



CONCEPT NOTE

Strengthening Africa Youth Voices on Human Mobility in the context of Climate Change

Africa Continental Workshop on 16–17 August 2023, Nairobi, Kenya

Organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Background

Climate change poses a threat to human security, putting at risk lives, health and well-being, livelihoods and jobs, safety and security and cultures of persons and various groups, particularly children, youth, women, indigenous communities, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations in the Global South.

Environmental change and natural hazards have always been major drivers of migration, and climate change predictions indicate that even more people are expected to be on the move as slow onset processes and sudden onset climatic events such as floods, landslides, and drought degrade ecosystems, reduce crop yields, destroy habitable areas, livelihoods, jobs, infrastructure and job opportunities.

Evidence shows how climate change can have different implications for particular social groups. Women and young people are often particularly exposed (Traore Chazalnoël et al., 2020¹). Women and young people are often disadvantaged in terms of land ownership, having a sustainable income, and accessing opportunities that could increase their resilience to climate change. However, women and youth are also powerful agents of change when it comes to promoting climate action, disaster risk reduction and resilience building. Ensuring their full participation in decision-making is crucial.

Whilst many actors work on these links, IOM recognizes the necessity to step up national, regional, and international efforts to address human mobility challenges and tap into the opportunities associated with environmental factors and climate change. IOM's vision on migration, environment and climate change is that contemporary migration governance, policy and practice must reflect the significance of environmental and climate change factors on human mobility. Environmental factors must be integrated across all areas of migration management, such as prevention, preparedness and response to displacement, border management, labour migration and integration, and return and reintegration.

¹IOM 2021 People on the Move in a Changing Climate – Linking Policy, Evidence and Action. <https://publications.iom.int/books/people-move-changing-climate-linking-policy-evidence-and-action>



IOM's objectives concerning migration, environment and climate change are:

- To prevent forced migration that results from environmental factors to the extent possible.
- To provide assistance and protection to affected populations when forced migration does occur in situations of environmental and climate change, and to seek durable solutions to their situation.
- To facilitate migration in the context of climate change adaptation and enhance the resilience of affected communities.

IOM works on addressing the challenges to youth welfare and unemployment and ensuring that migration can bring about positive results in both countries of origin and countries of destination. It also strives to provide opportunities for youth with direct access to participate and contribute to policy development and implementation.

Kampala Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change

IOM was one of the organizers of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Conference on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) held in Kampala, Uganda in July 2022. Youth advocates from across the East and Horn of Africa (EHOA) region, through youth consultations supported by the IOM, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) Kampala, YOUNGO and Chatham House, presented a set of key messages for the Migration-Climate Change Conference. The Kampala Conference concluded with a joint Declaration signed by several states in the EHOA region and beyond in relation to climate change induced human mobility and acknowledges youth as a main partner. The Declaration incorporates the key messages developed by the youth.

It is important to note that through the consultations in the EHOA region, the group managed to reach a wide range of youth in the region within a short period of time, showcasing a strong interest in this topic. The young advocates are also keen on further engagement and IOM stands ready to foster this.

In order to ensure that the signatory states to the Kampala Declaration on MECC can meet their commitments and receive the support they need to meet their requests, it is essential that youth are engaged through the appropriate processes and various steps that are required for advancing the Kampala Declaration, and expanding the engagement of youth in the planned expansion of the Kampala Declaration on MECC in the continent.

Road to Conference of Youth (COY18) and Conference of Parties (COP28)

Conference of Youth (COY) is the biggest and most substantial youth conference related to the multilateral UN climate processes. It is the official gathering of YOUNGO members, and all interested youth and it happens a couple of days before the annual Conference of the Parties (COP) at the same location. COY serves as a



space for capacity building and policy training, in order to prepare young people for their participation at COP. COY also brings together all collected inputs, which will feed directly into the climate negotiations via the official youth policy paper.

In 2022, COY in its 17th edition (COY17) took place in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt, from 2 to 4 November. The main components of COY17 were:

- 1) Capacity building with and for youth;
- 2) Skill building workshops;
- 3) YOUNGO Youth Statement policy document;
- 4) Cultural exchange.

At COY17, IOM was represented by Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (MECR) Division in Headquarters and IOM Country Office Egypt. There were 2 events led by IOM:

IOM: The role of youth in promoting global action on climate migration and peace nexus

IOM: How climate change impacts water scarcity in Africa: challenges and opportunity

Other sessions on MECC were: “youth understanding of climate migration and refugee crisis in developing countries and issue salience by Akhilesh Anil Kumar;” and “Untold stories: the climate-migration nexus by Krystel Sil Sikana.”

The COP27 was held in November 2022 in Egypt, and the COP 28 is planned to be organized in United Arab Emirates later this year.

At COP 27, the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan acknowledged the impacts of climate change on human mobility, including displacement in the following terms:

“...Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind ...”

“...44. Notes with grave concern, according to information in the contributions of Working Groups II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the growing gravity, scope and frequency in all regions of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, resulting in devastating economic and noneconomic losses, including forced displacement and impacts on cultural heritage, human mobility and the lives and livelihoods of local communities, and underlines the importance of an adequate and effective response to loss and damage...”



At COP27, several youth events were organized and the first African Youth Declaration for Climate Mobility, developed by African youth, was launched with Africa Climate Mobility Initiative support, to which IOM is partner. The declaration was based on youth messages to the Kampala Conference.

