



**African Migration Observatory**  
**Report on Activities**  
**November 2021 – June 2024**

## List of Acronyms

<b>AMO</b>	African Migration Observatory
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission
<b>CCCPA</b>	Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peace Building
<b>CRSP</b>	Climate Response for Sustaining Peace Initiative
<b>COMESA</b>	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community
<b>ECCAS</b>	Economic Community of Central African States
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>GCM</b>	Global Compact on Migration
<b>GCCM</b>	Global Center for Climate Mobility
<b>GMDAC</b>	Global Migration Data Analysis Center
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
<b>ILO</b>	International Labor Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
<b>KDMECC</b>	Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change
<b>RECs</b>	Regional Economic Communities
<b>SADC</b>	South African Development Community
<b>UCESA</b>	Union of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions of Africa
<b>UMA (French)</b>	Arab Maghreb Union
<b>UNFCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNHCR</b>	UN Refugee Agency (Formally known as the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees)

## **Background**

Migration in Africa is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has shaped the continent's history, society, and economy for centuries. Over the last few years, migration on the African continent has steadily increased, highlighting the need to further harness its vital potential and address its rising challenges, strengthening the routes for safe, orderly and regular migration, enhancing the contribution of migration to development and ensuring the protection of lives.

With a diverse range of push and pull factors, Africans have been moving within and across borders in search of better livelihoods, security, education, and opportunities. The continent's rich cultural tapestry and vast geographic expanse have fostered a wide array of migration patterns, including rural-to-urban migration, intra-regional migration, and international migration, with the majority of movement of persons being within the continent. In addition, exacerbated conflicts, instability, natural disasters and climate change have contributed to displacement, forced migration, and increased numbers of refugees.

Acknowledging the importance of understanding the phenomena of migration in Africa, the African Union (AU) 2017 Evaluation of the AU Migration Policy Framework for Africa, and the Plan of Action 2018-2030 recommended the establishment and strengthening of continental arrangements/capacities for migration data collection, analysis, research and dissemination of knowledge to provide policy guidance to Member States.

The African Migration Observatory (AMO) was established vide Decision **(Assembly/AU/Dec.695 (XXXI))** of AU Heads of State and Government adopted in 2018, to improve the overall migration and mobility governance in Africa, work towards addressing migration and mobility data deficiencies, and guide African countries in the elaboration of migration policies.

Inaugurated in Rabat as its headquarters, on 18 December 2020, AMO is focused on enhancing capacity building of AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the collection, management, analysis and dissemination of migration and mobility data and knowledge to support evidence-based policymaking. Aiming to develop a centralized, unified continental source of data on migration, AMO seeks to advance the continental knowledge base on migration.

Within this context, AMO is committed to addressing migration data gaps at the national, regional and continental levels. AMO activities are focused on core areas including: Enhanced migration governance through the development of data-driven policies that align with the Global Compact on Migration (GCM); Data harmonization aiming to create data repositories, including through harmonization of concepts, definitions and methodologies among AU Member States and RECs; Capacity building of Member

States and RECs in migration data collection, analysis and dissemination in line with AU Agenda 2063, in addition to promoting partnerships with a broad spectrum of multilevel stakeholders in international fora, academia and civil society. These efforts aim to increase the visibility and effectiveness of AMO on the regional and international levels to deliver its objectives through building a diverse collaborative network.

## **AMO Activities<sup>1</sup>:**

### **I. CAPACITY BUILDING ON MIGRATION DATA METHODOLOGIES AND HARMONIZATION FOR MEMBER STATES AND REGIONAL ECONOMICS COMMUNITIES:**

#### **1. Workshop on Leaving No Migrant Behind: Helping Countries to Report on SDGs and Agenda 2063 Indicators by Migratory Status, 2-5 November 2021, Hammamet, Tunisia**

The main objectives of the workshop were to train selected RECs and other regional representatives on disaggregation of data by migratory status, strengthen their capacity to support further trainings and aid selection of pilot countries for targeted capacity development work.

The workshop discussed disaggregation needs, interests and capacities of individual countries in Africa based on GMDAC<sup>2</sup> Guide ‘*Leave No Migrant Behind: The 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation*’.

