequences in at least six countries, encompassing more than 90% of the Amazon rainforest and its hydrographic basin (Fapesp, 2023; Inmet, 2023; Nasa, 2023). These conditions will likely cause further disasters if they are not modified and global warming is not contained.

In Brazil, which alone encompasses approximately 65% of the Amazon, the lack of regulation of a significant part of the 2017 Migration Law has prevented the full application of its participatory nature. The country's position is crucial for a regional initiative on the issue. The law determined the institution of a National Policy on Migration, Refugees, and Stateless Persons jointly coordinated by the Union, states, municipalities, and civil society. Its relevance extends to and is reflected in the work of international organizations in Brazil.

In October 2025, eight years after the law's enactment, President Lula regulated the norm, and established the National Plan for Migration, Refugees, and Stateless Persons. The document

KEYWORDS

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PALABRAS CLAVE

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recognizes migrants as agents of economic and social development, a shift from the security-focused views that still permeate debates on human migration in Brazil. The requirement that all levels of government act in a coordinated and diversity-sensitive manner expresses a participatory and comprehensive approach to vulnerable groups, such as women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQIA+ population (Brazil, 2025).

Although Brazil committed to developing a National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change (NAPCC), leading the sector in the region, the rise of climate change deniers in the federal administration hindered the plan's implementation. The first version of the NAPCC was approved in May 2016, two days before the impeachment of former President Dilma Rousseff (Brazil, 2016) and was sidelined during the subsequent governments of Presidents Michel Temer (2016-2018) and Jair Bolsonaro (2019-2022). It was during this period that climate change denialism gained political strength.

The debate on the need to implement climate change adaptation strategies was resumed in Brazil in 2023, during the third term of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. The planning carried out a decade earlier then needed to be updated, based on the extreme weather events that occurred in Brazil in the preceding years. In June 2023, the Interministerial Committee on Climate Change was restructured to monitor actions related to climate change (Brazil, 2023). The new National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change should be programmatically adjusted to promote the adoption of local and sectoral plans by 2035.

The resumption of actions aimed at migrants and refugees had its most significant initiative in 2023, with the efforts of the National Council for Refugees (Conare), which throughout that year analyzed thousands of accumulated refugee status applications. There were more than 138,000 requests, most of them made during the Bolsonaro government, of which about 77,000 were recognized, raising the number of refugees in Brazil to more than 143,000 people.

The Brazilian Amazon region concentrated the largest number of refugee status applications analyzed by Conare, especially in the border states of Roraima (51.5% of applications), Amazonas (14.2%), and Acre (4.7%). Venezuelans, Haitians, and Cubans represented almost 70% of the total applicants in these three states. In the last decade, Venezuelans have joined Haitians, who arrived in large numbers after the 2010 earthquake that devastated the Caribbean country. Across Brazil, the number of asylum applications from Angolans, Afghans, Syrians, and Vietnamese is also noteworthy (Junger da Silva et al, 2024).

The Second Brazilian National Conference on Migration, Refugees, and Stateless Persons (2nd Comigrar), held in Brasília in November 2024, impacted the debate on migration in the Amazon and its participatory nature. The conference was preceded by a round of 138 preparatory local, state, and thematic meetings, which brought together approximately 10,000 people and 1,500 proposals. Although all meetings took place on Brazilian territory, border areas received special attention. It is based on these actions that the group of Amazonian nations has sought to establish common objectives for addressing forced human mobility in a regional context.

The Summit of Presidents of the States Parties to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (OTCA, in its acronym in Portuguese and Spanish), held in Bogotá, Colombia, in August 2025, and its extraordinary Council meeting in Belém in October, concurrently with COP30, committed the Amazonian countries to the climate agenda. OTCA is the only multilateral organization and a leading player in socio-environmental governance on the Amazon basin. The meetings defined strategic actions for regional cooperation as a basis for the protection of the Amazon, guaranteeing the well-being of its people and projecting the region onto the global agenda. Strengthening the OTCA became a primary aspect of diplomatic relations between Brazil and Colombia for the governments of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Gustavo Petro Urrego.

