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**Final**

**THE 7<sup>th</sup> PAN-AFRICAN FORUM ON MIGRATION (PAFoM 7)**

**REPORT OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING**

**18<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2022**

**KIGALI, RWANDA**

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Senior Officials Meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Pan-African Forum on Migration was held in Kigali, Rwanda from the 18<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 under the theme ***“Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Migration and Human Mobility in Africa: Building Adaptation Strategies and Resilient Communities”***. The meeting aimed at providing policy guidance and recommendations to AU Member States, RECs and other relevant stakeholders on the impact of Climate Change on Migration and Displacement on the continent, as well as identify key policy priorities and recommendations as contribution to the upcoming COP 27 meeting scheduled to be held in November 2022, in Cairo, Egypt.

## II. ATTENDANCE

2. The meeting was attended by 40 Member States of the African Union, namely: Republic of Algeria, Republic of Angola, Republic of Botswana, Republic of Burundi, Republic of Djibouti, Republic of Chad, Central Africa 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, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Togo, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Uganda, Republic of Zambia, and Republic of Zimbabwe.
3. The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in attendance included: East African Community (EAC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) and Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD).
4. 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).
5. Civil Society partners that attended the forum included: The Institute for Security Studies (ISS), the West Africa Observatory on Migration, the National Association of Business Women in Africa, IDENA; and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC),

The following academic institutions were also in attendance: The Centre for Migration Studies, of the University of Ghana, the 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.

6. Representatives of some Member States, Civil Society partners and other participants also followed the meeting online.

### III. OPENING SESSION

7. The meeting was opened by the **ACP Lynder NKURANGA, Director General-Immigration and Emigration (DG-IE), Republic of Rwanda**. In her opening remarks, she thanked the AUC that doubled up as the Secretariat and IOM for closely working with her Government to organize the meeting. She noted that the meeting provided an opportunity to engage, discuss and share experiences on the theme “**Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Migration and human mobility in Africa: Building Adaptation Strategies and Resilient Communities**”. She noted that climate change induced migration had increased in occurrence and hence the need to prioritize and address the issue. **ACP Lynder NKURANGA** concluded her remarks by welcoming all the delegates and wished them fruitful deliberations.
8. On his part, **Mr. Alasan Senghore, Head of Delegation, IFRC**, highlighted the role of IFRC in providing humanitarian support, as well as the need to promote safety and dignity for all people on the move by addressing their humanitarian needs which remains a major strategic priority for the IFRC. He drew delegates attention to Agenda 2030 which recognized migration as a top five global challenge and further noted the impact on communities with the least contribution to climate change and the role that migration played as an adaptation strategy.

**Mr. Alasan Senghore** highlighted key challenges of climate change and migration to include: failure of response and experiences of affected communities during policy and programmatic responses; the lack of mention of climate related mobility in relevant policies and legal frameworks and the lack of immediate sufficient support for people affected by climate change. He encouraged collective duty to assess the risk of climate-related disasters, and invest in local communities with highest risk and lowest capacities, as well as urged Member States and local actors to have concerned communities at the center of adaptive strategies.

9. **Ms. Aissata Kane, Senior Regional Adviser to the Director General, IOM**, in her remarks welcomed all the delegates and thanked the Government of Rwanda and the AUC in the preparation for PAFOM 7. She noted that PAFOM remains one of the most vibrant migration dialogue on the continent and assured the meeting of IOM’s continued support to the platform. In contextualizing the role of climate change and environmental factors on migration flows and displacement and human mobility, she noted the need to increase action to address displacement linked to climate change to facilitate Safe, Orderly and Regular migration and include adaptation in policy at local, national, regional and international levels.

Highlighting IOM’s role in supporting programs that contributed to risk protection in disaster prone areas and IOM’s commitment to assisting populations and governments to develop early warning systems and anticipatory actions. **Ms. Aissata**

**Kane** applauded the progress made by Member States in policy formulation aimed at addressing migration governance and noted the need to go beyond expressing commitment to action by facilitating such dialogues at the continental level and the upcoming COP27 to enhance policy coherence and advocate for more concrete action. She concluded by noting the importance of the GCM objective 23 that aims at strengthening international cooperation and global partnership for Safe, Orderly and Regular migration and supporting already laid out agreements such as the Paris Agreement and 2063 Africa

Development Agenda, all in a bid to encourage increasing more sustainable climate finance for adaptation for bi-lateral and multilateral development.