The workshop aimed to increase the knowledge and understanding of the importance of data disaggregated by migratory status for policymaking and the relevant international and other guidance and standards on data disaggregation, as well as related practical steps and tools.

Participation in this workshop included government stakeholders, International Organization for Migration (IOM)- Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), STATAFRIC, RECs, Statistics Sweden and other partners.

#### **2. Experts Group Meeting on Development of Methodologies on Migration Statistics and Mobility in Africa, 11-12 April 2022, Marrakech, Morocco**

The objective of the meeting was to identify and share good practices, experiences and information on existing methodologies used at national, regional, continental and international level on migration in Africa.

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<sup>1</sup> This report covers AMO activities since the launch of these activities in November 2021 to June 2024

In particular, the meeting aimed to explore AU concepts and definitions used by Member States in the compilation of migration statistics; methodologies on labor migration statistics; methodologies on irregular migration, human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons statistics and methodologies for conducting specific migration surveys.

The discussions focused on the need for mapping of data sources, concepts and definitions used at national, regional and continental level. It emphasized the importance of collaboration with national and regional training centers, RECs and academic institutions and international organizations to develop a continental definition and common concepts on migration and mobility aligned with international concepts. The discussions also addressed the need to develop a common methodology for the use of administrative data to produce migration statistical data and strategies for regional and continental harmonization of migration statistics.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Member States namely: Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Djibouti, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Tunisia; RECs: COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS and IGAD. The meeting was also attended by representatives from national, regional and international organizations: IOM Rabat Office, IOM-GMDAC, IOM Special Liaison Office to African Union, ILO, UNHCR, UNAIDS, Statistics Sweden, OECD, AUDA NEPAD, IDAC, UNICEF, ICMPD, UNCEA, AUC (AMO, AIR, STATAFRIC, HHSD, PAPs, ICD).

The workshop was attended by representatives of Egypt, Namibia, Uganda (Pilot Countries of AMO's tailored capacity building) and RECs: UMA, COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS and IGAD. It was also attended by representatives from GCCM, IOM, IOM-GMDAC, UNHCR and representatives of civil society organizations and academia.

### **3. Working Session with RECs to Discuss Prerequisites for Setting up Data Hubs, 18-19 July 2023, Marrakech, Morocco**

The objective of the meeting was to engage with RECs to discuss prerequisites for setting up regional data hubs. Bringing together key stakeholders, the workshop aimed to foster regional cooperation and develop a comprehensive understanding of the technical, legal, and operational aspects of data hubs in the context of migration management.

Discussions addressed several challenges, including issues related to outdated data, resource allocation for data governance and the imperative need for data system harmonization across various regions and sectors. Participants highlighted data fragmentation on migration at the national level, variations in concepts, definitions, and methodologies, as well as the need for well-defined migration policies.

It highlighted certain persistent challenges including the importance of ensuring quality, updated and timely data as well as funding for migration data to support policy formulation.

The meeting emphasized the call for harmonization of data collection tools and methodologies, advocating for uniform data management practices across Africa and reducing donor dependency for sustainability.

The workshop called for the establishment of clear guidelines and a framework for regional data hubs in RECs and prioritizing capacity building and infrastructures for data across all regions.

The meeting was attended by representatives from RECs: UMA, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC.

## **II. TAILORED CAPACITY BUILDING AND PILOT NATIONAL TRAINING ON MIGRATION DATA FOR MEMBER STATES:**

### **1. Workshop on Introduction to Improving Migration Data in Africa and Pilot Capacity Building Project in AU Member States and RECs, 19-21 December 2022, Cairo, Egypt**

The main objective of the workshop was to enhance collaboration between African Member States, RECs and AMO to exchange experiences and information aiming at harmonizing data collection and improving data availability for a better understanding of migration patterns.

Discussions focused on: the legal definitions of various types of movements and human mobility; the importance of thematic approaches in migration data collection and analysis; climate change as a driver of migration; capacity building needs of Member States and RECs regarding migration data collection, analysis and dissemination.

The discussion also highlighted: the importance of establishing data hubs; developing data collection methodologies and the role of migration data to support evidence-based policy making.

