

**STATEMENT ON CLIMATE AND HUMAN MOBILITY FOR HON. ENG. HAMAD  
MASAUNI (MP), MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL  
SEGMENT OF THE 113<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL  
30 NOVEMBER 2022**

***Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Director General of the International Organization for Migration,***

***Honourable Ministers,***

***Distinguished Delegates,***

Climate change, environmental degradation and disasters resulting from natural hazards can and are contributing to displacement and migration, and affected populations need to cope with the negative impacts. In 2021, there were 23.7 million internal displacements related to disasters. Global projections show that up to 216 million people could move internally within their countries by 2050.<sup>1</sup> Sub-Saharan Africa could see as many as 85.7 million climate migrants (4.2 percent of its total population). In 2021 alone, 2.6 million new disaster displacements occurred in sub-saharan Africa, creating a climate mobility crisis.

Since the 1980s, average temperatures have been rising continuously throughout all of the United Republic of Tanzania between 0.1°C and 0.5°C per decade. Under the most optimistic emissions scenario we can expect average temperatures to rise 1°C in the country by the middle of the century (2030–2050). Under the *business-as-usual* scenario, temperatures may rise as much as 5.2°C.

***Distinguished Delegates,***

In the context of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Migration, Environment and Climate Change nexus is closely linked to pastoralist livelihoods due to drought conditions limiting the amount of viable grazing land and water sources in the country. This trend shows a pattern of southward migration of cattle herders and their cattle as a result of climate change and reduction of grazing land in the northwest regions. Although pastoralists have migrated seasonally as a method of adapting to their

surroundings for hundreds of years, the uncertainty brought by unpredictable seasons in combination with demographic change and land-use change has exacerbated the tensions between pastoralists and the rest of society in a fight to access dwindling natural resources. Another relevant hazard that has been greatly impacted by climate change is irregular and increased amounts of precipitation in certain parts of the country, resulting in floods and displacing thousands. More than three thousand people were displaced in southern Tanzania due to floods resulting from unprecedented amounts of rain. It is clear that increased human mobility is inevitable, and that it should therefore be incorporated into policy and practice, and utilized as an adaptive strategy.

Over the past decade, the links between migration, the environment and climate change have risen on the international policy agenda and have been studied by academics, debated by policymakers and negotiated by state representatives in several multilateral fora.

### ***Distinguished Delegates,***

In July 2022, 16 countries from EAC and IGAD regions came together and signed the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change. In the Kampala Declaration, the United Republic of Tanzania committed to strengthen climate resilience and adaptive interventions for communities living in fragile ecosystems, apply indigenous knowledge into adaptation responses, and integrate gender and human rights-based approaches into Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) policy. This was a huge steppingstone in recognizing the importance of the MECC nexus and the need for regional cooperation.

We welcomed the study that was conducted by IOM in 2021 that explored the causes, impacts, and relationships between pastoralist migration and climate change as well as the capacity building program for Disaster Risk Reduction that is currently ongoing; both of which were funded by the IOM development fund. However, we are still in dire need of useful data relating to pastoralist movement and flood displacement.

We strongly encourage and support our development partner's efforts including IOM in their leadership of the Kigoma Joint Programme planet pillar, which aims to address the MECC nexus through activities such as the implementation of the transhumance tracking tool to garner a better understanding of pastoralist movement. Other initiatives within the KJP include conducting a Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) analysis to establish the extent to which climate variability and change specifically affect pasture availability and would assess change in land use and land coverage. We also support initiative to conduct participatory land-use planning initiatives need to address the changing demographics of resource availability. To combat flood displacement in the Kigoma region, we encourage and support IOM Tanzania in their efforts to implement community-based flood mapping exercises along Lake Tanganyika.

Outside the Region of Kigoma, we are looking forward to further cooperation with IOM in our attempt to strengthen cross-border collaboration for disaster risk reduction within the SADC and EAC regions. We support and appreciate efforts by IOM to conducting joint simulation exercises and carrying out joint vulnerability and risk assessments and community-based mapping on border communities. Community participation and traditional knowledge need to be incorporated into all interventions to ensure sustainability and the institutionalization of knowledge. Women and people with disabilities need to be included in forming the solutions that ultimately affect them the most. Without a community-based participatory approach, we can never hope to strengthen resilience to climate change.

***Distinguished Delegates,***

Let me conclude by underscoring the imperative of international cooperation in addressing the challenges of the environment, climate change and migration. Communities and countries that are affected need urgent help in order to mitigate the impacts but even more important to adapt to the new realities. Thus, the United Republic of Tanzania calls on the international community particularly the developed countries to live up to their commitments to provide the required funding for both climate mitigation and adaptation.