- 10. Mrs Angela Martins, Ag. Director, Department of Social Development, Culture and Sports, AUC**, in her remarks on behalf of **H.E Amb. Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Humanitarian, Health and Social Development** appreciated the joint efforts of the Government of Rwanda, all partners and the AUC for organizing the forum. She highlighted the timely nature of the forum in light of the upcoming COP27 and the impact of climate change on the continent as a result of human-induced activities. She underscored the growing recognition of the nexus between migration and the impact of climate change in shaping human mobility on one hand and how the phenomenon has impacted Africa's socio-economic development, human welfare and security.

She further highlighted the multiplier effect of climate induced migration to other social dynamics such as conflict, forced displacements and food security on the continent. She noted that forced displacement and migration as a result of persistent climatic changes should concern all experts of migration and climate change. She further urged Member States to utilize the PAFOM 7 platform to reflect on building a common approach and understanding through identifying critical areas that form a foundation for national, regional and continental interventions on climate induced migration. She concluded by highlighting the need to enhance policy dialogues and called for the translation of these policy commitments into practical operations that support national, regional and continental adaptation and implementation.

- 11. Dr Jeff Lishomwa, Director General, Immigration Department, Ministry of Home Affairs and Interior, Zambia and Chair of the Experts of the STC on Migration, Refugees and IDPs** in his remarks highlighted the growing concern of migration and human mobility in Africa given that the nexus between migration, environment and climate change was highly complex. He noted that migration was impacting the environment and climate change and placing pressure on natural resources. He mentioned that migration was a response to drivers, and therefore, climate change was a multiplier to migration. He further noted that the dynamics of climate change coupled with population changes and migration, and their intricate relationship with development, were amongst the most pressing challenges that dominated Africa's socio-economic development discourse. He called for the need to effectively model the complex interlinkages between socio-economic and environmental drivers of

migration which would be essential for informing decisions and pathways towards sustainable migration in Africa. He further appreciated the leadership of the AU in pushing to the frontlines, the agenda of climate change and human mobility with policy orientation on the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI). He concluded by encouraging the African Union Commission to take up the leadership role of the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) to coordinate the continental agenda on migration and climate change, as well as spearhead programs and activities to support AU Member States and the RECs on climate change, forced displacements and migration.

12. **Amb. Christian Assogba**, Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of Senegalese living Abroad, Republic of Senegal in his opening remarks thanked the AUC for convening the PAFOM 7. He stated that a number of African countries faced challenges related to climate change and migration. He encouraged Member States to reflect on the consequences of climate change on migration.

He emphasized the need for collective action to reduce risk, in order to attain solutions to the various challenges faced by the continent, and leverage Agenda 2063 to open up opportunities. He noted that PAFOM 7 provided an opportunity for the continent to realize the need for consultation to mitigate possible crises. He concluded by recognizing the efforts made by the AU in order to seek solutions to communities at risk without leaving anyone behind.

13. **Mrs Clementine Mukeka**, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of Rwanda in her remarks, noted the benefits of deliberations to establish more resilient communities on the continent. She observed the role of PAFOM to strengthen the continent's commitment to addressing climate change and an opportunity for Member States to align in order to build more resilient communities. She stated that climate change induced migration was only expected to increase and with it cause horrendous humanitarian implications. She logged the need for risk-reduction measures so communities could be more resilient to climate change. She concluded by affirming that building climate resilience would best be done by designing and implementing solutions in an integrated manner that include hard infrastructure measures, nature and governance-based solutions as well as utilize community-based practices.

#### **IV. SESSION DELIBERATIONS, OUTCOMES AND KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **SESSION 1: REPORT OF THE PAFOM 6 CHAIR AND OFFICAL HANDING OVER OF THE PAFOM CHAIRMANSHIP**

14. The outgoing PAFOM 6 Chair **Amb. Christian Assogba** informed the meeting on the theme of PAFOM 6 which was “Strengthening Labour Migration Governance in Africa for Socio-economic Development and Accelerated Continued Integration.” He noted the successful deliberation of the meeting with the attendance of over 32 AU Member States, 5 Regional Economic Communities (RECs), International

organizations, representatives from local government and mayors' forum, international organizations, trade unions, academia and civil society.