The meeting discussed approaches to strengthen migration governance in the continent; the role of migration in development and issues related to migration data production, collection, analysis, and dissemination as well as the establishment of data hubs.

## **2. Workshop on Methodologies and Harmonization of Migration Data, 5-7 July 2023, Lomé, Togo**

The objective of this workshop was to develop methodologies for the harmonization of migration data in Africa through regional cooperation to address the data gap and to enhance collaboration between African Member States and AMO in this regard.

It called for assessing the needs of the countries in relation to data collection and analysis in order to tailor capacity building projects to meet the requirements of AU Member States to develop harmonized migration data.

Discussions focused on a review of AU migration governance framework; recent demographic trends; the importance of incorporation of youth in migration issues; different methodologies and approaches in migration data collection; and the use of administrative sources to enhance the quality of migration data.

The meeting also discussed lessons learned from Member States and RECs and how to increase their engagement in data harmonization, given its vital role in effective migration governance, decision-making, and policy development.

It addressed the importance of capacity building of Member States and RECs in order to establish of a robust data governance mechanism, ensuring adequate technological infrastructure, and implementing regular monitoring and evaluation.

The workshop emphasized the need for digitalization of data collection, promoting data sharing and integration, and the conditions for creating databases of migration statistics at the continental level, advocating for harmonized guidelines and indicators.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Member States namely: Egypt, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Togo, Uganda, Representatives from RECs: UMA, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD. It was also attended by IOM and representatives of civil society organizations and academia.

## **3. Pilot Workshop for National Capacity-Building for Namibian Officials on Enhancing Migration Data Competence for Evidence-Based Policy and Analysis, 8-9 November 2023, Windhoek, Namibia**

The workshop represented the first pilot national training for capacity building aimed at empowering government agencies to enhance migration data competence for evidence-based policies and analysis. The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen capacities for data collection, analysis, dissemination to contribute to more effective migration management.

The working session intended to facilitate collaboration, knowledge sharing and the identification of key requirements for successful national migration governance.

Emphasis was placed on the crucial role of information management systems including statistical services and the use of administrative data. The discussion focused on various methodological tools used for migration data analysis, encompassing statistical techniques and specialized software.

The meeting highlighted the importance of establishing clear rules, protocols and standardized methodologies for the production of migration data, covering aspects such as data collection, processing and analysis techniques. This training also addressed ethical considerations, confidentiality, issues related to data protection and best practices.

The training presented an important opportunity to bring together all the main governmental institutions engaged in migration data to plan for enhancing further coordination.

Furthermore, the workshop outcomes serve as basis to the drafting of AMO's ongoing development of a migration data training module. AMO is committed to further collaboration with IOM and UNHCR to advance this process.

The meeting was held with participation of the Regional Research Officer from IOM Cairo Office, Statistics and Data Analysis Expert from UNHCR and representatives from SADC and from the different Namibian government entities including Deputy Director of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, Namibian Statistics Agency, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, Ministry of Environmental, Forestry and Tourism, National Planning Commission, and Ministry of Education.

#### **4. Pilot Workshop for National Capacity-Building for Ugandan Officials on Enhancing Migration Data Competence for Evidence-Based Policy and Analysis, 14-15 December 2023, Kampala, Uganda**

This workshop was the second pilot national training for capacity building aimed at providing government agencies with training to enhance migration data competence for evidence-based policies and identify further needs for future tailored capacity building training in migration data.

The meeting focused on strengthening capacities for data collection, analysis and dissemination, contributing to more effective migration management.

The working session intended to facilitate collaboration, knowledge sharing and the identification of key requirements for successful national migration governance.

The workshop stressed the crucial role of information management systems including statistical services and the use of administrative data. The meeting focused on different methodological tools used for migration data analysis, encompassing statistical techniques and specialized software.

The workshop highlighted the importance of establishing clear rules, protocols and standardized methodologies for the production of migration data, covering aspects such as data collection, processing and analysis techniques. This training also addressed ethical considerations, confidentiality, issues related to data protection and best practices.

The meeting contributed towards AMO's ongoing development of a migration data training module, in coordination with IOM and UNHCR through the successfully piloted training workshop in Uganda.

