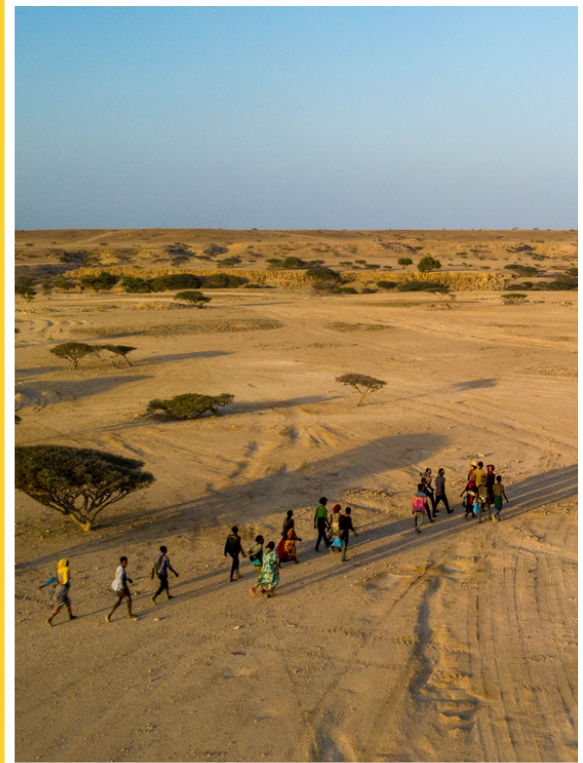


KAMPALA MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Background

In July 2022, Ministers from African Member States, and particularly the East and Horn of Africa convened in Kampala, Uganda, for an Inter-Ministerial Conference on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC). The conference was organized by the Government of the Republic of Uganda, and spearheaded by the Ministry of Water and Environment. They received support from 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 and East African Development Bank (EADB)'s Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) , for East and Southern Africa.

The conference brought together Ministers of Environment, Interior and Foreign Affairs and their technical experts from the 11 countries of the **East and Horn of Africa Region (EHoA)**



It also involved other African Member States, including Egypt as representatives of the COP27 presidency, Senegal as presidency of the African Union, Zambia as the chair of the African Group of Negotiators, and high-level representatives of the African Union Commission, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the East African Community (EAC) and Youth representatives from the region.

The Conference was geared towards developing an integrated approach to climate change induced mobility across the region and contributing to raising the important topic of human mobility in the context of climate change at the global level for serious consideration, including at the Conference of the Parties (COPs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In order to ensure that the conference delivered concrete goals, the Member States jointly developed the **Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change (MECC)**, which is the first, regional policy framework that addresses human mobility in the context of climate change.

Signatory countries of the KDMECC in the East and Horn of Africa



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement of organizations, entities and groups mentioned in this document.



Youth advocates from across the EHoA region presented a set of key messages for the Conference through youth consultations supported by IOM, RCC Kampala, YOUNGO and Chatham House. As a result, the group was able to engage many youth in the region within a short period, demonstrating a strong interest in this topic.

In order to ensure that the signatory states to the Kampala Declaration on MECC fulfil 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.



Commitments of the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change



Build and strengthen climate resilience and adaptive interventions of all communities living in fragile ecosystems, flood prone water basins, low lying areas and mountain slopes including enacting urgent regional and national legislation, policies and strategies for actions.



Implement and domesticate the provisions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) underscoring State role to address desertification, land degradation and drought as one of the drivers of poverty and forced mobility.



Facilitate a conducive regulatory and policy environment to harness the socio-economic benefits of remittances, trade and investment.



Engage multilateral development banks and financial institutions and development partners to create/extend financing relief for countries hosting migrants and disaster displaced persons.



Create and/or increase investment in the circular economy, renewable energy and energy efficiency, climate smart agriculture, green economy, blue economy, digital economy and nature-based solutions.



Develop comprehensive urban plans to address population surges in urban arising as a result of adverse impacts of climate change in marginal rural areas including promoting rural-urban collaboration to reduce vulnerability and create adaptive mechanisms for safe migration and access to sustainable livelihoods.



Work with the private sector to improve urban-rural connectivity for the youth and traders through internet access, technological advancement, provision of energy and road/rail infrastructure.



Establish and strengthen regional and national weather and climate institutions and systems to generate accurate, timely data and information on climate change impacts on human mobility; and increase collaboration between/among Member States and with the IGAD Centre of Excellence for Climate Prediction and Applications (ICPAC).



Address knowledge gaps by understanding and applying indigenous knowledge and practices in the development of appropriate adaptation responses, to reduce the context-specific vulnerability of communities to the impacts of climate change.



Apply and integrate gender and human rights-based approaches in the design and implementation of policies relating to the climate change-migration nexus.



Establish an IGAD-EAC and States of the East and Horn of Africa, Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change, Environment and Migration; develop a Plan of Action for the implementation of this Declaration and monitor and report regularly on progress of implementation by Member States.



Request the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), the G77 and China and the LDC Group of Negotiators to take forward the work of the IGAD-EAC and States of the East and Horn of Africa, Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change, Environment and Migration and request to launch this Kampala Ministerial Declaration at COP27 with the intention to continue the work up to COP28 and beyond.



This newly signed Declaration is an urgent call for the world to respond to the impact of climate change on human mobility across the region and continent, and support affected communities, who are among the world's most vulnerable, to adapt to climate change realities. The participation in the signing demonstrated the urgency and whole-of-government prioritisation that leaders in the region and on the African continent place on this topic.

Parties to the UNFCCC are further requested to;

- Take action to avert, minimize and address displacement in the context of climate change and disasters both across and within borders.
- Strengthen support to countries and communities most vulnerable to climate change impacts to access new and additional scaled-up climate finance.
- Strengthen cooperation at all levels of government and communities and implement treaties, pacts, protocols and regulations on free movement of people, labour mobility and transhumance.
- Facilitate capacity building and technology transfer for climate action and human mobility.
- Create a Multi-Partner Financing Instrument including for the Youth to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, and advance the Global Goal on Adaptation in the East and Horn of Africa.

Expansion

In response to the growing interest in the KDMECC as an action-oriented framework, and in recognition that sustainable, climate-change resilient and socially just development cannot be conceived without considering human mobility in all its forms, IOM and UNFCCC's RCC supported the continental expansion of the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (KDMECC) through the coordination and technical support for the development of a continental Addendum (KDMECC-AFRICA).

Hosted by the Government of Kenya and supported by IOM, 48 African countries convened in Nairobi on 23-25 August 2023 to develop and finalise the text of the KDMECC-AFRICA which also incorporated African youth perspectives generated through a continental youth statement. The final addendum text was presented to Ministers attending the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) hosted by President William Ruto in Kenya and was signed on 4 September 2023 at a Ministerial Signing Ceremony.

During the 28th edition of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP28), the Government of Uganda, led by the Prime Minister, Robinah Nabbanja, held a ministerial event on 2 December 2023 to launch the KDMECC continental addendum within the COP28 High Level Segment.

The KDMECC-AFRICA elaborates an additional 25 commitments that address the challenges and opportunities of climate-induced mobility across the continent.