

Linking Regional Migration Policy Frameworks to Climate Change Adaptation

Side-Event at the International Migration Review Forum

18 May 2022

09 AM – 11 AM New York Time/ 4 PM- 6 PM East Africa Time

Online, via ZOOM

Advance Registration requested

Background

In 2022, nearly four years after the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), governments, stakeholders and the United Nations system will meet to discuss the successes and challenges of implementing this landmark cooperative framework. The first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) is being held under the auspices of the General Assembly, chaired by the President of the General Assembly, at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York from 17-20 May 2022, with a preparatory stakeholder hearing taking place on 16 May.

A series of IMRF side-events will be organized in the margins of the IMRF. They will provide an opportunity to discuss good practices, challenges and recommendations to further the implementation of the GCM. Side-events will take place on 16-20 May 2022.

Description of the Side-event

In the African continent, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region is considered one of the most vulnerable to climate variability and change and more than two thirds of the region are arid or semi-arid. It regularly faces a wide range of natural hazards leading to various forms of human mobility (displacement, migration and planned relocation), most commonly severe droughts and floods, but also landslides, earthquakes, and tropical cyclones, as well as slow-onset climate change effects, such as sea level rise, environmental degradation, and changing rainfall variability.

The different forms of human mobility to, from, and within the IGAD region reflect the range of complex drivers and structural factors that can compel people to leave their places of origin. Disasters linked to natural hazards, environmental degradation, and the adverse effects of climate change are amongst the most important and overlapping drivers of human mobility. Individual migration decisions are often based on a combination of these environmental and other economic, political, social, and demographic drivers.

Pastoralism in the Horn of Africa, in particular the countries within the IGAD region, is a successful contributor to the production sector as well as one of the most resilient livelihoods to climate change despite being natural resources dependent. In fact, given precipitation trends associated with climate change, pastoralism may become even more crucial to realizing regional food security, sustainable livelihoods and economic development in the 21st Century. Unfortunately, anthropogenic climate change, along with many other stressors, puts pressure on the millions of people who depend on this livelihood, either directly or indirectly.

To preserve pastoralists' livelihoods and their significant contribution to the Agricultural GDP of the region, it is absolutely necessary to protect transhumance- the movement of people and livestock across countries, to access water and pasture. The first objective of IGAD's 'Protocol on Transhumance', adopted by its Council of Ministers in 2021, prioritizes pastoral mobility by; 'Allowing free, safe and orderly cross-border mobility of transhumant livestock and herders in search of pasture and water as an adaptation mechanism to climate change and weather variability within the IGAD region.' The IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) together with IOM, will launch the results of a desk review that brings together the most recent literature on pastoralism, mobility and climate change in the IGAD region and explain how the Protocol on Transhumance supports the adaptive capacity of pastoralists through free, safe and orderly cross-border mobility.

The virtual side event, held on the margins of the first International Migration Review Forum has the overall objective to raise awareness of an often-forgotten, highly vulnerable, mobile population, who can be found globally, not only in the East and Horn of Africa, and contribute to the recognition that the GCM is critical to the survival and wellbeing of all mobile populations in the face of climate change. The outcome is that engaged policy makers, donors, UN agencies and other partners will be interested to support the implementation of the IGAD Protocol on Transhumance.

Format

The virtual side event will consist of opening introduction and followed by a panel of speakers who will present on the following topics:

- i) Sharing findings from the new IOM-IGAD report on pastoralism in the region, titled 'Equipped to Adapt?', which describes the way in which climate change and environmental degradation have impacted on pastoral mobility and their adaptive capacities.
- ii) Demonstrating how the IGAD Protocol on Transhumance facilitates the free, safe and orderly cross-border mobility of pastoralists as well as supporting their adaptive capacities.
- iii) Explaining briefly how IOM's work in the East and Horn of Africa forwards the objectives of the GCM together with its Regional partner IGAD.

The side event will be conducted via ZOOM platform and it will take two hours.

Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/5Pfpppbqia>

To join: <https://zoom.us/j/93771797840?pwd=YIRzQnBjL0RrRXJZKzRkTHZCdHVodz09>

Meeting ID: 937 7179 7840

Passcode: w3BG&m

The virtual side event will be run in English for all sessions. Key materials will be available in English.

Agenda

18 May 2022

Time: 09 AM – 11 AM New York Time/ 4 PM- 6 PM East Africa Time

Venue: virtual via ZOOM

15 minutes	<p>Opening remarks by: Mr. Dereje Wakjira Acting Director IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD)</p>
60 minutes	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Panel discussion with representatives of IGAD and IOM will be discussing good practices; challenges; lessons learnt; and emerging priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker 1- Mr. Cory Rodgers, Author 'Equipped to Adapt', Senior Researcher, Refugee Studies Centre, ODID, University of Oxford <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sharing findings from the new IOM-IGAD report on pastoralism in the region, titled 'Equipped to Adapt?', which describes the way in which climate change and environmental degradation have impacted on pastoral mobility and their adaptive capacities. • Speaker 2- Mr. Japheth Kasimbu, Transhumance Expert, IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrating how the IGAD Protocol on Transhumance facilitates the free, safe and orderly cross-border mobility of pastoralists as well as supporting their adaptive capacities. • Speaker 3- Mrs. Lisa Lim Ah Ken, Regional Thematic Specialist on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC), IOM Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brief discussion on how IOM's work in the East and Horn of Africa forwards the objectives of the GCM in the context of climate and environmental change together with its Regional partner IGAD <p>Moderator: Ms. Noora MAKELA, Regional Programme Coordinator, Migration Environment and Climate Change Division, IOM East and Horn of Africa</p>
20 minutes	<p>Discussion / Q&A</p>
15 minutes	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker- Ms. Aissata Kane, IOM Senior Regional Advisor to the Office of the Director General for Sub-Saharan Africa