The workshop was attended by representatives of Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development, Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control, Uganda bureau of Statistics. The meeting was held in cooperation with panelists from IOM and UNHCR.

### **III. ESTABLISHING REGIONAL MIGRATION DATA HUBS IN COLLABORATION WITH RECs:**

#### **AMO Datahub Pilot Project with UMA in Collaboration with IOM:**

The collaboration for the establishment of migration regional datahubs commenced with AMO Pilot Project with UMA on Maghreb Migration Datahub (MMDH) in collaboration with IOM. The Project aims to provide a comprehensive and reliable source of data on migration in Africa, to have a significant impact on migration policy and research.

During the Joint AUC- IOM Collaboration Framework on Migration in Africa held on 3 April 2024, AMO presented the current stage of development of the ongoing project. The Inception Report was submitted on 24 March 2024. The Pilot report including design specifications is targeted for August 2024. It will be followed by the developed software system and its report targeted for November 2024, then the deployed and accessible system with multiple capacity-building components on the system utilization and data operations. The final report and documentation is expected in December 2024.

AMO heighted the relevant main challenges related to funding, stakeholders' engagement, political sensitivities, data quality, privacy and security and technological challenges. AMO is looking forward to expanding the capacity-building collaboration with IOM for Data Collection Training for Trainers and the next regional datahubs.

In addition, discussions are ongoing for **the establishment of a regional datahub with ECCAS.**

#### **IV. AMO'S PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS**

##### ***A. Climate Mobility: COP Participation, Climate Change and Migration/ Displacement Nexus***

#### **1. AMO Activities on the Margins of COP 27, 9-18 November 2022, Sharm-EI Sheikh, Egypt:**

AMO held several high-level meetings and Side Events on the margins of COP 27 aimed to advocate for the inclusion of climate mobility knowledge and data in the climate debate, raise awareness in relation to the nexus between climate change and migration and emphasize the importance of evidence-based policy guidance to ensure resilience and adaptation in the face of climate disasters.

##### **Panel on Protecting People on the Move amidst the Climate Crisis (in collaboration with GCCM)**

This session was held with participation of the Foreign Minister of Guatemala and high-level representation from GCCM, IGAD, UNHCR and UNICEF. The discussion focused on the protection challenges in Africa, given the large-scale forced migration and displacement, including in the context of climate shocks and stressors.

The discussion shed light on current legal and policy frameworks, as well as the operational responses to forced migration and displacement. The session also addressed innovative approaches in law, policy and practice to ensure the protection of people displaced by climate impact.

##### **Panel on Confronting the Climate Crisis: Investing in the Power of African Women and Girls (in collaboration with GCCM)**

In this session, keynote remarks were presented by: German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development; the Director of AMO; as well as the President of the Indigenous Women and Peoples Association of Chad.

The meeting was co-organized with GIZ and the Climate Mobility Initiative to discuss the disproportionate impact of climate change on African women as insecurity, climate stressors, gender inequality and gender-based violence intersect to increase their vulnerability.

The session explored means to support and elevate the contributions of women in mitigating the impacts of climate change in shaping policies for safe and regular migration and building a sustainable climate resilient Africa. It focused on the role of African women in shaping the continent's climate adaptation and continental vision as well as promoting local practices.

**Panel on Advancing the Knowledge Base of the African Continent on Migration and Climate Mobility through Data and Analysis (in collaboration with GCCM)**

This session was moderated by the Director of AMO, with the participation of high-level representation from IOM, World Bank, UNFCCC, DELTARES and ATMO.

The meeting discussed how to best understand migration and human mobility dynamics on the African continent, the critical data sources and data gaps, the difficulty to quantify and analyze climate mobility, and the value of a shared harmonized technical method to facilitate data collection and support policy and program development.

**Panel on Africa Climate Mobility Initiative Youth Forum's Innovation Challenge: Climate Mobility Fellows (in collaboration with GCCM)**

The session included participation from: Africa & Global Partnerships; World Resources Institute; COP27 Youth Envoy; Biodiversity and Conservation; XPRIZE Foundation; TomorrowNow.org; ATMO and UNICEF Egypt Deputy Representative.