He reflected on the main objective of the meeting which was to provide policy guidance and recommendations to Member States and other stakeholders in order to improve labor migration governance at national, regional and continental levels for socioeconomic development and faster integration of the continent as per the aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063, the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA), the Global Compact on Migration, amongst others. He reminded the meeting that the PAFOM 6 focused on ways of collaborating with Member States to develop new strategies that helped the interaction with all partners who had influence on policies. He noted that the AU had discussions that strengthened labor migration with emphasis to Agriculture and the effect of climate change on the sector. He noted the challenges of COVID-19 on progress of the implementation of the meeting resolutions. He concluded by reiterating the Government of Senegal's commitment of support to the incoming chair.

#### **OFFICIAL PAFOM CHAIR HANDOVER**

15. The Government of Senegal officially handed over the PAFOM chairmanship to the Government of Rwanda who accepted the role and committed to the implementation of the outcomes and provided an opportunity for AU Member States, RECs and other relevant stakeholders to deliberate on the impact of Climate Change on Migration and displacement governance on the continent.

#### **SESSION II: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS ON THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HUMAN MOBILITY AND MIGRATION AFRICA: GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

16. The meeting observed that climate change-related events such as disasters, floods, erratic rainfalls, and storms have potentially dire implications for food security, water availability, health, and socio-economic development and impact human mobility. In addition, climate change also undermines Africa's quest to achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2063 due to loss of lives, property damage, population displacement, and movement within and across borders.
17. The meeting was informed of various studies on climate change and migration, the impact climate change has on human mobility and migration being particularly pronounced in Africa. Statistics were shared such as, UNHCR placing an annual average of about 21,5 million people in Africa as forcibly displaced by weather-related events since 2008 and these numbers are expected to rise and may reach 1.2 billion people by 2050.
18. The meeting commended the existing bilateral, multilateral, and regional cooperation as a way of creating climate change resilience such as Agenda 2063, Africa Continental Free Trade Area, the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of

Action (2018-2030), AU's Climate Change Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032) as well as African Union Convention for the Protection and assistance of internally Displaced persons in Africa.

**19.** The following were the **key recommendations** of the session:

- I. The need to establish a Multi-stakeholder dialogues framework starting from planning and execution of set policies at national, regional and continental levels.
- II. The development of a common understanding to the challenges occasioned by climate change on human mobility, migration, and development and human mobility and migration on environment degradation.
- III. Revision of the 1951 and 1969 conventions so as to cover environmental degradation and climate change in order to address the normative gap in refugee law.
- IV. Strengthen synergies among all stakeholders in order to achieve sustainable development.
- V. Members states to consider establishing sustainable frameworks, such as the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS), to support their Nationality Determined Contributions (NDCs).

### **SESSION III: SHARING RECs EXPERIENCES: AU REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES AND POLICIES ON ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MIGRATION AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT**

**20.** The session was composed of panelists from different Regional Economic communities (RECS) and included the Union du Maghreb Arab (UMA), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the East African community (EAC), and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD).

**21.** The representative of the East African Community informed the meeting that the climatic conditions in the East African region (EAC) is characterized by low and erratic rainfall patterns and extreme high temperatures that have resulted into drought situations in some areas. All countries in the region have been impacted and there is need to strengthen policy frameworks to assure resilience of communities for adaptive measures. He noted that the EAC has strategies to engage at community level with groups vulnerable to climate change, including; youth, children and indigenous populations. The EAC also facilitates movement of people who have been forced to move due to climate change and therefore encourages migration as an adaptation mechanism. In terms of policy dispensation, the EAC has various policies including; the EAC treaty document that binds member states, the protocol on environment and natural resources signed in 2020 that acts to ensure cooperation on environment and natural resources management.

The stated that the issues relating to climate change are transboundary in nature and there is value for member states to engage with each other at policy and programming level to mitigate and address advance effects of climate change. The EAC also oversaw the adoption of the climate finance access mobilization strategy which targets to achieve 20% (200 million USD) to support the climate change agenda in the EAC by 2030. The EAC also emphasizes the role of institutions like the Lake Victoria basin commission, Lake Victoria fisheries organization in climate change conversations, as well as the importance of promoting multilateral conversations between countries, partnerships like the IOM on climate related impacts, especially, on migration. The EAC is also the biggest host to refugees globally.

