

## CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP 27) - UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

## SIDE EVENT

Enhancing partnerships, inclusive sustainable development and green economy transition; approaches from the IGAD region addressing the challenges and opportunities of human mobility, in the context of changing climate and disasters

Date: 11 November

Location: The Climate Mobility Pavilion, COP27 BLUE ZONE, AREA B: Delegation Pavilions 3

Organizers: IOM and ILO in collaboration with the Global Centre for Climate Mobility

On 11 November, IOM and ILO, in collaboration with the Global Centre for Climate Mobility organized a side event at the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties of Climate Change, titled *Enhancing partnerships, inclusive sustainable development and green economy transition; approaches from the IGAD region addressing the challenges and opportunities of human mobility, in the context of changing climate and disasters*.

The event sought to enhance partnerships and accelerate the inclusion of vulnerable groups in sustainable development and the green economy transition in the context of a changing climate. Supporting just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies while including those most impacted by climate change represents an important adaptation strategy. Including migrants in just transition through facilitating access to green jobs and green entrepreneurship becomes a necessity, given their constantly increasing number, leaving no one behind and considering the potential to labour markets. At the same time, it is essential that those who have been displaced in the context of climate change have access to regular migration channels – otherwise there is a considerable risk of abuse and exploitation, during the migration cycle and once on the labour market.

This event facilitated knowledge exchange, advanced understanding on the links between human mobility and climate change, inclusivity in climate action and enablers for a green economy and just transition; and offered information for data-driven policy coherence.

**Opening remarks** were provided by Sarah Rosengaertner, Global Centre for Climate Mobility. Furthermore, representatives of IOM and ILO: Michelle Leighton, Chief Labour Migration Branch, ILO and Manuel Pereira, Head of Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Risk Reduction, IOM provided welcoming remarks. Those underlined how human mobility can be effective and a solution to the impact of climate change in the region.

Then two interactive panel discussions were held.

PANEL 1: Data and knowledge for evidence-based policy-making in the IGAD region – experiences from the Migration, Disasters and Climate Change programme

SPEAKERS:

Mubarek Mabuya, Program Manager for Partnership, IGAD secretariat

Atle Solberg, Head of Secretariat PDD

Dr. Banak Joshua, Director-General of Disaster Management, National DRR Focal Point-Sendai Framework Monitoring for DRR/UNDRR, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Republic of South Sudan

Dr Toyin Adejonwo, CMARN Steering Group

MODERATOR: Jyri Jantti, Climate Change Specialist, UNFCCC RCC Kampala



Figure 1 Panel 1 participants, Dr. Banak Joshua (left), Mubarak Mabuya, Atle Solberg and Jyri Jantti

The following key messages were provided:

- **Mubarak Mabuya**, Programme Manager for Partnership, IGAD: After highlighting the vulnerability of the IGAD region to the adverse effects of climate change, Mubarak Mabuya underlined the need for more data collection and analysis, especially to strengthen the predictive capacity of IGAD Member States and regional actors on addressing challenges and opportunities of human mobility in a changing climate, and to design evidence-based policies. Initiatives to strengthen the availability of data are in place, including the design of risk models for disaster displacement under ICPAC, and the development of SOPs to address cross-border displacement.
- Atle Solberg, on behalf of **Dr Toyin Adejonwo, CMARN**, Climate Mobility Africa Research Network: Made reference to the need to close the knowledge gap. Furthermore, he highlighted capacity and potential of CMARN in terms of supporting research and data collection. More information on CMARN [here](#).
- **Dr. Banak Joshua**, Director-General of Disaster Management, National DRR Focal Point-Sendai Framework Monitoring for DRR/UNDRR, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster

Management, Republic of South Sudan: Highlighted efforts at policy level, including the development of a policy on displacement and disasters developed by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs with the help of communities, including refugees and IDPs, and the Ministry of Interior's commitment to enhance safe migration. At the same time, he referred to several challenges, including the security situation, limited capacities of the government and pandemics as well as transboundary diseases that could hinder effective policy implementation.