Africa Climate Action Summit and Africa Climate week in Nairobi

An Africa Climate Action Summit (ACS) will be organized in Nairobi, Kenya on 4 to 6 September. The summit of African Heads of State and Government on climate will be co-hosted by Kenya and the African Union.²

The Africa Climate Week (ACW 2023) is one of four Regional Climate Weeks held this year by UNFCCC to build momentum ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference COP 28 in Dubai and the conclusion of the first Global Stocktake, designed to chart the way for fulfilling the Paris Agreement's key goals.

Hosted by the government of Kenya, ACW 2023 will be organised in parallel with the African Climate Action Summit.

Objectives

A youth engagement forum will be facilitated in Nairobi, to improve knowledge and understanding of migration, environment and climate change nexus; to plan, agree upon and coordinate the development and implementation of the Kampala Declaration beyond the East and Horn of Africa region, and bring together Youth from the African continent. This forum will be an opportunity for the Youth from various regions, with either contrasting or similar realities to exchange and share their respective experiences and best practices. Furthermore, the purpose of this youth engagement forum is to establish key messages that can contribute to the Global Youth Statement ahead of ACS, ACW, COY18 and COP28.

- Improve knowledge and understanding of, and engagement in climate change induced migration, including risks such as human trafficking.
- Improve collaboration and cohesion among youth in the African continent.
- Increase visibility of the migration and climate change nexus in preparation for sub-regional youth engagements, ACS, ACW, COY18 and COP28 on different social media platforms, including through young advocates.
- Elaborate on expansion of the Kampala Declaration, as well as provide key messages on human mobility in the context of a changing climate in the African continent.

Outcomes

² Republic of Kenya <https://www.environment.go.ke/preparations-for-inaugural-africa-climate-summit-get-underway-in-nairobi/>



- Stock taking document of successful contributions of youth to address challenges and opportunities of human mobility in the context of a changing climate that could be replicated across the regions.
- Youth Key Messages on human mobility in the context of climate change to feed in the expansion of the Kampala Declaration, as well as ACS, ACW, and the COY18 and COP28.
- Strengthen Africa-wide youth networks for continued advocacy on climate change and human mobility nexus.

Structure, format and participation

Workshop

- The partners will organize a two-day in-person workshop in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Sessions will be facilitated jointly by the organizers and the participants.

Consent

- Participation in the workshop is voluntary.
- Photographs will be taken, and sessions might be recorded.
- By participating, the participants accept that photos will be taken, and the workshop will be recorded. Photos will be utilized in public information materials.
- Social media will be utilized during the workshop.

Language

- The workshop will be run in English for all sessions with interpretations to French and Arabic.

Participation

- 1–2 Youth representatives of most countries in the African continent as well as Middle East, particularly United Arab Emirates as the host of the COP28.
- Youth will be selected through a Call for Expression of Interest.
- Particularly youth (age 18-35) will be selected based on their familiarity with human mobility in the context of climate change, as well as experience in climate action.
- Participation is also encouraged from migrants and refugees, and persons affected by climate change.
- The invitations will be shared via email.

COVID-19 measures

- The measures for the COVID-19 pandemic will be observed and followed in the preparation and implementation of the workshop.

Proposed Agenda (opt to changes)

DAY 1 16 August		
Time	Topic proposed	Facilitation
	Registration	IOM
	Opening, introductions, modality of the workshop	IOM
	Introduction to human mobility and climate change in the African continent	IOM
	Sharing of successful contribution of youth to address challenges and opportunities of human mobility in the context of a changing climate that could be replicated across the regions	Youth
DAY 2 17 August		
	Topic proposed	Facilitation
	Relevant policy processes to human mobility and climate change in the African continent	TBC
	Working and agreeing on Youth Key Messages on human mobility in the context of climate change	Youth



Call for Expression of Interest

Building from the above concept, IOM is seeking for young persons (18-35 years) from the African continent familiar with human mobility in the context of climate change as well as experience in climate action. Young people who are or are committed to raising the voices and the interests of climate migrants and disaster displaced persons, are invited to participate in the two-day workshop on 16–17 August 2023, Nairobi, Kenya. Moreover, the selected participants will contribute to increasing the visibility of the human mobility and climate change nexus, as we approach ACS, ACW, and the COY18 and the COP28.

This Expression of Interest does not guarantee that applicants will be selected for this event. Applicants will be selected based on their knowledge, experience and proven engagements previously undertaken on engaging with the topic of human mobility in the context of climate change and environmental degradation.

Selected participants are to arrive in Nairobi on 15 August and depart on 18 August 2023.

Participants need have the relevant travelling documents (such as passport valid for at least 6 months), as well as relevant documents (such as visa as needed, yellow fever and COVID-19 vaccination certificates).

IOM will cater for the costs (air travel, accommodation, meals) of successful candidates only. Participants will need to be able to cover their visa costs, transportation to the airport in the location of departure as well as in Nairobi in advance. These costs will be compensated later against receipts.

Please respond to this Expression of Interest by sharing your CV and short reflections on the following questions:

- What is your experience in engaging with the topic of human mobility and climate change in the African continent?
- Please share an example of a successful contribution of yours to address challenges and opportunities of human mobility in the context of a changing climate that could be replicated across the regions.
- What message would you like to give the decision-makers in your country and the negotiators at COP 28 in relation to human mobility and climate change?

Please express your interest as soon as possible and no later than 9 July 2023.

Please share your responses via this link <https://forms.office.com/e/EAZkrW4vDs> or QR code



Only selected participants will be contacted, at latest 15 July.

For further inquiries, please contact Noora Makela, Programme Officer, Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC), International Organization for Migration, nkmakela@iom.int