- 22.** The Representative of the IGAD informed the meeting that Migration and climate change are equally important for the IGAD region. The effects of drought in the region affected approximately 22 million people who were subjected to food insecurity. The agenda of climate change is well recognized by IGAD and enshrined in its founding documents. IGAD recently passed a protocol on transhumance which the IGAD ministers of council have adopted. It is the first in the region in terms of its objectives to facilitate free movement of pastoralists with their animals across borders due to the impact of climate change.

IGAD also has different units that facilitate especially engagement on climate change such as the IGAD center for climate prediction and application based in Nairobi, Kenya which also serves some SADC countries like Tanzania. It's a recognized center of excellence that provides data on climate change and impacts on livelihoods, including the number of people affected by climate change. It was noted that IGAD was established to address climate issues and the main drivers of climate change. IGAD also has a strategy on disaster risk management to address the impact of climate change and other human induced and natural disasters to anchor policies to support responses and adaptations measures in member states. The IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) program since its establishment in 2014 has been supporting affected communities to build resilience and to promote adaptation measures.

- 23.** The representative of UMA informed the meeting that the region has seen a growing number of migrants from 5 million in 2010 to more than 6 million in 2020. The UMA region recorded around 9,000 internal displacements mainly due to disaster and climate change due to frequent drought and extreme events. Agriculture and livestock play an important role in the region economy as a source of employment.

However, these sectors are impacted by climate change and variability which undermines the economy. She further informed the meeting that UMA has taken a keen interest in monitoring migration phenomenon as a whole and maintains cooperation and coordination relations with regional and international organizations, research centers and partners on migration, in order to benefit from the support and subject matter expertise.



The representative of CENSAD region informed the meeting that the region has very distinct characteristics with a nomadic and pastoral community that practices migration as a survival strategy aimed at minimizing risks associated with climate change. CENSAD affords priority to challenges of migration through initiatives like youth employment, income generating initiatives for the most vulnerable groups, promotion of return of migrants to their countries of origin which CENSAD, in collaboration with IOM has carried out in Libya. The CENSAD region also recognizes women through sponsorship of female entrepreneurship and other women training programs in rural areas. On policy, CENSAD climate change policy is shown in the draft document 2022 – 2026 five-year priority action plan of the community and includes a number of projects for implementation. For example, the continued support for construction of more village water points and improvement of sustainable food security of the region. CENSAD also has a special solidarity fund which is a mechanism for mitigating the impact of climate change in the event of natural disasters. This assisted in places that have faced floods and storms in countries like Chad, Niger and Burkina Faso.

**24.** The following were the **key recommendations** of the session:

- I. The meeting recommended the need for RECs to collaborate among themselves and with member States for synergy and complementarity. The meeting recommended the advancement of versatile capacity building programs through the support of climate protection programs at the different RECS.
- II. The meeting recommended to give priority to issues of climate adaptability through initiatives like youth employment, income generating initiatives for the most vulnerable groups.
- III. The meeting recommended the continent formulate a common African position that focuses on African solutions that will be presented at COP 27.
- IV. The meeting recommended Member States to domesticate financing avenues on migration and climate change in their national and regional framework as current financing was mainly from donor partners.

#### **SESSION IV: SHARING MEMBER STATES EXPERIENCES: NATIONAL REALITIES AND EFFORTS IN ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN MOBILITY**

**25.** The session discussed the Member States experiences and their national efforts to tackle the impact of climate change and human mobility. The presenters highlighted their respective countries' efforts and mechanisms put in place to address climate change impacts.

**26.** The meeting was informed of the challenges of climate change on the socio-economic sector and its effect on the developing countries meeting their sustainable development objectives. For instance, Mauritius as a small Island is ranked 100<sup>th</sup> in

the 2022 World Risk Report as the country with the highest disaster risk out of 181 countries.

