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Final

7th PAN-AFRICAN FORUM ON MIGRATION (PAFOM 7)

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING

21st OCTOBER 2022

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REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING

I INTRODUCTION

1. The 2nd Ministerial Meeting of the African Union 7th Pan-African Forum on Migration was held in Kigali, Rwanda on 21st October 2022. The theme of the meeting was “*Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Migration and human mobility in Africa: Building Adaptation Strategies and Resilient Communities*”.
2. The purpose of the Ministerial Meeting was to consider and adopt the following documents:
 - The outcome report of the senior officials meeting; and
 - The ministerial joint communique.

II ATTENDANCE

3. The meeting was attended by the following AU Member States: Republic of Algeria, Republic of Angola, Republic of Botswana, Republic of Burundi, Republic of Djibouti, Republic of Chad, Central African Republic, Republic of Côte D'Ivoire, Republic of Eswatini, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Gabon, Republic of Gambia, Republic of Ghana, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Lesotho, Republic of Liberia, State of Libya, Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Malawi, Republic of Mauritania, Republic of Mauritius, Kingdom of Morocco, Republic of Mozambique, Republic of Namibia, Republic of Niger, Republic of Nigeria, Federal Republic of Niger, Republic of Rwanda, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Sierra Leone, Republic of South Africa, Republic of Somalia, Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Togo, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Uganda, Republic of Zambia, and the Republic of Zimbabwe.
4. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were also present : East African Community (EAC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) and Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)
5. In attendance were also the following United Nations (UN) and international partners, namely ; the International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA), United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Federation of the Red Crescent (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).
6. The meeting was also attended by the following civil society partners and social partners that include: The Institute for Security Studies (ISS), West Africa Observatory on Migration, National Association of Business Women in Africa, IDENA; African Organization of the International Trade Union Confederation among others.

7. The following academic institution partners were also in attendance: Centre for Migration Studies, of the University of Ghana, American University in Cairo, Addis Ababa University, Kabarak University, Kenya; School of Development & Strategic Studies Maseno University in Kenya and the University of Western Cape, South Africa were represented.
8. Representatives of some Member States and other participants also followed the meeting online.

III OPENING SESSION

9. **Mrs Angela Martins** in her opening remarks on behalf of **H.E Amb Minata Samate Cessouma**, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, AUC, thanked all delegates present for their attendance, and welcomed them to PAFOM 7. She extended her thanks to the AUC organizers, the Government of Rwanda and the IOM who contributed to the success of the meeting. She noted that the meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on various issues affecting the continent with regards to migration. She urged the delegation present to reflect on how best to solve the root causes of migration as possible ways of addressing its challenges. She emphasized on the instrumental role that the PAFOM platform played in bringing together various stakeholders on the continent, including the AU Member States, RECs, the UN family, Civil Society Organisations, and other partners within the migration and human mobility governance space.

She emphasized the need for Member States to use this forum to contribute to the upcoming COP27 and further reiterated the need for the continent to effectively develop necessary policy frameworks and initiatives to climate induced migration, and displacement at national, regional and continental levels. She concluded by affirming the AUC's support through technical guidance and coordination to AU Member States who are at the forefront in responding to the impact of climate induced displacement. Further, she reaffirmed AUC commitment towards supporting AU Member States and RECs in the implementation of the final outcome of the Senior Officials meeting Report to be endorsed by the Ministerial session.

10. In his opening statement, **Mr Alasan Senghore** IFRC Head of Delegation and Secretary General, The Gambia Red Cross, appreciated the timing of the ministerial meeting with its focus on migration and climate ahead of COP27, given the changes in the environment and the global impact of human and environmental security. He confirmed the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society commitment to addressing the needs of communities at risk which have been impacted by climate related displacement as a global strategic priority as expressed in Strategy 2030.

He noted that the National Red Cross and Red Crescent societies would be at the forefront to compliment AU Member States efforts in tackling the humanitarian challenge by working with local communities to reduce risk and respond to the protection needs of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons and other people of concern. He concluded by noting that all stakeholders should take immediate action and not wait till communities were displaced.

11. In his statement, **Mr Dickson Matembo**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Interior Zambia and Chair of the Experts of the STC on Migration, Refugees and IDPs noted that the PAFOM7 presented an important opportunity for AU Member States to discuss national, regional and continental climate action solutions on the continent. He noted that while the continent was the lowest contributor to global carbon emissions, the impact of climate induced migration had largely affected sustainable livelihoods. He reiterated the need for policymakers and member states to advance bold, transformative and farsighted actions in migration and climate change as an important phenomenon in the context of protecting human rights, human welfare, and the environment. He concluded by stressing on the need for Member States to mobilize financial investment and resources, locally and internationally for climate change adaptation and resilience measures. He also stressed on the need to link climate related finance with critical governance reforms including the need to provide insurance that protects livelihoods and ensures the possibility of sustainability in the context of disaster related migration.