At COP-30, the three main policy dimensions for action to address global warming structured the conference: transition to clean energy, adaptation to climate change, and financing of global initiatives on the subject. The debate on human mobility was hampered by a lack of consensus, particularly within the group of African

nations. The absence of the United States government from the conference also made global decision-making difficult. Despite the recognition that the planet's climate is already in a warmer and more unstable phase, the conference made little progress in establishing rules for adaptation to climate change.

This article discusses climate change-induced displacement in the Amazon region and analyzes the political dynamics in Brazil, especially in the Amazon, regarding migration and refugees. The first part addresses the connection between global warming and human displacement, an issue involving a combination of factors. The second part discusses articulations for migration governance. The article is based on research conducted by the authors within the scope of the project entitled International Cooperation and Climate Change: The Challenges of Gender Issues in International Organizations from the Perspective of the Amazon in the 2030 Agenda, funded by the Brazilian National Council for Research and Technological Development (CNPq).

2. The climate-migration nexus in the Amazon: a combination of factors

The intersection between climate change and migration is one of the major contemporary themes in International Relations, although it produces different impacts in distinct areas of the world, in a complex relationship shaped by geography and socioeconomic factors. Climate change can directly affect human populations, although it is often difficult to determine how rising temperatures drive migration. It acts as a multiplier of social risks, leading people to move due to gradual environmental degradation, even more so than due to direct extreme events.

In the Amazon, the impacts combined and amplified other factors, leading people to move from the forest and riverbanks to different places as large urban centers. The interaction between migration and development is another challenge in the current debate (Carballo de la Riva & Echart Muñoz, 2008, p. 28). Although scientific research is insufficient to provide precise data and quantify the relationship between climate and migration in the Amazon basin, it is possible to associate large-scale human displacement with increasingly frequent extreme events (Folly & Ramos, 2021).

The Amazon region is characterized by glaring inequalities and a combination of interconnected socioeconomic and climatic factors that trigger large population displacements. The human and cultural diversity inherent in the vast expanse of the territory leads to reflection on “how spaces were simultaneously occupied and reproduced in the Amazon with the advent of migrations” (Jarochoinski Silva & Oliveira, 2015, p. 164). Although most displacements occur over short distances and within national borders, there is a growing increase in flows in border areas, such as the Brazilian Amazonian states of Roraima, Amazonas, Amapá, Acre, and Mato Grosso, which border seven other Amazonian countries, with a significant impact on rural and urban centers and vulnerable populations.

Unequal societies like the Amazon face the paradox of climate justice revealing different repercussions between rich and poor, developed and developing areas, where those who contribute to environmental degradation are generally the ones who suffer the least from its negative impacts. Moreover, Myers (2005) adds the element of poverty as an “additional push factor” for displacements associated with environmental problems. The author highlights the difficulty in differentiating refugees motivated by environmental factors from those driven by economic issues, since there are other factors for these migrations, such as those he cites: population pressure, lack of land, malnutrition, unemployment, accelerated urbanization, epidemic diseases, and deficient government policies to deal with conflicts.

Climate-induced mobility occurs disproportionately in low-income areas, which tend to be more vulnerable to global warming but often contribute fewer emissions. In 2022, 21% of disaster-related displacements occurred in least developed countries, which together account for less than 15% of the world's population (Huang, 2023).

Most people displaced by climate impacts travel relatively short distances, usually to large cities, typically within their own countries. And within countries, climate change will make some cities attractive destinations,

often for people from rural riverside regions, as they abandon neighborhoods vulnerable to flooding and other climate-related threats. This is what has been happening in the last decades in the Amazon, where two major Brazilian metropolises – Manaus and Belém – have largely become attraction hubs for the migrant peoples of the forest.