This session incorporated a presentation from Climate Mobility Fellows (from Rainmaker Enterprise, South Sudan, Geospatial Data 4 Climate Mobility, Tanzania) and keynote addresses to inspire youth-led innovation and locally anchored solutions for climate mobility. This was followed by a discussion with African and global climate innovation leaders.

**Panel on Operationalizing the Aswan Forum Conclusions: Towards Climate Action and Partnerships for Sustaining Peace (in collaboration with CCCPA)**

This panel was held in collaboration with the Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA), based on the initiative of the presidency of COP27 on "Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace (CRSP)".

This initiative aimed to ensure that integrated climate responses contribute to sustainable peace and development in Africa, in line with national ownership and context specificity. It is based on building partnerships to strengthen the climate adaptation and peacebuilding nexus. It called for sustaining peace through climate resilient food systems, advancing durable solutions to the climate- displacement nexus and accelerating climate finance for sustaining peace.

The panel addressed the entry points to mobilize international, regional, and national

support to catalyze the implementation of the initiative, ensuring the integration of youth, women, and communities in vulnerable contexts within the CRSP. The discussion explored ways to strengthen partnerships between relevant stakeholders to build capacities in Africa to leverage climate adaptation action for sustaining peace.

AMO highlighted the importance of close coordination with partners and countries in collection and utilization of the necessary data to understand the general trends of the effects of climate change on human mobility in Africa, and develop indicators on displacement in Africa.

AMO also stressed the importance of data collection on early warning systems available on the continent regarding climate mobility to help states better plan for saving lives and address climate mobility.

The major contribution in COP27 was raising awareness in relation to the need of addressing climate mobility and ensuring the mention of the adverse impacts of climate change on societies and human mobility in the final document adopted by the conference.

The Director of AMO, the Director of CCCPA, the Ambassador of Sweden to Egypt and specialists from the World Bank, UNDP, UNFCCC, the private sector participated in this session.

## **2. AMO's Participation in the Technical Conference of States on the Expansion the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (KDMECC)- 23-25 August 2023, Nairobi, Kenya**

AMO contributed to the finalization of the Continental Addendum for the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change, which is meant to address forced migration that results from environmental factors, where AMO's Director was the lead rapporteur.

The Declaration calls for enhancing international cooperation regarding the collection of migration data to be used in the protection of affected populations when forced migration occurs in situations of environmental and climate change.

It intends to pave the way towards evidence-based policies to seek durable solutions, enhance the resilience of affected communities, and address challenges to youth welfare and unemployment, ensuring positive results for migration in both countries of origin and countries of destination.

The meeting was organized by the Governments of Kenya and Uganda, in collaboration with IOM and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), with the participation of Member States and RECs.

### **3. AMO's Participation in Climate Mobility Meetings and Meetings on the Margins of the United Nations General Assembly**

#### **Climate Mobility Meetings: "Harnessing Climate Mobility for Adaptation and Resilience" and "Addressing the Existential Threats of the Rise of the Sea Level" 20-21 September 2023, New York, U.S**

AMO's Director participated in these two significant meetings organized by IOM and the UNGCCM focused on bringing migration knowledge and data to the forefront of the climate debate. The event highlighted the importance of resilience and adaptation discussions to advance awareness, solutions and action to harness climate mobility.

AMO's Director underscored the AU perspective, advocating for the prioritization of migration data and knowledge in climate discussions and the importance of strengthening AU continental efforts, in collaboration with international partners, to utilize data effectively to reach affected populations. The meetings provided an opportunity for developing further insights on methodologies for migration data and statistics, and understanding partner approaches to data collection.

### **4. AMO Activities on the margins of COP 28, 2-10 December 2023, Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

#### **Panel on Understanding the Nexus between Climate Change and Human Mobility, 4 December 2023, Dubai, U.A.E**

The panel was held with the participation of IOM Director of Peace and Development Coordination, the Director of the Global Center for Climate Mobility (GCCM), in addition to the Director of OECD Development Center. The panel aimed to bring together African and global stakeholders to underscore the importance of data collection and analysis regarding climate mobility and the need to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the complex relationship between climate change and human mobility, including the impacts of climate stressors on raising the levels of poverty and affecting resources including land degradation.

