



**Climate Mobility Africa  
Research Network**  
Réseau de Recherche sur la  
Mobilité Climatique en Afrique

## **ADVANCING LAW AND POLICY RESPONSES TO CLIMATE MOBILITY IN AFRICA**

### **COP28 KEY MESSAGES TO GOVERNMENTS DECEMBER 2024**

#### **Introduction**

To mark the beginning of COP28, the **Climate Mobility Africa Research Network (CMARN)** – a multidisciplinary network of more than 150 researchers and policy makers working on climate mobility in Africa – calls on governments to **recognise** the impacts of climate change on human mobility, **prioritise** the development and implementation of relevant laws and policies based on current knowledge and sound evidence, and **collaborate** with affected researchers and communities in addressing this issue.

Climate mobility – that is, displacement and migration in the context of disasters and climate change – is happening now and is evident in several countries on the African continent. Across Africa, a range of law and policy areas can play a critical role in ensuring that those who choose to move, or are compelled to do so, can access safety, protection and lasting solutions, and that the loss and damage that results from climate mobility can be assessed. Africa's *Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change* provides an important milestone for cooperation and action on climate mobility on the continent.

Climate mobility poses challenges – as well as opportunities – for people who move, the communities to which they move, and those who remain at home. For laws and policies to effectively address the challenges and maximise the opportunities, they must:

- be based on up-to-date knowledge and evidence regarding climate mobility
- protect and advance the human rights of affected communities
- be developed in consultation with those affected
- be fully understood by policy makers, practitioners and affected communities
- be effectively implemented in practice

The Key Messages presented here identify specific priorities for governments seeking to **advance law, policy and practice** in this area for the **better protection and safety** of persons displaced or moving in the context of disasters and climate change.

#### **COP28 Key Messages to Governments**



**Climate Mobility Africa  
Research Network**  
Réseau de Recherche sur la  
Mobilité Climatique en Afrique

CMARN calls on governments, in collaboration with affected communities and other stakeholders, to:

1. Develop and implement relevant **international and regional frameworks** to ensure that all measures to address climate mobility are gender-sensitive and vulnerability responsive, taking into account the specific needs of women, children, youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups in according with relevant **human rights** and other instruments
2. **Integrate** climate mobility considerations into Continental and (sub-)regional agreements relating to regional integration, free movement of persons, climate change adaptation, development and disaster risk reduction
3. Advocate for recognition and incorporation of climate mobility impacts within mechanisms dealing with **loss and damage**, including by supporting the collation of data and evidence relating to economic and non-economic losses associated with or resulting in climate mobility
4. Support **local research**, led by local researchers, to inform law and policy developments that are evidence-based and reflect the lived experiences of affected communities as well as providing opportunities for collaboration and dialogue on climate mobility between researchers and policy makers
5. Facilitate **collaboration and dialogue** between different levels of government, inter-governmental organizations, regional institutions, international organizations and civil societies to ensure integration and inclusive and participatory approach to addressing climate mobility
6. Take a **holistic** approach, including indigenous knowledge and perspectives, to addressing climate mobility, taking into account the interaction between climate change, conflict, poverty, livelihoods and food security as drivers of human mobility
7. Provide relevant and accessible **information** about climate mobility (including data, evidence, laws, and policies) to affected communities

### **About the Climate Mobility African Research Network (CMARN)**

CMARN was established in 2021 by researchers from across Africa and beyond with the goal of supporting the advancement of evidence-based law and policy responses to climate mobility in Africa. These key messages have been developed as part of CMARN's objective to support evidence-based development and implementation of laws and policies relating to displacement and migration in the context of disasters and climate change on the continent.

CMARN is generously supported by Robert Bosch Stiftung. Find out more about CMARN at <https://www.cmarnetwork.com/>.