12. In his opening statement, **Mr Antonio Vitorino**, IOM Director General, began by commending the Government of Rwanda, the hosts for PAFOM 7 for advancing the subject of human mobility in the context of climate change and its impetus to provide innovative, sustainable, people- centred and durable solutions, ahead of COP27. He cited the latest assessment report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which noted that climate change presented a global problem to human welfare. He added that climate related disasters are a global problem that demand global solutions. He further informed the meeting that climate related hazards had been major drivers of displacement in the continent with a contribution of at least twenty percent of new disaster displacement globally in 2021.

He noted that the climate crises had undermined the continent's ability to achieve its commitment to UN SDGs, AU Agenda 2063, and the focus on longstanding objectives such as the enhancement of free movement. He emphasized the need for all stakeholders to recognize and address not just the consequences of climate change on human movement but also the role that migration could play as part of the solution to encourage peace and prosperity.

He reiterated IOMs commitment to support Member States on the implementation of the meeting's resolutions and recommendations at all levels. In his conclusion, he mentioned that Member States should ensure that people had resources to make decisions on how to adapt to climate change which included moving with dignity when adaptation failed.

- 13.** In her opening statement, **H. E Hon Judith Uwizeye**, Minister in the Office of the President, Republic of Rwanda thanked all in attendance and appreciated the privilege accorded by the AUC to have the Government of Rwanda host the 7th PAFOM meeting. She noted that the meeting had provided an opportunity for senior officials to deliberate on this year's theme, which addressed the impact of climate change on migration and human mobility in Africa, including adaptation strategies and building resilient communities. She stated that the faster the climate changed, the longer the adaptation efforts would take and the more challenging and expensive it would be.

She added that climate change continued to be a driver for migration and encouraged Member States to find solutions for migration in the context of natural disasters and climate change. She emphasized the need for Member States, researchers, climate and migration organisations to continue to identify and rectify knowledge gaps on climate change and migration and share best practices and experiences in the forum. She concluded by thanking the AUC for organizing the forum and all member states and partners for honouring the invitation and appreciated all contributions that would be utilised to inform or influence policies.

IV SESSION DELIBERATIONS AND OUTCOMES

SESSION 1: STRENGTHENING AFRICA'S ADAPTATION, RESILIENCE, AND PARTNERSHIP IN MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MIGRATION, HUMAN MOBILITY, AND DISPLACEMENT: FROM POLICY TO ACTIONS

- 14.** The session discussed the importance of strengthening Africa's adaptation, resilience, and partnership in mitigating the impact of climate change on migration, human mobility, and displacement. It also centred on the need to implement the existing policies on climate change inducing migration and Ministers from Rwanda, Somalia and South Africa shared their experiences.
- 15.** **H.E Hon Mr. Njabulo Bheka Nzuzza, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Republic of South Africa**, noted the devastating effects of the recent floods in Kwa-Zulu Natal with more than 400 fatalities with an estimated infrastructure damage of 70 billion. He noted climate change as the greatest challenge of our

generation and that African countries have limited capacity to mobilize financial resources for the implementation and adaptation policies to mitigate the impacts on migration, displacement, and human mobility. He shared the countries mitigating response during the recent floods which included an allocation of funds for humanitarian assistance to the affected communities and the rebuilding of damaged infrastructure. He concluded that although African countries **have set policies there is a need to mobilize resources** to implement them and be able to respond to crisis as they occur.

16. H.E Issak Mohamud Mursal, deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Somalia, shared the impact climate change has had on the country since the civil war in 1987. The impact has included huge numbers of human migration and internal displacement. He noted a total of 7 million people affected by droughts and flooding and in need of medical relief and support from government and donor organizations. He concluded by stating that Somalia had developed a climate change policy actively involving a wide range of stakeholders which included; Somalia's business and Diaspora although they still face challenges in regard to their financial capacity to respond timely to vulnerable groups.

17. Hon. Dr Mujawamariya Jeanne d'Arc, Minister of Environment, Republic of Rwanda, stated that adaptation policies to climate change are not a choice but imperative for the social economic process. He further noted, the need for the mobilization of resources at national and global level for the implementation of adaptation policies. He shared some adaptation measures from Rwanda such as the relocation of people who were living in high risk zones to green villages where they now have access to health, education and security services. In addition, the Minister added that Rwanda has adopted other homegrown solutions that did not require any resources rather than taking action which included the banning of plastic bags.