## **Panel on Migration Data, Climate Change, and Impact on Agriculture 6 December 2023, Dubai, UAE**

The panel was held in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with the participation of the World Bank Regional Director for Sustainable Development for the Western and Central Africa Region, and the Vice President of the Mediterranean Climate House Foundation to bring together concerned African and global stakeholders.

AMO emphasized the role of data in capturing the impact of climate change on agriculture and migration, its connection with food security, and the importance of data and knowledge in planning, preparedness and adaptation for climate change particularly in rural areas. The Observatory highlighted the importance of raising awareness of the impact of climate change on rural lands and migration patterns as an adaptation mechanism.

## **Panel on The Impact of Climate Mobility Data: Challenges and Opportunities Towards Sustaining Peace, 8 December 2023**

The Panel was held in cooperation with the International Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Peacebuilding (CCCPA). Panelists included the Director General of CCCPA, UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt and the Director of IOM Data Institute (GDI).

The Panelists stressed the need for credible, consistent and comparable data and analysis regarding the link between migration, climate change and peace and security.

It emphasized the role of data to facilitate action and find solutions for displacement and as a tool for communication with communities and decision makers. It advocated directing investments in infrastructure towards frontline communities.

The Panel also highlighted the role of academia in identifying and addressing data gaps and the importance of building resilience in highly vulnerable countries.

AMO underscored the need for allocating adequate resources, given that more funds are directed to wars as compared to humanitarian assistance that affect displacement and mobility.

## **AMO's Director Participation in Kampala Ministerial Declaration On Migration, Environment, and Climate Change Ministerial Side-Event:**

AMO's Director spoke on the importance of encouraging regional initiatives that deal with climate mobility. The meeting was attended by Minister of Environment of Uganda, Deputy Director General (DDG) for IOM and other Ministers.

## **AMO's Director participation in the Panel on the In-depth Study on Climate Mobility in DRC, 5 December 2023:**

AMO's Director was a speaker on this panel that focused on the presentation of country advocacy and progress of the "Deep-Dive" in-depth study project on climate mobility in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Hosted by the pavilion of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the panel was organized by the Union of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions of Africa (UCESA) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The project's objective focused on enhancing knowledge on the amplitude of climate migrations and their consequences for the populations, with the aim of anticipating these migrations and taking them into account in development plans. The panel was cochaired by the President of the Economic and Social Council of Morocco and UCESA, and the President of the Economic and Social Councils of DRC.

## ***B. Migration and Development Nexus***

### **1. United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, 10 to 19 July 2023, United Nations Headquarters, New York, US**

The Panel aimed to contribute to the in-depth review of progress towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in connection with AU Agenda 2063.

AMO's Director participation was based on the invitation from the President of the Economic and Social Council to participate as a speaker in the Panel on ***"African Countries, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries: Turning the Tide, Regaining Lost Ground and Embarking on the Road to the SDGs"***

AMO emphasized the nexus between migration data and its impacts on the SDGs, and presented an overview of the AU efforts in carrying out Agenda 2063 in relation to human mobility in Africa, which is crucial for appropriate planning for development.

AMO also stressed the importance of data collection and analysis for policy guidance to Member States, especially that current statistics show that more of the

African Youth are now losing their lives in migration, which requires further collaboration with all the partners to address means to foster cooperation for development to improve the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

## **2. UNCTAD 8<sup>th</sup> World Investment Forum, 16-20 Oct 2023, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

The Director of AMO participated as the keynote speaker in a panel organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at UNCTAD 8<sup>th</sup> World Investment Forum to address the impacts of the migration data gaps on agriculture and development in Africa.

The Forum was held under the theme “**Investing in Sustainable Development**” and focused on key investment challenges caused by today’s multiple global crises, including the need to invest in food security, energy, health, supply chain resilience and productive capacity growth in the poorest countries, including resilience infrastructure, migration and adaptation of land productive capacity growth in the least developed countries.