27. Member States presented some of the impacts of climate changes they have experienced in their respective countries such as floods, droughts, soil degradation, that has affected the agriculture sector and caused food insecurity which has led to displacement within and outside the country.
28. The meeting highlighted the various methodologies that can be utilized by AU Member States to address the impact of climate change like; establishing mechanisms for adaptation, projects and funds in government sectors ready to mitigate the impacts of climate change and also supporting all the environment and climate change-related projects (national and international).
29. The meeting was informed that in order to adapt to climate change impacts, climate change policies need to be at all policy levels within institutions. For instance, the Government of Rwanda has established a Green Climate Fund (GCF) in 2005 to focus on mobilizing resources for Climate Change.
30. The session presenters from AU Member states have expressed their readiness to attend the upcoming COP27 and showcase the national measures taken to mitigate and adopt the impacts of climate change.
31. The following were **the key recommendations** of the session:
  - i. The need for AU Member states to have institutions in place to be able to tackle issue of climate change at National Level
  - ii. The need for AU member states to consider including climate change adaptation polices at local levels,
  - iii. The need for AU member states to establish projections of climate change at national level in order to mitigate its impact on mobility
  - iv. The need for AU Member states to cooperate and collaborate in this area, especially the sending, transit and receiving countries for them learn from other countries' mechanisms already in place to mitigate the impacts of climate change at national Level in order to promote best practices and also develop during solutions to the issues facing migrants.

#### **SESSION V: THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AFRICAN CITIES: ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MIGRATION AND MOBILITY IN CITIES AND URBAN AREAS**

32. The meeting noted that migration was a dire reality of cities where the rapid urbanization had led to a rapid growth of cities population, due to rural-urban migration necessitated by climate change drivers.

33. The meeting drew attention to the experience of the Freetown City Council as a local authority which is at the forefront of responding to the needs and challenges while providing viable development solutions for their communities and cities. This has led to the formation of the Mayors Migration Council which was adopted by the GCM in 2018 and introduced the Mayors Dialogue as an innovative platform for cities to work together.
34. The meeting also highlighted the experience of Kigali which is working on a green campaign that seeks to see the city transition fully into a green economy through the roll out of tree planting, sustainable building materials, green solutions in environmental processes and infrastructure use to limit low carbon economy in the city.
35. The meeting recognized the need to have strong structured dialogues with national, international and multinational organizations which will help align and unlock the action and conservation of migration and climate change issues
36. The following were the **key recommendations** of the session:
- i. The need to collaboration among different stakeholders in government and non-state actors and enhance a whole society approach in rolling out of interventions that scale up climate financing projects in the cities.
  - ii. The need for governments to provide incentives that encourage citizens and all stakeholders to support cities' move to transition into green economies.
  - iii. The need to have all policies to be inclusive in the development and roll out to ensure their uptake by all stakeholders.
  - iv. The need for home grown solutions to solve city-specific climate change problems after the consultative national, regional and international dialogues and collaborations

#### **SESSION VI: ADDRESSING PROTECTION CONCERNS OF GROUPS IN VULNERABLE SITUATION WHO HAVE BEEN DISPLACED BY THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS**

37. The session drew attention to the protection concerns of vulnerable groups such as the youth, children and displaced persons due to the impact of climate change disasters as highlighted by the experiences and reflections of activists and international organization stakeholders such as the youth's representative on climate change, ACERWC and the UNHCR.
38. The youth representative highlighted the threat that climate change presented to the future of all vulnerable groups especially the youth, due to its effects on economies. It was noted that unaddressed, youth labor migration from the continent to Gulf and European countries would only encourage modern day slavery and brain drain at the

continental level. Gaps on the migration and climate change nexus were noted such as gender, human rights-based approaches and the recognition of migration as an adaptation option for climate change action.

39. The Committee member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Children (ACERWC) emphasized on the need for all Member States to comply with the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which guaranteed the protection of all children. The committee member informed the meeting of the work of the Technical Working Group which included; a resolution on the impact of climate change on the welfare of children in Africa and an ongoing study that would provide elaborate techniques and accurate data that would shape the solutions required for climate related national responses.
40. The representative of the UNHCR highlighted the adverse effects of climate induced displacement which compounded conditions of vulnerability. The representative alerted Member States to the review of UNHCR's Strategic Framework on Climate Action, specifically on the pillar that focused on adaptation strategies and the 1969 OAU Convention and the Kampala Convention which provided additional legal basis for Member States to provide international and national protection respectively to displaced people in the context of climate change disasters.
41. The delegates echoed the panelist's contributions and stated the generalization of climate-induced issues inhibited the addressing of the issues as they related to different groups. Delegates from Rwanda and Liberia concurred with the panelists who emphasized the need to involve the youth and communities in adaptation measures.
42. In the open session, delegates echoed the panelists' views on the need to address protection concerns of vulnerable groups, especially those who had been displaced by the impact of climate change disasters.
43. The following were the **key recommendations** of the session:
  - i. Member States to work with Ministries of Education to mainstream issues of climate change through curriculum reforms to enhance learners knowledge in this area.
  - ii. Mobilize and establish a youth climate fund to support research, innovation, and technology development at grassroots local, national, and regional levels. This fund would be dedicated to solutions proposed and implemented by youth-led organizations to address climate change and climate mobility, more so addressing longstanding barriers to climate finance felt by youth and other marginalized groups.
  - iii. Apply and integrate human rights-based, youth and gender transformative approaches in the design and implementation of policies and projects relating to the climate change-migration nexus.