- **Atle Solberg, Head of Secretariat, PDD:** stressed the importance of data and evidence for decision making; in the IGAD region risk models have been developed to support IGAD/ICPAC to design early warning mechanisms and design policy interventions, and SOPs on cross-border displacement have been developed (as mentioned at the beginning by Mubarak Mabuya).

**Panel 2: Partnerships in the IGAD region on policy coherence and regular migration pathways – experiences from the Migration, Disasters and Climate Change programme**



Figure 2. Panel 2 participants, Manuel Marques Pereira (left), Michelle Leighton, Michelle Yonetani and Rose Kobusinge

**SPEAKERS**

Manuel Marques Pereira, Head of Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Risk Reduction, IOM

Michelle Leighton, Chief Labour Migration Branch, ILO

Michelle Yonetani, Senior Policy Officer, DRS Climate Action, UNHCR

**MODERATOR:** Rose Kobusinge, Migration and Climate Change Youth Advocate, Uganda

**The following key messages were provided:**

- **Manuel Marques Pereira,** Head of Division for Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, IOM: Discussed the importance of strategies on climate change that are based on partnerships and consultations with local communities. IOM promotes a holistic approach to the challenge of migration in the context of climate change, in alignment with the commitments made in the Global Compact of Migration, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for

Disaster Risk Reduction. We engage in partnerships at the local, national and regional levels, involving different stakeholders including migrants and communities that have been affected or are at-risk of being affected by the changing climate. It is important that there is a full and effective participation of affected populations in the decisions, plans and policies that affect them. Particularly he emphasized the urgent need for policy coherence and strengthening operational capacities to enhance effective implementation of the policies.

- **Michelle Leighton**, Chief Labour Migration Branch, ILO: Highlighted labour mobility as an adaptation strategy to climate change that offers a range of benefits, including skills transfers and filling labour shortages. However, there is a lack of regular pathways leading to protection risks and decent work deficits, which is why we need to enhance safe, regular and orderly migration, for example, by building on the IGAD Free Movement of Persons protocol. The ILO under the joint programme is supporting opportunities to create green jobs based on a market system analysis that has identified three value chains as offering potential for green job creation: mung beans, small ruminant fattening and solar products. An intervention model focusing on these three value chains will address challenges to access green jobs and focus on support to access finance, skills development and entrepreneurship. Building on this pilot, it will be important to strengthen policies, coherence and engage workers as well as employers.
- **Michelle Yonetani**, Senior Policy Officer, DRS Climate Action, UNHCR: Explained findings and recommendations from case studies in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia; key issues include the need to use existing legal frameworks, such as the IGAD Free Movement of Persons protocol; to address the erosion of livelihoods and to pay particular attention to the disproportionate effects on women. Hence, it is recommended to adopt a comprehensive regional framework for protection, drawing on regional refugee and human rights laws, and to include protection measures in national legislation and to support national local capacities through the implementation of projects.

Social

media:

<https://twitter.com/michelleleigh1/status/1591174516679606294?s=20&t=abvQkIBDlyXKYJryCUpAtA>

Partners through the programme contribute to the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. The Global Compact promotes broad multistakeholder partnerships to address migration in all its dimensions by including migrants, diasporas, local communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, national human rights institutions, the media and other relevant stakeholders in migration governance. Thus, it was essential for partners to have a youth representative in the event to enhance the inclusion of young persons:

*“This experience has broadened my horizon ahead of the year 2023 as a Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Leader. Next year will be fully packed and exciting for youth engagement on MECC issues, especially with support from IOM and others. In fact, I am already mobilizing young people in Africa and across the world, under the YOUNGO Climate Migration & Displacement working group: capacity building, advocacy and powering solutions are at the top of our agenda. We want to see MECC issues more prioritized at COP28 and as part of the agenda items. We also call on all partners and stakeholders to work with youth as co-designers, co-leaders and co-creators.”* [Rose](#) Kobusinge, Uganda