The expansion of illegal mining in the Amazon generates conflict and violence, forcing people to abandon their lands. The dispute over land and natural resources is one of the main causes of displacement in the region, unequally impacting groups such as Indigenous women and fishing communities, forced to relocate due to the lack of water and fish in dried-up lakes and rivers, and compelled to flee their villages due to persecution and threats from illegal miners, as in the Upper Rio Negro region in Northwestern Brazil. Access to basic resources, such as drinking water and food, becomes more difficult. Life and security are threatened, especially for Indigenous communities. Migration impacts the identity and ancestry of these peoples.

Within the interactive dimension between humans and the environment, the demographic approach initially considered the concept of populations at risk, where “the consequences of environmental deterioration are not perceived equally by different social groups, nor felt uniformly throughout the territory” (Hogan, 2005, p. 330). The disproportionate impacts of climate-induced migrations on vulnerable groups represent, in themselves, asymmetries in mobility relations.

The construction of a concept of justice for climate issues addresses accountability for global warming and its impacts, considering persistent social inequality and the defense of human rights (Mendes & Specie, 2024, p. 274), given that industrialized countries have historically accumulated wealth through the burning of fossil fuels. Regarding socio-environmental justice, territorial conflicts are considered and related to the rights of peoples to be and exist (Isaguirre-Torres & Maso, 2023, p. 480), as well as to the circumstances of permanence and the possibilities of human displacement.

Over the past half century, the Amazon basin has undergone significant changes and increased environmental management, driven by mega-infrastructure projects and environmental disasters. Severe droughts and periods of exceptional rainfall cause soil erosion and hinder access to potable water. Droughts reduce fish stocks and agricultural production, increase competition for natural resources, and compromise river navigation and local communities' access to health and education services, as well as water, food, and fuel supplies.

These conditions affect the livelihoods, health, and food security of the inhabitants of the rainforest, including Indigenous peoples, riverside communities, fishermen, and traditional communities, who are forced to relocate to different areas of the forest. For these groups, especially those whose identities depend on collective access to the lands and waters historically occupied by their ancestors, migration, more than a climate adaptation strategy, must be understood as a means of survival.

Each country that makes up the Amazon presents political and socioeconomic processes that affect international migrations. Aragón (2017, pp. 101-102) cites specific causes of human flows in the region, not necessarily caused by environmental or climatic reasons. Among other factors, he lists the fight against guerrilla warfare and drug trafficking in Colombia, the political and socioeconomic crisis in Venezuela, and mining activities that attract a growing presence of foreigners (mainly Brazilians) to Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana, a department of France where salaries in euros, a stronger currency, exert a great attraction for migrant workers.

The waves of migrants and refugees in the Amazon region in the first decades of the 21st century reveal not only economic or political motivations. At the origin of the migratory experience are silent climatic and environmental conditions, generated by global warming, regardless of the occurrence of disasters and extreme events. This also implies that the main factor driving or giving rise to the movement of people is usually not the only one. An important aspect when dealing with climatic migrations is the multifactorial nature of human displacement and global warming.

In most cases, the environmental or climate factor interacts with other aspects, such as poverty, food insecurity, violence, discrimination, among others, and acts as a trigger for mobility in a context of pre-existing vulnerabilities. Or vice versa. Vulnerability factors end up aggravating the situation of people who are displaced or at risk of being displaced.

Five Amazonian countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) are large-scale destinations for migrants and refugees, including displaced people because of climate-related events, mainly floods (85% of cases) but not only. The earthquake that shook Haiti in 2010 drove the largest group of displaced people motivated by an environmental disaster through a land corridor in the Peruvian Amazon to Northwestern Brazil. Venezuelan migrants joined Haitians in greater numbers in the region, despite being mostly driven by non-climatic or environmental factors, starting in 2016. It forced South American governments to find solutions to the large influx.