18. The following were the **Key recommendations** of the session:

- i. The meeting recommended the need to allocate more resources for climate adaptation at all levels in the continent.
- ii. The need to develop harmonised plans of actions to mitigate the impact of climate change on migration, human mobility, and displacement at national, regional and continental level.
- iii. The need for collaboration among Member States, especially sending, transit and receiving countries, to enhance information sharing, address and support migrant in distress, and develop sustainable durable solutions for climate induced migrants.
- iv. The need to develop harmonised policies and joint mobilization of resources and financing by AU Member States and RECs to mitigate impacts of climate change inducing migration and human mobility to

support people on the continent.

SESSION 2: CONSIDERATION OF THE OUTCOME REPORT OF THE PAFOM7 SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING

19. The report of the senior officials meeting was presented by the PAFOM 7 Chair. The meeting commended the PAFOM 7 Chair senior official on the robust discussions and recommendations as well as the secretariat on a comprehensive report.

20. The meeting adopted the PAFOM 7 Senior Officials report with amendments.

SESSION 3: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF MINISTERIAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE

21. The communique meeting was presented by the Commission to the meeting.

22. Having gone through the communique as presented, the meeting adopted the communique with amendments.

V DATE AND VENUE OF THE 8th PAFOM MEETING

23. The meeting agreed that AU Member States from the Southern Region be given an opportunity to consult with their Capitals for them to determine their candidatures for hosting the PAFOM 8 (Senior Officials) and PAFOM 9 (Ministerial) in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

24. The meeting agreed that those interested should inform the Commission, which is the Secretariat of the Forum, as soon as possible, for necessary preparations to start.

VI CLOSING SESSION

25. In her closing remarks, **Mrs Mariama Cisse, IOM Special Liaison Office to the AU and UNECA** thanked all the Member States, RECs and all stakeholders present for their attendance and contribution. She commended the AUC for organising the meeting. She reiterated the importance of the forum in providing a platform to share experiences and best practices and to formulate a unified Africa position ahead of the upcoming COP27. She reiterated IOMs commitment to work through member states to ensure that African perspectives on climate and just mobility are given the attention they deserve, and to provide technical and policy support in this regard. She noted that the IOM was committed to achieving stronger recognition of migration consideration within the existing climate framework. She added that the IOM will be an active presence at COP 27, working in partnership with local government, UN agencies, international and regional entities and civil society to achieve this goal. She concluded by thanking

the Government of Rwanda for their leadership on these issues, and for bringing all stakeholders together to galvanize cooperation and advance a common approach.

26.In **Mrs Angela Martins** closing remarks on behalf of **H.E Amb Minata Samate Cessouma**, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, AUC, she congratulated all ministers, senior officials of the AU Member States, IOM, international partners and all delegates for the success of the PAFOM7.

She extended her thanks to the AUC organizers, and the Government of Rwanda who had all worked tirelessly to make the event a success. She noted that the meeting had set another stepping stone for addressing climate change and migration on the continent. She urged Member States to act beyond this forum and take transformative actions based on the outcome report. She noted the need for Member States to address climate change induced migration and displacements through building adaptation and resilience strategy and develop policy coherence at all levels to mobilize climate finance and further strengthen multi stakeholder synergy. She concluded by appreciating the delegates' contributions and continued support of the PAFOM.

27.In her official closing remarks, **Hon Judith Uwizeye, Minister in the Office of the President, Republic of Rwanda** appreciated all present for their valuable contributions during the meeting. She noted that PAFOM7 had provided an opportunity for all to deeply understand the impact of climate change on migration and human mobility in the continent. She added that it was important that all Member States fast-tracked the ratification of relevant continental and international legal policy frameworks to ensure protection for climate induced migration on the continent. She implored Member States to take responsibility for developing innovative solutions to enhance accountability, adaptation and resilience in the continent.

She reiterated the need for a continental, multidimensional approach to reducing vulnerability and the need to include all vulnerable groups to ensure the most effective responses. She stated the need for all member states to align their strategy to: respond to migration and displacement with their civil protection; ensure disaster risk reduction and development plans as well as promote more comprehensive approaches to climate-related security risks and promote human-rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches to support those displaced in the context of climate and environmental impacts. She concluded by calling upon all Member States to collaborate with the AUC and PAFOM chairmanship to ensure the recommendations made are put into action at the national level and through respective RECs and declared the 7th PAFOM officially closed.

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