



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

IOM Office for West and Central Africa

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION

Think about Tomorrow, Act Today: The Future of Human Mobility and Climate Change

Tuesday 3 October, 10 AM to 1 PM- Online (Zoom, link available [here](#))

I. Context

According to UNDESA (2020), 9.8 million migrants live in West and Central Africa, and an estimated 89% (2022) of migration flows are internal to the region, where migration has always contributed to development and has always been a human adaptation strategy.

Today, in the context of climate change, human mobility patterns are already being impacted. As reported by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) as of the end of 2022 the region accounted for 1,156,060 IDPs due to disasters (such as floods, storms or landslides), approximately 12% of total IDPs in West and Central Africa.

The World Bank issued in 2021 the second part of its Groundswell report, which estimates the number of internal climate migrants by 2050 to be over 216 million across six regions. It would be up to 32 million internal climate migrants in West African countries by 2050 due to water stress, reduced crop productivity and sea level rise and in the absence of concrete climate and development action (Rigaud et al., 2018). These estimates could increase dramatically, as they do not take into consideration rapid-onset hazards such as floods and tropical cyclones (IPCC, AR6)¹. The report further forecast the possibility to reduce migration by as much as 80% - to 44 million people by 2050, by sharply reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, adopting appropriate adaptation measures and inclusive development. The World Bank also states that “internal climate migration in Nigeria could reach a high of 9.4 million by 2050, the second highest among West African countries after Niger.” Lastly, coastal countries like Benin could see up to 45% of its population.

As the leading intergovernmental migration agency, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been at the forefront of operational, research, policy and advocacy efforts seeking to bring environmental migration to the heart of national, regional, and international concerns. Working in close collaboration with its Member States, observers and partners, IOM’s work on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) has greatly expanded in the past five years. In line with its Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Institutional Strategy, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) seeks to increase the scope of options available to

¹ Trisos, C.H., I.O. Adelekan, E. Totin, A. Ayanlade, J. Efitre, A. Gameda, K. Kalaba, C. Lennard, C. Masao, Y. Mgaya, G. Ngaruiya, D. Olago, N.P. Simpson, and S. Zakieldein, 2022: Africa. In: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 1285–1455, doi:10.1017/9781009325844.011.



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the individuals, households and communities affected by climate change. Accordingly, IOM is committed to supporting inclusive multilateral collaboration and developing innovative migration responses that can make humane and orderly migration part of the solution to address the climate emergency.

Human mobility in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters has gained significant policy attention recently, as demonstrated by the integration of human mobility in global climate discussions, including the 27th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP27) held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022. One of the key outcomes of COP27 was the acknowledgement of the human rights of migrants in the context of climate change and the impacts of climate factors on human mobility in the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, and the pivotal commitments on loss and damage, including those related to human mobility in the context of climate change.

In the African context, similar efforts to promote a better integration of human mobility considerations in climate policies and discussions have contributed to an increased awareness of the link between climate change and human mobility, and the necessity to respond to its implications by developing integrated and durable solutions for affected populations.

In June 2021, IOM Dakar Regional Office for West and Central Africa, in partnership with UNOWAS and other strategic actors in the region founded the UN Regional Working Group on Climate Change, Environment, Security and Development in West Africa (UN-CCESD). The objective of the Working Group is to reduce the implications of climate change and environmental degradation on human security and address the impact these phenomena have on human mobility and peace in the region through enhanced coordination and engagement with governments and regional organizations.

Moreover, West and Central Africa can count on its own Regional United Nations Network on Migration (the UNMM Regional Network) in which Climate mobility was identified as a key thematic workstream with the general objectives of collecting and sharing knowledge and practices, contributing to the regional facilitation of dialogue and develop joint advocacy. The workstream on Climate mobility is co-lead by the Office of The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNFCCC -RCC Lomé, IOM and of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

In September 2023, Ministers from governments across Africa have signed the expanded version of Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (KDMECC-Africa) during the Africa Climate Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya. The expanded declaration's objective is to develop an integrated approach and action-oriented framework to climate-induced human mobility across the African continent. It is a government-led, comprehensive and action-oriented framework that practically and effectively addresses climate-induced mobility and the needs, gaps and opportunities of human mobility, putting affected people at the heart of all twelve commitments in Africa.