Brazil established a Humanitarian Visa that allowed displaced Haitians to transition to permanent residency and a Residence Permit for Humanitarian Reception for Venezuelans. In turn, Colombia granted two-year and later ten-year visas to Venezuelan citizens. Peru instituted legal measures with the same objective, and Ecuador leveraged the flexibility of its visa system to grant legal status to newcomers. Although these reception initiatives provided humanitarian assistance to migrants entering or moving within the Amazon region, policy changes by the governments of Brazil, Ecuador, and Peru in the 2010s weakened migration policies in those countries (Chaves-González *et al.*, 2025).

Regarding the recent large and diverse flow of people from Venezuela to neighboring countries, climatic factors have been identified as motivating factors for the departure of the Warao, E'ñepa, and Ka'riña Indigenous Peoples. An action and sustainability plan for these groups was developed jointly by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and Indigenous representatives in Roraima (IOM, 2018; Unicef & CIR, 2023).

Since there is no global consensus on the meaning of environmental refuge, there is a lack of categorization and nomenclature for displaced people who have experienced natural disasters, which leads to the conclusion that the low commitment to these forced migrants is due to the "low visibility of the vulnerabilities that surround them" (Claro, 2013, p. 101). However, in the Amazon, it has also been pointed out that organizations that assist displaced people have recognized the growing number of forced migrations linked to environmental causes and that their actions have been based on international solidarity (Claro, 2020, p. 230).

International law does not provide specific protection for people who are displaced due to environmental reasons. The 1951 Refugee Convention also does not include a specification regarding migrations resulting from environmental and climate consequences. Given this absence of global regulation on the subject, Zetter (2009) points to the need for national and international legal systems to offer support to people displaced by climate change-related causes. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) itself uses the terminology "displaced by climate change" instead of climate refugees. Even the concept of climate migrations is not widely accepted by politicians and the scientific community. Climate mobility is possibly the most comprehensive term for the phenomenon, encompassing internal and international displacement, forced or voluntary, temporary or permanent (Huang, 2023).

Some countries have already demonstrated progress in establishing migration governance focused on the consequences of global warming. In Bolivia, National Law No. 370 on Migration (2013) guarantees the definition of climate migrants ("people forced to move due to climate effects or natural disasters"), a pioneering element in this type of legislation. Peru also adopts the concept of migrants due to environmental causes. The country is officially committed to developing a plan for these people in its Climate Change Law. In Brazil, legal provisions on environmental and climate migration are largely under debate, with some advance in the last decades, such as the implementation of the humanitarian protection visa (Rodríguez & Ramos, 2024, p. 64).

The Amazon populations affected are not considered climate refugees and global warming does not constitute grounds for refugee protection. There are national migration policies in Brazil, Colombia, Peru,

Bolivia and Ecuador for people displaced by disasters, but these generally do not apply to indirect impacts of climate change. Internally displaced people within their own countries, for any reason, are not recognized as refugees by the main international legal document on the subject.

3. The Global Compact as an international articulation for migration governance

The climate emergency, which intensified in the first decades of the 21st century, and the resulting extreme events point to challenges in most river basins. The Amazon is a region where rising temperatures can have drastic repercussions for human presence. These include population displacement within countries and across borders, exacerbating migratory flows originally motivated by economic and political causes. Recognition of the threat, while exerting pressure on governments and the economy, has not yet been sufficient to establish plans for prevention and mitigation of its social effects. It is in this sense that international agencies have sought to formulate their actions in the Amazon region.

Within the multilateral context of the Amazon, specifically regarding regional cross-border migrations caused by global warming, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration makes it possible to address the frequent overlap between the categories of migrants and refugees, recognizing mixed population flows and the multiple causes of these displacements, including climate change and environmental disasters. The Brazilian civil society is part of the international articulation that, in the last decades, searched for building a migration governance. Global Compact, its best result, is the most comprehensive agreement on the matter, although important countries of the Global North that receive migrants are not signatories.

