**MIGRATION DIALOGUE FOR WEST AFRICA**

**THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON “CLIMATE CHANGE, LAND DEGRADATION, DESERTIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT AND MIGRATION”**

**Terms of Reference**

**Objective**

The general objective of the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) Thematic Working Group on “Climate Change, Land Degradation, Desertification, Environment and Migration” is to address migration, displacement and planned relocation in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation.

In particular, the working group will be responsible for:

*General Responsibilities*

1. Inform the MIDWA Secretariat on projects implemented at the national level that can have an impact on bordering countries as well as on the region as a whole, in order to reinforce regional complementarity and harmonize approaches;
2. Ensure coordination and synergy of actions with existing consultation mechanisms and in particular with the annual ministerial meeting of MIDWA;
3. Develop and implement an annual work plan setting out the group's priorities.

*Thematic Responsibilities*

1. Bring together actors from the different relevant ministries (such as immigration, interior, labour, environment, climate change, disasters, humanitarian affairs, office of the prime minister etc.) in each country to form a shared understanding of environmental migration and disaster displacement at national and regional levels.
2. Develop and promote joint messages for regional and global fora related to migration, displacement and planned relocation in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) regional and international reviews, the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and the World Water Forum.
3. Exchange good practices and lessons learned with representatives from other Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration, including Regional Consultative Processes on migration (RCPs), already addressing environmental migration and disaster displacement, for example, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) RCP, the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA), the Regional Conference on Migration for Central and North America (RCM or Puebla Process), the South American Conference on Migration (SACM), and/or the Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC).
4. Discuss other issues that are brought to the attention of the Working Group.

*Chairmanship Responsibilities*

1. Identify locations and dates of the working group meetings in coordination with the MIDWA Secretariat and IOM;
2. Set the topics to be addressed by the working group, prepare the agendas, invite the speakers in coordination with the MIDWA Secretariat and IOM;
3. Inform the MIDWA Secretariat on regular basis on the progress made and on the obstacles encountered by the working group in carrying out the annual work plan;
4. Prepare reports on the working group meetings;
5. Prepare the annual report on the implementation of the work plan.

**Chairmanship**

Mandate: two years

Chairmanship of the working group: one or two Member States

The Working Group will be co-chaired by rotation by representatives of two ECOWAS Member States. The maximum duration of a co-chair will be two years unless otherwise agreed by MIDWA Members. One of the co-chairs will be replaced each year to ensure the continuity of the activities.

The positions of co-chairs will be voluntary. Group members will be invited to elect the position of Co-Chair annually or as required. The co-chairs will be appointed by the majority of the group (50% + 1) at the first meeting of the Group. A system of online resources and files will be put in place to ensure the continuity of and availability of the information.

**Members**

The working group will be composed by officials with active roles in immigration/migration management, disaster/emergency management, and/or environment/climate change.

The group will be composed by:

* one representative and one co-representative for each Member State of ECOWAS for a total of 15 representatives and 15 co-representatives;[[1]](#footnote-1)
* one representative and one co-representative from Mauritania;
* a representative of the MIDWA Secretariat;
* a representative of the relevant ECOWAS Division;
* a representative of IOM;
* a representative of other technical and / or financial partners.[[2]](#footnote-2)

**Meeting Modalities**

The working group will meet twice a year, or more if deemed necessary by the co-chairs of the working group, at dates and locations determined by the co-chairs in coordination with the MIDWA Secretariat.

The meetings of the Working Group will be organized by the co-chairs of the Working Group and supported administratively by the MIDWA Secretariat in consultation with the relevant ECOWAS Division and IOM.

The objective of the first meeting of the working group will be to identify priorities, validate the group's own terms of reference and draft an annual work plan.

**Coordination Modalities**

The Working Group will work in synergy with the other MIDWA working groups, under the general coordination of the MIDWA Secretariat and the political impetus of ECOWAS.

The Working Group will produce an annual report on the activities implemented by the group and reports of the meetings.

The Working Group will share any information that may affect or influence the work of other working groups and will contribute to providing harmonized and coordinated responses with other working groups under the overall coordination of the MIDWA Secretariat.

**Funding Modalities**

The working group will receive the following contributions:

* ECOWAS: administrative support and general coordination;
* Member States: provision of an expert (employed by the Member State) and a meeting room when the meetings are held in their respective countries;
* IOM and partners: participation of experts / technical support and financial support for the organization of meetings.[[3]](#footnote-3)

1. The co-representative participates to the meetings only in case the main representative is unavailable. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The number of technical and / or financial partners may vary from group to group, but should not exceed two. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Taking into account that the technical and financial support of international partners depends on the availability of funds, the members of the group are requested to contribute to the mobilization of funds in order to guarantee the continuity of the work. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)