AMO’s participation highlighted the role of AMO, the importance of putting knowledge at the forefront of the migration debate and the AU perspective regarding investment within the context of migration and development.

AMO’s Director emphasized the need for building partnerships to support activities of AMO on the continental level, the importance of raising awareness regarding the impacts of climate mobility on agriculture and food insecurity, and the role of migration data to ensure reaching the affected populations.

## **3. The Fourteenth Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit, The Impact of Climate Change on Human Mobility, 23- 25 January 2024, Geneva, Switzerland**

The Summit focused on exploring the repercussions of climate change on human mobility, emphasizing rights of migrants, as well as the multi-level migration governance.

The Director of AMO also participated as a panelist in a significant side event associated with the summit, entitled “Coordinating Coherent Migration Data Collection Across Africa”, organized by the African Union Commission in collaboration with the OECD Development Centre, Statistics Sweden, and Statistics Norway.

AMO’s participation in both the summit and the side event highlighted the importance of coherence among national statistical offices and RECs. It underscored the needed capacities and the delicate balance required between global standards and the realities of migration in Africa.

### **C. Participation in International Migration Forums**

#### **1. AMO's Participation in the Sessions of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council-African Union / GIZ, Economic, Social and Environmental Council-Morocco on Migration Governance & Peacebuilding Dividends, 7 November 2022, Rabat, Morocco**

The meeting was held by ECOSOCC – AU, the Directorate of Citizenship and Diaspora, the National Chapter of ECOSOC- Morocco, and the Peace and Security Cluster and Political Affairs cluster, in coordination with AMO.

The Director of AMO participated as a Keynote Speaker in the opening session. The sessions focused on “Integrated Policies, Social Inclusiveness, Capacity-Development, Education Crossroads & Mobility, Sustainability”. It also highlighted “Amplifying African Voices in the Migration Policies” and “Building Bridges on Intercultural Dialogue - Fostering Public Confidence”.

The meeting emphasized the role of AMO in strengthening continental migration data, in addition to building synergies with other data and knowledge-sharing AU migration initiatives. It also addressed the security dimensions related to the concerns caused by organized crime and terrorist networks impacting the otherwise historically safe migration routes. It discussed migrant victimization, counter-terrorism operations and forced migrations and refugees. The sessions also addressed migration and economic and social challenges as well as migration, education and mobility.

#### **2. AMO's Participation in the Forum of Rabat on the Reduction of the Costs of Transfers of Remittances of the African Diaspora, 12 January 2023, Rabat, Morocco**

The Forum was co-chaired by H.E. Minister Nasser Bourita, Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, and H.E Minister Robert Dussey, Togolese Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Togolese Abroad. H.E. Minister Anette Seck, Senegalese Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, participated on behalf of the Chair of the African Union.

The meeting was composed of three experts' panels. The AU was represented in the first panel on reducing the transfer costs and enhancing the contribution of the African diaspora to development and poverty alleviation in Africa through remittances as well as the second panel on perspectives on regulatory and operational frameworks regarding African diaspora remittances.

The third panel was on the digitalization of financial services and innovative mechanisms for the reduction of remittances costs where the speakers came from the banking services from Zambia, AfDB and Morocco.

AMO's Director addressed the second panel and presented the final conclusions of the Forum.

In attendance were Togo, Ethiopia, Egypt, DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, Angola, Senegal among others, some RECs, including UMA, CENSAD, COMESA and UNECA.

## **2. AMO's Participation in the North Africa Regional Ministerial Conference on Pan-Africanism and Migration, 18 April 2024, Rabat, Morocco**

AMO participated in the North African Regional Ministerial Conference that was held under the joint chairmanship of H.E. Minister Nasser Bourita, Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates and H.E Minister Prof. Robert Dussey, Togolese Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Togolese Abroad.

Under the theme "**Pan-Africanism and Migration**", the conference was held as part of the preparatory process for the 9<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Congress that will take place in Lomé, the Republic of Togo on October 29 to November 2, 2024.

This regional ministerial conference represented a significant opportunity to enhance cooperation between the countries in the region to ameliorate migration governance, and examine means to reduce the African brain drain phenomenon. The conference also addressed the importance of cooperation between Africans diaspora and their countries of origin to enable them to contribute to the development process at both the national and continental levels.