All nine Amazonian countries are original signatories of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, although Brazil withdrew from the agreement during the far-right administration of Jair Bolsonaro (2019-2022). In doing so, its Foreign Affairs Ministry declared the intention of taking distance from multilateral decisions on migration and migrants rights (Mendes & Menezes, 2019). In January 2023 (Brazil), already under the Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva new administration, Brasília fully rejoined the convention, reinforcing “the commitment to the protection and promotion of the rights of almost 5 million Brazilians living abroad” (Brazil, 2024).

One of the objectives of the agreement is to minimize the adverse and structural factors that force people to migrate. In this sense, the text presents five topics related to the impacts of climate change and environmental disasters. It includes an important approach to promoting gender equality and combating the victimization of migrant women and girls, as well as respecting the rights of children in the context of international displacement, including unaccompanied children and those separated from their families (United Nations, 2018).

There are also initiatives such as the one in the tri-border area between Brazil, Colombia, and Peru, where joint actions by public authorities and international UN agencies have broadened the debate on the need to develop cross-cutting policies to address climate change-induced migration and refugees. This process was politically driven in Brazil since Lula returned to the presidency in January 2023, giving start to the preparatory process of the Second National Conference on Migration, Refugees, and Stateless Persons (2nd Comigrar), held in 2024.

A common challenge for the coming years in the Amazon region will be the necessary development of local plans (municipal and state) to deal with the consequences of rising temperatures and their mitigation. Extreme events are interconnected by causal factors originating from global warming. This has been demonstrated in scientific research, from conventional models to satellite data analysis (IPCC, 2018). The worsening of these processes is felt catastrophically by the affected populations.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have expanded their operations in the Amazon, not only to deal with international transits

motivated by socio-political reasons, such as the case of Venezuelans. At the base of the UN agencies' initiatives in the Amazon is cooperation with national governments, even in periods of official denial of the climate debate (UNHCR, 2024). The notion of shared responsibility between public authorities, civil society and international organizations is a guiding principle.

One assumption that underlies this debate is the political and technical effort to reduce emissions by reformulating or banning activities that cause global warming. In addition to the UNHCR and the IOM, other United Nations agencies run projects on Amazon related to human displacement and climate change. The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) runs a program to prevent gender-based violence and promote sexual and reproductive rights for migrants and refugees, in partnership with UN Women (United Nations, 2023).

The initiatives linked to recognizing climate change as a factor in internal or cross-border displacement on the Amazon demonstrate the role of UNHCR and IOM in cooperating with public authorities. It is also important to explore a regional approach (Ramos 2017a, 2017b, 2018), through actions of activists and the academic sector. Vulnerabilities of Amazonian populations to global warming and its consequences have urgently to be incorporated as part of the policies for the current climate emergency.

Initiatives related to recognizing climate change as a factor in internal or cross-border displacement in the Amazon demonstrate the role of UNHCR and IOM in cooperating with public authorities. It is also important to explore a regional approach on the matter (Ramos 2017a, 2017b, 2018), through actions by activists and the academic sector. Attention to the vulnerabilities of Amazonian populations to global warming and its consequences is urgent and must be incorporated into policies for the current climate emergency.

In this dimension, in addition to the directly affected community, an entire institutional, normative, political, and social system needs to adapt locally and regionally, including to contain the so-called "leakage effect", where the protection of a biome is weakened by a lack of coordination with actions aimed at other biomes in the same or contiguous zones. Thus, climate change demands multifaceted efforts to mitigate catastrophic events, for socio-environmental adaptation, and for resilience in individual and collective decisions in the face of events that directly affect a spatial area and all the implications of that location. Displacements motivated by changes in the ecosystem are involuntary, regardless of the results produced by extreme events that make permanence in time and space impossible, as they may lead to the search for new destinations.

