

Fact Sheet 6/2023

KAMPALA MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change is a landmark agreement between countries in the East and Horn of Africa that aims to enhance cooperation in relation to climate mobility.

What is the Kampala Declaration?

The [Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change](#) (Kampala Declaration) is a political declaration adopted in July 2022 by countries in the East and Horn of Africa – in particular, Member States of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC). The Declaration followed a three-day Inter-Ministerial Conference on Migration, Environment and Climate Change in Kampala, Uganda.

The Kampala Declaration is not a binding legal agreement. Rather, it is a political statement [declaring the aspirations of the parties](#). However, the Kampala Declaration is guided by a range of existing international and regional agreements, some of which *are* legally binding. These include: 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and the 1994 UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The Kampala Declaration is the first of its kind in Africa, providing a potential example for states in other regions wishing to enhance collaboration on climate mobility. It has been signed by Burundi, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, in cooperation with Senegal (President of AU), Egypt (president of COP27), Zambia (Chair of the African Group of Negotiators) and Algeria (Guest of the Inter-Ministerial Conference).

What does the Kampala Declaration do?

The Kampala Declaration reflects commitments by governments in the East and Horn of Africa to enhance cooperation in [five key areas of concern](#) relating to climate mobility. These are:

1. Progressive desertification and land degradation creating forced mobility of people and livestock;
2. Unsustainable use of ecosystems and the impact of frequent and intense extreme weather events on people and livestock;

3. Unplanned migration of people from rural to urban centres as a result of climate change and disasters;
4. Paucity of data and statistics on the impact of climate change on human and livestock mobility in the region; and
5. Limitations of partnerships and financing to respond to the climate crisis adversely affecting the mobility of our people and livestock in the region.

The specific commitments in the Kampala Declaration include commitments by governments to:

- Build and strengthen climate resilience and adaptive interventions for all communities living in fragile ecosystems, flood prone water basins, low lying areas and mountain slopes (para 1);
- Engage funding partners to provide financial support to countries hosting migrants and disaster displaced persons (para 4);
- Establish and strengthen systems for gathering data and information on climate change impacts on human mobility (para 8); and
- Integrate gender and human rights-based approaches in the design and implementation of policies relating to climate mobility (para 10).

Paragraph 13 of the Kampala Declaration further calls on states to take action to avert, minimize and address displacement in the context of climate change and disasters, and to strengthen cooperation in the implementation of agreements relating to the free movement of people, labour mobility and transhumance.

How will the Kampala Declaration be implemented?

The political commitments in the Kampala Declaration will be implemented at the domestic level by states that signed the Declaration. In addition, paragraph 11 of the Kampala Declaration includes a commitment by governments to establish an inter-ministerial working group on climate change, environment and migration to monitor implementation. Paragraph 12 also calls on states to carry forward the work of the Kampala Declaration within the UNFCCC's COP process.

About Climate Mobility Africa *Insights*

Climate Mobility Africa *Insights* is a publication of the Climate Mobility Africa Research Network (CMARN) – a multidisciplinary, bi-lingual (EN+FR) network of researchers and policy makers that aims to advance evidence-based law and policy responses to climate mobility in Africa. Climate Mobility Africa *Insights* is generously supported by the Robert Bosch Foundation. To find out more, visit: www.cmarnetwork.com.