- iv. Integrate youth into all processes of negotiations and decision making and implementation as co-signers, partners and collaborators while proactively building capacity in line with current and future challenges of climate mobility.
- v. Domestic mobilization of climate finance. Member States to mobilize funds locally in order to address climate mobility and climate action.
- vi. Member States to continue leveraging existing relationships between humanitarian entities and host countries of displaced persons to develop and implement legal and institutional policy frameworks to prevent and respond to displacement and to facilitate solutions to internal displacement due to climate-induced disasters.

## **SESSION VII: ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS A DRIVER TO MIGRATION, HUMAN MOBILITY AND DISPLACEMENT IN AFRICA**

44. The session discussed the root causes of climate change as the drivers to migration human mobility and displacement in Africa.
45. The meeting noted an increase of disasters due to climate change which had doubled in the past two decades. There were currently 320 climate induced disasters globally per year with an estimated increase to 500 per year by 2050 which would average to one to two disaster a day.
46. The meeting was alerted to the limited research in the intersection between migration and climate change. It was noted that relevant holistic research was key to addressing the drivers of climate induced migration for policy formation and accurate predictions.
47. The meeting noted the impact of climate change on small scale business which are mostly informal and operated by vulnerable groups who are mainly women. The need for the dissemination of information to these groups was mentioned in order to improve their capacity to negotiate agreement that will affect their livelihoods.
48. The following were the **key recommendations** of the session:
  - I. The need for Member States to realize the goals of the Paris agreement and reduce fossil fuel emission.
  - II. Member States to document African indigenous solutions that have been adopted by local communities.
  - III. The African Migration Research in Mali and African Migration Observatory in

Morocco to collaborate with national and regional institutions to build on their capacity on research outputs to address the drivers of migration and climate change.

### **SESSION VIII: STRENGTHENING AFRICA'S POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS ON MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

- 49.** The session drew attention to the importance of strengthening Africa's policy and legal frameworks on migration and displacement related to climate change. It further emphasized the need for more collaborative approaches to the development and implementation of these policies and legal frameworks at the national and continental level.
- 50.** The meeting noted the lack of effective national frameworks and policies on migration and displacement related to climate change. It also established that children were the most vulnerable as it impeded their right to education, health as well as the right to protection which leads to child marriage, child labor, child trafficking, and child exploitation.
- 51.** The meeting commended countries that have existing legal frameworks and policies on migration and displacement related to climate change. Examples such as Rwanda were cited who adopted a migration policy in 2008 and reviewed it to include migration and displacement related to climate change, and other natural disasters. Rwanda further opened its borders to the DRC during the COVID-19 period to receive Congolese people who were affected by a volcanic eruption.
- 52.** The meeting further highlighted the importance of harmonizing legal frameworks and policies on migration and displacement related to climate change for their holistic implementation on the continent. Relatedly, the meeting noted the existing conventions and treaties adopted by the African Union Commission and the United Nations on Migration, Human rights, and free movement.
- 53.** The following were the **key recommendations** of the session:
  - i. AU Member States to mainstream national policies and legal frameworks to include migration and displacement in the context of climate change.
  - ii. AU Member States to ratify the existing conventions, and treaties adopted by the African Union on Migration, Human rights, and the Free Movement Protocol to ensure protection for climate induced migration on the continent.
  - iii. AU Member States to invest in research in order to develop adaptation strategies towards reducing climate induced migration.

