



Regional Migration & Displacement Conference for the East & Horn of Africa

(Changing Mobility Corridors, Sharing Responsibility)

Venue: Kempinski Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

Dates: 3-4th December 2025

Duration: Two days | In-person (with limited virtual option)

Abstract

The East and Horn of Africa sit at the crossroads of some of the world's most dynamic and volatile mobility systems. Across Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, Kenya, DRC and South Sudan, migration has become both an adaptation mechanism and a symptom of deeper governance, climatic and security challenges. Recurrent and emerging conflict patterns, climate extremes, economic fragility, and uneven state capacity have converged to produce a landscape of continuous, overlapping displacement. The DRC faces a complex web of conflicts involving numerous armed groups, government forces, and inter-communal violence, particularly in the eastern region exacerbated by weak governance structures. Approximately 644,717 registered refugees and asylum seekers from the DRC reside in Uganda.

Migration routes, the north to the Mediterranean, the East to the GCC and the south to South Africa continue to witness patterns of mixed migratory flows, migrant smuggling as well as trafficking. While migration flows on the northern route are framed as a "crisis," the real strain falls on the Global South, where most refugees remain in neighbouring countries, in East and Horn of Africa alone, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Kenya host over 3.5 million, while Sudan's neglected crisis hosts over 11 million internally displaced and millions more in nearby states. Sudden, & unplanned aid cuts on the other hand, have impacted many operations, costing lives and jeopardising hard -won gains with reduced assistance in camps and increased onward movements.

The Regional Migration & Displacement Conference builds on this emerging consensus. It moves beyond the binaries of "crisis versus stability" to ask a more urgent question: How can the region manage migration as a tool for resilience, economic inclusion and shared responsibility in an era of declining resources.

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

08:00 – 09:00 **Registration**

09:00 – 09:15 **Welcoming words** by **Susan Natumanya** Program Manager
Program Security Dialogue for East Africa, Konrad Adenauer
Stiftung

09:15 – 09:30 **Opening Remarks** by **Rogers Mutende**, Dep. Director,
National Coordination Mechanism on Migration, Kenya

09:30 – 09:45 **Keynote Speech:** Dr. Selma Sassi, Special Rapporteur on Refugees,
Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants in
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

09:45 – 11:00 **Panel 1:** Responsibility Sharing – Regional Refugee Management
and Policies

Moderator: **Enguday Meskele**, Country Officer,
Independent Diplomat, Ethiopia

Speaker 1: **Kizitos Okisai**, Snr. Legal Officer, UNHCR
Regional Bureau for East and Southern Africa.

Speaker 2: **Daba Lamesa**, Director of Protection, RRS,
Ethiopia

Speaker 3: **Prof. Bonaventure Rutinwa**, DVC, UDSM/
EACFMD

Speaker 4: **Stéphane Jaquemet**, Director of Policy, ICMC,
Geneva

Questions and Answers

11:00– 11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 12:45 **Panel 2:** Human Mobility in the Context of Climate
Change

Moderator: **Nikki Stoumen**, Program Coordinator,
Knowledge & Policy, Global Centre for Climate
Mobility

Speaker 1: **Andrew Harper**, Special Adviser to the High



Commissioner on Climate Action, UNHCR

Speaker 2: **Dr. Hannes Einsporn**, Senior Expert Migration,
Robert Bosch Stiftung

Speaker 3: **Dr. Joyce Takaindisa**, Climate Security &
Migration Specialist, Alliance Bioversity-CIAT/
CGIAR

Speaker 4: **James Dalamiah**: Migration Officer, Canadian
High Commission, Nairobi

Questions and Answers

12:45: - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:00

Break-away group sessions

Panel 3: Financial Inclusion, Labour Mobility & Remittances

Moderator: **Dr. Sonia Plaza**, Senior Economist, World Bank

Speaker 1: **Caroline Njuki** ILO PROSPECTS

Speaker 2: **Margaret Mengo** Country Head, Inkomoko, Kenya

Speaker 3: **Ian McGrath** Labour Mobility lead, Canadian High
Commission, Kenya

Questions and Answers

Panel 4: Conflicts & Crisis in the Sudan; Regional Implications

Moderator: **Peter Van der Auweraert**, Former IOM Chief of
Mission & UN Resident Coordinator, South Sudan

Speaker 1: **Dr Jeremy Taylor**, Regional Head of Advocacy,
NRC

Speaker 2: **Grazia Paolieri**, Consultant, WEglobal, Uganda

Speaker 3: (TBC)

Questions and Answers

15:00- 15:30

Coffee Break

15:30 -16:45

Panel 5: Migrant Smuggling & Trafficking along the Eastern & Northern Migratory Routes

Moderator: **Barbara Salcher**, Dialogue Coordinator, ICMPD/
Khartoum Process

Speaker 1: **Sandro Donati**, Crime Prevention & Criminal
Justice Officer, UNODC

Speaker 2: **Hervé Jamet**, Director, Regional Operational
Centre Khartoum

Speaker 3: **Rogers Mutende**, Dep. Director, National
Coordination Mechanism, on Migration, Kenya

Speaker 4: **Johanna Bögel**, Regional Coordinator, GIZ Kenya

Thursday, December 4, 2025

8:30 -9:00

Arrival

9:00 - 10:15

Deep Dive: I – Climate Mobility and Anticipatory Action
By Jim Van Moorsel, MMC

10:15-11:00

Coffee Break

11:00- 12:15

**Deep Dive: II – Financing, Partnerships & financial inclusion for
Migration Governance** by Grazia Paoleri, WEglobal, Uganda

12:15 – 13:15

**Deep Dive: III – Insights on a Regional Path on Refugee
Management** by Prof. Bonaventure Rutinwa: UDSM/ EACFMD

13:15-14:15

Lunch

14.15 - 14.45

Policy Brief Launch by Dr. Margaret Monyani, Executive Director
OLAM Africa

14:45 -15:450

Policy Recommendations from the groups

End of Day 2