

**MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT**



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**HON BEATRICE ATIM ODWONG REMARKS AT THE HIGH LEVEL  
SEGEMENT DURING THE 114<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL SESSION OF IOM**

**28- 011-2023**

**GENEVA**

- The President of the General Assembly,
- The IOM Council Chairperson,
- Excellencies, Heads of Governments,
- The Director General,
- Honourable Ministers,
- Distinguished Delegates,
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to be part of this High-Level Segment: Climate Impact on Human Mobility: A Global Call for Solutions.

As we deeply reflect on the climate change and human mobility nexus, let us be reminded that the adverse climate effects we face today, underscore the importance of finding a common solution to this challenge.

In fact, it has been concluded that one can no longer discuss climate change without addressing human mobility. This perspective marks a departure from previously held beliefs that primarily attributed migration challenges to political instability.

Environmental dynamics have long played a role in shaping migration amid a changing environment, with people engaging in various forms of human mobility within Africa.

Some of the environmental challenges include; floods, landslides, and slow-onset events such as severe droughts, increased water levels, environmental degradation, and changing rainfall variability. These factors collectively contribute to human mobility in one way or the other.

The alarming figure of 2.7 million people displaced and 36.6 million affected by drought in the Horn of Africa underscores the severity of the situation.

Distinguished Delegates,

It is against this backdrop that, in July 2022, a landmark "Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change" was made. A meeting held in Kampala led to the signing of the Declaration by a number of African Member States, marking the first regional framework to comprehensively address the climate change and human mobility nexus.

Since its signing, there has been growing interest from other Member States to contribute to the Kampala Declaration through a Continental Expansion. We are pleased to note that with the support of IOM, the Government of Uganda has achieved incredible milestones across the continent in an effort to advance the Kampala Declaration framework.

A testament to this commitment is the signing of the 'Continental, Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration Environment and Climate Change' during the Africa Climate Week and Summit hosted by Kenya in September 2023.

This marked the inaugural Government-led framework in Africa dedicated to effectively addressing climate-induced human mobility.

We call upon more Member States to actively join and contribute to this initiative for a collective response to the challenges posed by climate-induced migration across our continent.

With this momentum, Uganda is optimistic about unveiling the continental framework at COP 28, coinciding with the World Leaders Summit on December 2, 2023, in Dubai.

Uganda's endeavors at COP 28 receive support from IOM, under the able leadership of the Director General. This support is efficiently coordinated by the IOM Head of Mission in the Uganda country office.

Distinguished Delegates, our presence here today underscores our deep commitment to addressing the pressing issue of human mobility. We assure you of Uganda's steadfast cooperation under the leadership of His Excellency President, General Yoweri Museveni, in driving forward this framework.

Uganda keenly promotes an open-door policy, offering migrants and refugees not only refuge but also support and integration into local communities, enabling them to access essential social services like education and healthcare. Furthermore, they actively engage in local economic activities, contributing to income generation that enhance their overall livelihoods.

We hope that Uganda's proactive efforts will serve as an inspiration, be recognized, and replicated by other Member States in their respective countries, in collaboration with IOM.

Therefore, urgent action is needed to address the climate change and human mobility nexus by mobilizing crucial funds for implementation of such initiatives. Recognizing the significance of this issue, bold decisions must be made by Member states to demonstrate commitment and support.

We want to emphasize the increasingly crucial role that IOM plays. We call for continued support to IOM as the leading organization in Climate and Migration, to ensure sustained coordination of policies and actions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are confident, that the outcome of this High-Level Segment will offer an opportunity for all of us to rethink and reflect on the path to achieve the sustainable development amidst the challenges posed by climate change and migration.

**FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY**

**I Thank You**