## **SESSION IX: ADDRESSING DATA AND RESEARCH GAPS ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE-HUMAN MOBILITY NEXUS FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION IN AFRICA**

54. The session discussed the data and research gaps on climate change and human mobility for policy development and Implementation on the continent.
55. The research gaps highlighted included the lack of information on the slow onset of climate processes like desertification, droughts, earthquakes that have large impacts on climate induced mobility; the gender intersection and the domestication of legal frameworks and mechanisms.
56. On data gaps the lack of empirical studies on the application of geographic systems was noted. Member states were encouraged to promote data exchange among stakeholders. An example of Niger was cited that have a national committee for data collection where data is collected on IDPs and shared amongst stakeholders.
57. IOM representative highlighted the need for the 3Cs namely Coordination, Consolidation and Courage.
58. The following were the **Key recommendations** from the session;
  - i. The need to strengthen national and international data collection and promote data exchange among stakeholders.
  - ii. The adoption of gender transformative approaches in addressing the climate change and human mobility issues.
  - iii. Enhance data collection with the use of GIS and build capacity on data collection methodologies.
  - iv. Address data, knowledge and research gaps by understanding and applying science and 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.
  - v. Harmonization of climate change and mobility data collection among national and regional stakeholders in line with international recommendations, and the domestication of various international conventions including the Kampala convention.

## **SESSION X: TOWARDS CLIMATE CHANGE INDUCED MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITY ACCOUNTABILITY, ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE IN AFRICA: OPPORTUNITIES**

59. The session highlighted the opportunities and challenges presented by climate change induced migration and human mobility accountability, adaptation and resilience in Africa as noted from the experiences of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation in the Republic of Ghana and the International Trade Union Confederation in Togo.

**60.** The meeting referenced the February 2022 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which stated that migration would increase as the planet gets hotter. It was noted that climate-related migration would have a significant effect on livelihoods with rural- urban migration and trans-border migration. The meeting drew on the example of Northern Ghana to encourage Member States to harmonize related sectors and seize the entry level opportunities presented by the post-Covid era to carry out green recovery plans that in turn would build rural resilience through the redirection of resources to viable livelihood programs.

**61.** The meeting was informed of the concept of climate induced poverty and energy poverty with the lack of electricity in rural areas. The meeting also noted that Member States and all stakeholders had the ultimate responsibility to generate sustainable livelihoods that draw on traditional and modern technology as well as a jobs transition strategy that involves private and public partnerships.

**62.** The following were the **key recommendations** of the session:

- i. Member States to provide a proper definition of the term climate migrants to help policy makers to fully address the needs of this group of people in their policy responses.
- ii. Member States to develop resilience strategies and redirect resources to livelihood programs that target reduction of climate induced migration. These may also include Social protection programs that insulate citizens from the effects of the disruption of livelihoods by climate change.
- iii. Member States to improve their capacity to responsibly harness, store and export natural resources such as gas in a bid to generate livelihoods and income that creates employment to keep nationals in-country.

**SESSION XI: PROMOTING AFRICA’S COMMON UNDERSTANDING,  
PARTNERSHIP AND SYNERGY ON MIGRATION AND GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA  
AND BEYOND INCLUDING THE COP DISCOURSE: PERSPECTIVE AND LESSONS  
FROM AU PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES**

**63.** The meeting noted that while there were no monocausal factors affecting migration, modern day migration drivers could not solely be identified as those that related to conflict and natural disasters. The meeting focused on an example of African youth, who utilized dangerous passage to migrate in a bid to seek out “greener pastures”.

**64.** The session drew attention to the common understanding, partnerships and synergies on migration governance in Africa as it relates to the experiences of those in the diplomatic community.



65. The meeting highlighted Sierra Leone's climate adaptation measures which included an early warning system that was mainstreamed in the National Development Plan and undertaken a participatory approach with other stakeholders to address climate change issues.

66. The following were the key recommendations of the session:

- i) Member States to address the drivers of migration as addressed in the GCM and create opportunities especially for the youth.
- ii) Call for the International community to incorporate African governments as equal partners in the designing and planning processes of climate induced migration discourse and refrain from dictating policy prescriptions.

