



Official Pre- Africa Climate Summit Event

Technical Conference for the Continental Expansion of the
Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and
Climate Change (KDMECC-AFRICA)
23rd - 25th August 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya



Migration, Environment and Climate Change in the 2023 Africa Climate Summit
(ACS)





Summary

Context

The **Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (KDMECC)** highlights opportunities and commitments to address the effects of climate change on human mobility in the East and Horn of Africa. It was signed by 15 African Member States (MSs) in July 2022 during a ceremony which was presided over by His Excellencies Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Salva Kiir of South Sudan.

Since then, there has been a rapidly growing recognition and interest in the KDMECC as a comprehensive and action-oriented framework, which addresses the challenges and opportunities of climate-induced mobility in practical and effective ways. The Governments of the Republics of Uganda and Kenya have expressed interest in taking forward a continental expansion of the KDMECC and have seen an opportunity to do this during the first Africa Climate Summit, organised by the Government of Kenya and to be held in Nairobi on 4-6 September 2023..

Response

In response to the interest in expanding the KDMECC continentally, and in recognition that sustainable, climate-change resilient and socially just development cannot be conceived without considering human mobility in all its forms and recognising the importance of facilitating migration for the benefit of both sending and receiving locations and states, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has agreed to support the continental expansion of the KDMECC through the consultative development of a **Continental Addendum (KDMECC-AFRICA)**.

To ensure that all African MSs are well consulted, the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) were briefed about the proposed expansion at the 58th Subsidiary Bodies conference in Bonn. A draft addendum for the KDMECC-AFRICA will be circulated through all MS Embassies for review in mid July. Following receipt of the first revisions to the draft addendum, the Governments of the Republics of Uganda and Kenya, supported by IOM and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Regional Collaboration Centre for Eastern and Southern Africa (RCC EAS) are organising **a three (03) day, high-level technical conference** for the discussion and finalisation of the Continental Addendum to the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (KDMECC-AFRICA), which will be held in Nairobi, Kenya on the following dates: **23rd - 25th August 2023**.

Rationale

The East and Horn of Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate variability and climate change. The region regularly faces a wide range of natural hazards and slow-onset events and processes leading to different forms of human mobility (displacement, migration, returns and planned relocation). Disasters linked to natural hazards, environmental degradation, and the adverse effects of climate change are among the leading and overlapping drivers of human mobility. To address African concerns that not enough is being done to address the scale of the climate emergency and its impacts on the African continent, the Government of Kenya, led by H. E President William Samoei Ruto, is hosting the first African Climate Summit (ACS) in Nairobi between 4-6 September 2023, which is expected to bring investment and innovation to the continent, contributing to climate-sensitive development.

In July 2022, the Government of the Republic of Uganda, spearheaded by the Ministry of Water and Environment, was supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) based in Uganda, to organize a High-level, Regional, Inter-Ministerial Conference on "Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) in the East and Horn of Africa". The Conference was geared towards developing an integrated approach to climate change induced mobility across the region and contribute to raising the important topic of human mobility in the context of climate change, at the global level for serious consideration, such as the Conference of the Parties (COPs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The MECC Conference brought together Ministers of Environment, Interior and Foreign Affairs and their technical experts from the 12 countries in the East and Horn of Africa Region: Burundi, Djibouti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda as well as other African Member States; Egypt as representatives of the COP-27 Presidency, Senegal as Presidency of the African Union, Zambia as the Chair of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) and high-Level representatives of the African Union Commission, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC) and Youth representatives from the region. A landmark, 'Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (KDMECC)' was signed by 15 States with two Heads of States, His Excellencies Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda and his Excellency Salva Kiir, President of South Sudan presiding over the signing ceremony and communicating their endorsement for the Kampala Declaration. This first, regional, high-level Declaration on the topic of Migration, Environment and Climate Change demonstrates the urgency and whole of government prioritisation that leaders in the region and on the African continent, place on this topic and fills an urgent policy gap that provides a framework under which climate-induced mobility can be effectively addressed at all levels.

Since 2022, there has been a rapidly growing recognition and interest in the KDMECC as a comprehensive and action-oriented framework, which addresses the challenges and opportunities of climate-induced mobility in practical and effective ways. The Government of Uganda has consistently expressed its support for the continental expansion of the KDMECC and His Excellency President William Ruto, in his capacity as the Chair of the Committee of African Heads of States and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), under the auspices of the African Union (AU) has expressed support for the same.

Proposed Response

In response to the interest in expanding the KDMECC continentally, and in recognition that sustainable, climate-change resilient and socially just development cannot be conceived without considering human mobility in all its forms and recognising the importance of facilitating migration for the benefit of both sending and receiving locations and states, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has agreed to support the continental expansion of the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (KDMECC) through the coordination and development of the **(KDMECC-AFRICA)**.

To continue ensuring close consultation with MSs across the continent, IOM in collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Regional Collaboration Centre for Eastern and Southern Africa (RCC EAS Africa) and the Governments of the Republics of Uganda and Kenya are organising a three (03) day, high-level technical conference for the discussion and finalisation of the Continental Addendum to the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (KDMECC-AFRICA), which is envisaged to be held in Nairobi, Kenya on the following proposed dates: **23rd - 25th August 2023**.

The Objective of this Conference is to finalise the KDMECC-AFRICA through a consultative process, which ensures that all interested African Member States (MSs) and youth have had the opportunity to contribute their priorities and comments to the KDMECC-AFRICA and that the Declaration is finalised through a collaborative process. Attendees are expected to be high-level, technical staff from the Ministries of Environment, Foreign Affairs and Interior from all 54 African Member States and high-level representatives of the African Union, representative Youth Advocates from the African continent, and the relevant Regional Economic Communities and Inter-Governmental Organizations, who will act as rapporteurs to the Conference, ensuring that comments, concerns and priorities of all attending MSs are captured in the Continental Addendum to the KDMECC. Once the Continental Addendum to the KDMECC is finalised, the KDMECC-AFRICA will be ready for Ministerial signing at the Africa Climate Summit, which will take place between 4-6 September 2023 in Nairobi.

The finalised Agenda, logistics note and other information will be shared in due course.