
Africa's Response to the Need for Climate Financing and Accelerated Mobility-Based Actions for Climate-Induced Displacement

Concept Note for a Side Event

*XX April 2024, XX hrs.
Virtual/In-person*

Thematic Focus: *SDG1, SDG13, SDG17*

Co-organizers: AUC, IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR

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Background

The interlinkages between climate change and human displacement have presented a challenge to pundits, policymakers, and states within the context of emergency preparedness, response, and reconstruction efforts targeting livelihoods and the environment. The complexities of migration and forced displacement factors have been a center of international negotiations for climate action.

The unprecedented augmentation of disaster-induced displacements in the African region poses a challenge for state, humanitarian, and development actors likewise to consider holistic, integrated, and well-resourced climate actions that target the most vulnerable and underprivileged people intrinsically attached to their habitual residence. According to IDMC, more than 7.5 million people have been uprooted in 2022, owing to environmental and disaster-inflicted causes, either sudden or slow-onset hazards, bringing the highest number of displacements with a three-fold increase from the previous year.¹ This has led to the loss of livelihoods in the destruction of homes and infrastructure, and loss of property and income, health, and food security, with marked adverse effects on gender and social equity.² Climate change has a substantial compounding effect on the vulnerability of communities in fragile contexts and is estimated to force up to 132 million additional people into extreme poverty by 2030.³ Climate change has caused adverse impacts as well as losses and damages across communities, and sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, fishery, energy, and tourism, which impedes the economic growth and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.⁴

The global ramifications of climate change, particularly its disproportionate effect on vulnerable communities and countries at risk, formed the basis for the historic decision by states at COP27 to create and operationalize a fund to assist lower-income countries in responding to and recovering from climate change-induced losses and damages. The fund was operationalized in 2023, with an initial capitalization of 200 million USD, for climate-risk mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-centered initiatives.

Against this backdrop, it is important for African states, to consider integrated and comprehensive initiatives, and policy frameworks for mobility-based adaptation frameworks at local, national, and regional levels drawing experiences

¹ IDMC, https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/IDMC_GRID_2023_Global_Report_on_Internal_Displacement_LR.pdf#page=12

² IPCC, Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report, Summary for Policymakers, p. 6 at: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf

³ UNICEF, the Climate Crisis is a Child rights Crisis: the Children's Climate Risk Index, at: <https://www.unicef.org/media/105376/file/UNICEF-climate-crisis-child-rights-crisis.pdf>

⁴ IPCC, above at 2.

from regional frameworks such as - Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change that addresses the effects of climate change on human mobility. Access to climate funds and mobilizing financial resources for human mobility-focused climate adaptation initiatives remain areas for a pan-African dialogue, going forward.

Objective

The objective of the policy dialogue would be to dwell on the African regional context and priorities to address climate mobility challenges, with a focus on current progress in climate adaptation initiatives and broadening the opportunities for access to climate financing for Africa. The discussion will serve as a platform for the exchange of perspectives on African climate governance and regional policy priorities for adaptation to disaster hotspots in Africa. In line with the in-depth review of the selected SDGs for ARFSD10, the policy dialogue would contribute to the thematic discussions for the review of SDG1, SDG13, and SDG17.

Key Questions

The session will be guided by the discussion of the following salient issues:

- How should states benefit from a strategic landscape of African common position on climate funding, and African-led initiatives for climate-based adaptation, resilience building, rehabilitation, and development?
- How do mobility-based climate actions respond to the regional African priorities stated under the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action, the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change? And the outcomes of COP 28 and the objectives under the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)?
- Which locally anchored regular pathways and complementary solutions have the potential to address climate-forced migration and displacement in Africa?

Target Audience

The session will bring together member states, policymakers, civil society organizations, humanitarian, disaster response/preparedness, and migration stakeholders in Africa as well as environment and climate actors with a role and an interest in advancing migration, as well as issues of climate change, disaster response and preparedness, within the context of African financial architecture.

Proposed Panelists

- Youth/ women representative
- A representative from an African financial institution
- A representative from the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) or partners
- Representative from a member state (champion from local governments in the African region)