Whether in urban or rural contexts, integrated and multi-sectoral actions coexist with public policies, in a combination of practices aimed at achieving the ideal of more egalitarian social justice for all regions and peoples. The government and legal instruments play a relevant role in proposing mechanisms that contribute to progress in the two major themes addressed at COP30: migration and climate. One month before the conference, the Brazilian federal administration enacted a decree establishing the National Policy on Migration, Refugee and Stateless Persons (Brazil, 2025). Although the new legislation does not mention displacement caused by environmental or climatic issues, it regulates the reception of people in vulnerable situations resulting from migratory flows caused by emergencies and humanitarian crises (Article 4, III), which includes climate-induced migrations and the dynamics of place as a causal factor.

According to the new legal framework, Brazilian Migration Policy should emanate from the public sphere of action, coordinated and articulated by collegiate bodies of the federal administration. It also proposes cooperative dialogue among the 26 states of Brazil, the Federal District of Brasília, and municipalities, in addition to the participation of civil society entities, international organizations, the private sector, and the protagonism of migrants, refugees, and stateless people themselves (Article 2).

Concerns about the social aspect of climate-induced migration in the Amazon take the debate beyond internal demography, or the crossing of state borders and mobility records maintained by each country. It involves a cultural reflection on the production, dispersion, and connection of traditional communities and Indigenous Peoples knowledge, identities, social participation, and engagement, which occur unevenly due to numerous vulnerabilities in terms of human rights and environmental devastation.

4. Final Considerations

Large areas of the Amazon basin are affected by environmental degradation or climatic events that have lately changed the patterns of human mobility. Historically conditioned by geography and social factors, by economic exploitation and the destruction of the rainforest, the displaced populations of the region seem to be increasingly driven by global warming.

The occurrence of more frequent extreme events, such as severe droughts, which, combined with heat, increase the risk of fires, has forced populations to relocate temporarily or permanently to more favorable locations. The occupation of vast new areas of the Amazon, mainly in Brazil, has intensified the movement of people, both nationally and internationally. The scenario of vulnerabilities in the context of environmental degradation and global warming brings refuge as a response, consequence, and adaptation initiative, without neglecting the involuntary nature of these displacements.

Thus, contemporary migrations in the Amazon are multifactorial in their motivations, constituting a complex decision and, often, an imposition in the act of displacement. Although global warming and extreme environmental events are constantly interconnected, there is a lack of a clear conceptual framework regarding the categories of climate migrant or climate refugee and their legal definition.

Regional analysis of climate-induced migration has been part of an international and multi-sectoral agenda of diplomatic and popular debates on issues relevant to the right to a balanced and favorable environment for present and future generations. The power imbalance between countries of the Global South and the Global South itself reflects in how the responsibility of agents is perceived, as well as in the perpetuation of asymmetries in addressing climate change and population mobility.

International meetings and major summits, such as the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30), held in Brazil, create space for critical environmental governance, articulated with the interests of the public and private sectors. COP30 represented a sense of belonging for the host city, Belém, along with the tensions inherent in a region facing complex dilemmas regarding the reconciliation of economic exploitation and socio-environmental vulnerabilities, and where issues such as deforestation and the impacts of the massive use of fossil fuels were not a priority on the political agenda. Despite increased awareness of the problem, a major question remained at the end of the conference: what was the impact of COP30 on the debate about climate-induced migration on the Amazon?

Discussions about the effects of global warming on population mobility need to go beyond academic and diplomatic fields and encompass challenging practices for the integration of migrants, refugees, and stateless displaced people. Building a governance framework for joint and pluralistic action, involving governments, civil society, international and non-governmental organizations, can support participatory strategies to understand needs and find adaptive solutions, such as migration itself.

The Brazilian and international debate on global warming and its effects on human mobility must integrate political will, cooperation between countries, and solidarity among civil societies, including clear legal definitions of the categories of climate migrants and refugees. Prioritizing dialogue and negotiation can guarantee the protection of the rights of displaced persons through the recognition of their existence. Climate litigation cannot be the only solution to achieve climate justice. Together, diverse participatory actions and experiences reveal possibilities, limitations, and challenges for migration governance in a region like the Amazon, which faces a new and unpredictable climate era.

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