## XII MEETING CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

67. The following were key recommendations of the meeting:

- i. The need to develop an **African Union common understanding** to the challenges occasioned by climate change on human mobility, migration, and development and migration on environment degradation to ensure the continent speaks with one voice.
- ii. The need for AU Members states to consider **establishing sustainable climate change adaptation and resilient frameworks**, such as the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS), to support their Nationality Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- iii. The need for Member States at National levels, **to work closely with their Cities and Urban areas local authorities** to provide incentives that encourage citizens and all stakeholders to support cities' move to transition into green economies.
- iv. The call for Member States to **in cooperate youth voices into all processes of Climate Change and climate induced mobility negotiations and decision making** and implementation to promote the whole of government and society approach in mitigating the issues of climate change in Africa.
- v. The need for Member States **to address the knowledge gap by reviewing our education curriculum to mainstream** issues of climate induced mobility into Member States curriculum.
- vi. The need for Member States to **strengthen solidarity with countries and people most vulnerable to climate change impacts**, facilitating their

access to just transition processes, as well as significantly scaled-up sustainable and predictable finance for adaptation and resilience, including addressing climate change-related human mobility.

- vii. The need to **strengthen climate change induced migration and displacement data and research for evidence-based policy development**, implementation and enhanced migration governance in Africa.
- viii. The need for a **stronger coordination and collaboration across** AU Institutions, including at all relevant national, regional and continental levels to ensure enhanced, more timely, comprehensive data collection and analysis in line with current and future migration, displacement and broader societal trends
- ix. The need to **Fast track the implementation of the outcomes of the first African summit for Action, held on the margins of the COP22 in November 2016** in Marrakech, and which gave birth to the establishment of three Climate Commissions, namely of the Congo basin, the Sahel and the island states, dedicated to lead a continental policy on sustainable development, as well as the implementation of the Triple A initiative (Adaptation of Agriculture in Africa) and the Triple S initiative (Sustainability, Stability and Security).
- x. The need to **involve all actors and the communities affected by the impact of climate induced migration** in the policy making process regarding climate change and migration with the aim of addressing complex challenges of the nexus between migration, environment and climate change.

### **XIII CLOSING REMARKS**

68. In her closing remarks, **Mrs Mariama Cisse, IOM Special Liaison Office to the AU and UNECA** thanked the Member States, RECs and all stakeholders for their attendance and contribution. She commended the African Union Commission for organising the meeting and reiterated IOM's commitment to continue to support PAFOM and Member States in the implementation of migration governance, policy and practice reflecting the significance of environmental disasters and climate change on human mobility. She reiterated the forum as having afforded delegates the opportunity for deliberation, collaboration and cooperation on integrating environmental factors across all areas of migration management. She emphasized the need to protect and uphold migrant rights throughout the migratory journey. She reiterated IOMs commitment to support Member States on the implementation of the meeting's resolutions and recommendations at all levels. She concluded her remarks by urging all stakeholders to collaborate on the mission to address climate induced migration.

69. In her official closing remarks, **ACP Lynder NKURANGA, Director General-Immigration and Emigration (DG-IE), Republic of Rwanda** thanked the delegates, AUC, IOM, RECs, and the other UN agencies for their support. She thanked the speakers and panellists for their valuable contribution. She noted the experiences and best practices shared by different speakers that encouraged the prioritization of the use of African Initiatives and solutions to address the impact of Climate Change on Migration and Human Mobility in Africa. She emphasized the need for research and collaboration across the climate change nexus and its impact on migration and human mobility. She concluded the session by reiterating the Government of Rwanda's commitment to collaborate with Member States, the African Union Commission and the PAFOM chairmanship to see that the recommendations made during this Senior Officials meeting be validated at the ministerial meeting and put into action at the national, regional and continental level.
70. In his closing remarks, **Mr Sabelo Mbokazi, Head of Labour Employment and Migration, AUC** thanked the Government of Rwanda, IOM and all partners who continued to cooperate with the AU. He reiterated the importance the PAFOM 7 afforded for the sharing of lessons, experiences and best practices on issues aimed at providing policy guidance to AU Member States, RECs and all stakeholders on the impact of climate change on migration and displacement. He noted the need for Member States to develop frameworks on multi-stakeholder planning and strengthening of synergies at all levels. He encouraged Member States to ratify the existing conventions and treaties adopted by AU on migration, human rights and the Free Movement Protocol in order to manage the climate induced migration on the continent. He concluded by encouraging all Member States to adopt gender transformative approaches and to formulate a common African position on African based solutions that would be presented at COP27.