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II. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

In this context, IOM is organizing the 2023 International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) from 5 to 6 October 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland, on the theme “Think about Tomorrow, Act Today: The future of human mobility and climate change”. This session will build on the results of the Africa Climate Summit and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit outcomes and contribute to discussions at COP28 and other key upcoming events. It will promote cross-thematic and cross-regional linkages, highlighting challenges, opportunities, and good practices to help place climate mobility high on the global and regional agendas.

Building upon the adoption of the KDMECC-Africa, among other key regional developments, and in preparation for the second 2023 IDM session, IOM’s Regional Office for West and Central Africa is organizing a pre-IDM Regional Dialogue to further engage in dialogue ahead of the global IDM to bring forth key messages to the IDM in October. The objective of this session is to address the specific climate vulnerabilities in West and Central Africa and have a regional approach to human mobility and climate action. It will be key to bringing perspectives from the region and contributions throughout the discussions of the IDM in Geneva in October 2023.

The IOM’s Regional Office for West and Central Africa will organize a pre-IDM Regional Dialogue, which will should serve as a preparatory event for the second session of the 2023 International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) will be held from 5 to 6 October 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland, on the theme “Think about Tomorrow, Act Today: The future of human mobility and climate change”.

The event is expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

- 1. Highlight the engagement of governments of West and Central Africa through the signature of the Ministerial Kampala Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (KD-MECC) at the Africa Climate Summit.**
- 2. Establish a platform for exchange on the next steps related to the implementation of the KD-MECC**
- 3. Collect expectations from the Civil Society regarding the implementation of the KD-MECC.**

The event has a web page available [here](#). For any question regarding this event, kindly reach out to Hind Aïssaoui Bennani at haissaoui@iom.int and Aminata Niane at aniane@iom.int.



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III. Suggested agenda

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| 10.00-10.15 | <p>Opening remarks Christopher Gascon, Regional Director, IOM for West and Central Africa</p> <p>Master of Ceremony, Aïssatou Guisse, Chief of Mission, IOM Burkina Faso</p> |
| 10.15-10.30 | <p>What do we know about climate mobility in West and Central Africa? Hind Aïssaoui Bennani, Migration Environment and Climate Change Specialist, IOM for West and Central Africa</p> |
| 10.30-11.40 | <p>Panel 1- <i>Kampala Declaration on Migration Environment and Climate Change- After the ministerial signature, what's next?</i></p> <p>Dr. Iniobong Abiola-Awe, Director, Department of Climate Change, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria</p> <p>Mr Bob Natifu, Assistant Commissioner Climate Change Department Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda</p> <p>Ms. Nadia Owusu, Youth Advocate- Accra, Ghana</p> <p>Christos Christodoulides, Chief of Mission, IOM Sierra Leone</p> |
| 11.40-12.50 | <p>Panel 2- <i>Toward a whole of society and solution-oriented approach to climate mobility in West and Central Africa- Challenges and opportunities</i></p> <p>Walters Tubua, Regional Lead, Regional Collaboration Centre, Western and Central Africa, United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Lomé, Togo (TBC)</p> <p>Mr. Moubarak Moukaila, Project Director of the West Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance, linked to the West African Development Bank- Lomé, Togo</p> <p>Mr. Blamah Jalloh, Coordinator of Réseau Bilital Maroobé, regional organization of pastoralists</p> <p>Mrs. Nafissatou Konate, CEO, NAM ENERGY, Burkina Faso</p> |
| 12.50-13.00 | <p>Conclusion remarks- Final word to youth Ms. Nadia Owusu, Youth Advocate- Accra, Ghana</p> |