



STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AT THE 113TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION COUNCIL MEETING TO THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT, CICG-GENEVA ON 29 NOVEMBER 2022

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- **Chairperson**
 - **Honourable Ministers and Ambassadors**
 - **Distinguished delegates**
 - **Ladies and gentlemen.**

On behalf of the Government of Kenya, I would like to start by expressing my gratitude for the opportunity to participate with you today in the high-level segment of the IOM Council which focuses on a very timely theme on **climate change, food security, migration and displacement.**

May I also congratulate all the officials on their election, and extend a warm welcome to the Government of Barbados for joining this great organization.

The 113th Session of the Council meeting is a follow up to the just concluded 27th session of the Conference of the Parties meeting which reached a historic decision to establish a Fund to assist developing countries to respond to Loss and Damage caused by climate change and laid the foundations for a new method for solidarity between those in need and those in a position to help. Kenya is committed to following through with the implementation of the outcomes and decisions of this conference.

Chairperson,

The whole world is reeling from the staggering impact of climate change. The spread, scale, and frequency of climate induced disasters in numerous regions of all continents, indicate that humanity is confronting unprecedented devastation on a global scale, and it is important to act together.

Kenya and Africa in general contribute insignificant levels of the pollution responsible for climate change. The irony is that they continue to endure the worst effects of climate change. Kenya continues to experience poor seasons over the past two years, drastically reducing crop yields by between 20-40%. Our cereal staples production has stagnated and remained below 4.3 million MT, far below our consumption needs of about 7.0 million MT. Food commodity prices have steadily been rising due to global trends. Recent global events have led to high cost of agricultural inputs. With failed agricultural system due to climate change, farmers are pushed to the brink therefore being compelled to move.

The ongoing drought situation has occasioned losses to the pastoralist communities. The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) estimates that some 2.5 million livestock have died this year amounting to economic losses of more than USD 1.5 billion and affected the food security of the country occasioning 4.3 million to be food insecure.

In his address to the COP 27 on 8th November 2022, the President of the Republic of Kenya observed that climate change has occasioned food insecurity by disruption of food supply chains leading to escalating grain prices, fertilizers and energy costs.

This situation becomes a trigger for migration and displacement. At this conference, Kenya committed to a wide range of climate change intervention measures including increasing tree cover from the current 12% to 30% by 2032; reduction of emissions by 32% by 2030; net zero emissions by 2050 and 100% clean energy transition by 2030.

Climate change is a major cause of human mobility, transhumance, and displacements among communities in Kenya and the East Africa region. Migrating pastoralists within and across Kenyan borders, from time-to-time, clash with the settled families leading to injuries and fatalities. Similarly, migrants displaced by climate change from other countries, especially within the Horn of Africa, cross borders as asylum seekers or as persons in transit to other countries, while others remain displaced in the country.

The phenomena of rising water levels in Lake Victoria and Rift Valley Lakes attributable to climate change has displaced approximately 75,987 households in thirteen counties with a total population of 379,935 requiring urgent humanitarian assistance.

Chairperson,

Kenya is committed in the fight against climate change as demonstrated by the following actions:

1. Enactment of legal and policy frameworks aligning itself to global and regional climate change practice; a National Adaptation Plan and National Climate Change Fund Act and Policy (2018)
2. Being the coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of States and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC).
3. Having co-hosted the 5th session of UNEA (UNEA 5.2) in March 2022, the international meeting on Stockholm +50 in June 2022 in Stockholm, Sweden and the 2nd UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal July 2022.

Chairperson,

In conclusion we wish to reiterate our responsibility to increase implementation of innovative and sustainable climate change interventions undergirded by inclusive and whole of government/ society approaches, design climate mitigation measures including early warning systems and strategies that address food (in)-security, migration and displacement imperatives including capacity building of all stakeholders.

This Council meeting should also be a platform to renew our collective commitment to respond to effects of climate change on food insecurity, climate induced migration and displacement by mobilizing available resources, both financial and personnel.

I Thank You