AMO presented findings on the migration trends in North Africa and the importance of simplifying regular migration for people while ensuring the safety and protection of migrants. AMO's Director highlighted the role of AMO which aims to harmonize African data on migration in order to establish a centralized and unified source of data and strategic analysis on migration. She emphasized AMO's efforts to support AU Member States in developing effective migration policies.

During the conference's closing session, co-chaired by Moroccan and Togolese Ministers of Foreign Affairs, AMO'S Director presented the conference report and the Rabat Declaration. The participating countries adopted the Rabat Declaration, which will serve as a reference document for the 9th Pan-African congress.

## **3. AMO's Participation in the Meeting of the Rabat Process on Humane Border Management, 22 and 23 June 2023 Marrakech, Morocco**

The objective of the meeting was to strengthen the capacity of partner countries to adopt a rights-based approach to integrated border management while remaining effective in combating human trafficking. The meeting, co-chaired by Morocco and Spain, built on the outcomes of the previous session held in Spain in July 2022. For that year, Morocco held the Presidency of the Dialogue.

During this meeting, Ambassador Namira Negm was a speaker on the Panel on "Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders." She emphasized the international obligation to protect life at sea, highlighting the significant contributions of the African Migration Observatory and underscoring the importance of collaboration and rights-based strategies in managing migration and border security.

#### **D. *Strategic Migration Dialogue/Partnerships***

##### **1. Joint AUC-IOM collaboration Framework on Migration in Africa, 3-4 April 2024**

This expert meeting focused on the review of the progress achieved in implementing the agreement signed in 2022 between the AU and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on migration governance in Africa. AMO presented the developments in establishing regional data hubs, which has already started with the first pilot African REC project, namely the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA). The project of «the AU- UMA Migration Datahub» is a trilateral collaboration between AMO-IOM and UMA. AMO highlighted that the project aims to address the critical need for comprehensive migration data across the Arab Maghreb Union region to be used in providing policy guidance to the states in the region.

This Datahub is the first pilot project that AMO is carrying out with the RECs to fulfill its mandate and it is also implementing a critical aspect of the Global Compact for Migration and Agenda 2063 to provide a better understanding of migration patterns, drivers and impacts by leveraging a robust methodology and diverse data sources and analysis.

To strengthen and advance the AUC-IOM collaboration, the expert working group focused also on agreeing on priorities with regards to the next 3 years Joint Implementation Plan 2025-2027, contributing to the IOM Continental Strategy for Africa.

##### **2. Meeting of AMO's Director with the Special Envoy for Migration at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 27th Feb 2024, The Hague, Netherlands**

AMO's Director met with Mr. Peter Schuurman, Special Envoy for Migration at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Hague. She highlighted the role of AMO and its importance in implementing international agreements on migration. She

emphasized that the Observatory's priority is to support AU member states in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data on migration, to contribute to developing evidence-based migration policies within the AU.

The Ambassador provided an overview of the Observatory's work, including capacity-building activities and joint workshops with RECs to develop a roadmap for building regional databases on migration to, from, and within Africa. The Ambassador stressed that climate migration, the protection of migrants, and labor migration are considered priorities, and the importance of cooperation with international partners to address these issues.

During the meeting, Mr. Peter Schuurman expressed his appreciation for the collaboration between the Netherlands and AMO. He acknowledged the Observatory's significant role in supporting policy-making processes with evidence-based approach. Mr. Schuurman also emphasized the importance of fostering cooperation between the EU, its member states, and the AU, as well as strengthening bilateral ties with African countries. Mr. Schuurman highlighted the need for establishing a mutually beneficial partnership between the African Migration Observatory and the Netherlands.

### **3. High-Level Workshop with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs on Switzerland's next Africa Strategy Meeting 14 -15 March 2024, Geneva, Switzerland**

The high-level workshop marked the beginning of a participatory reflection on the Africa strategy, which includes migration trends and analysis, a process initiated by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA).

The Director of AMO highlighted the African perspective on migration drivers, the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, the directions of continental migration policies, the potential role AMO can play in addressing the challenges of irregular migration, and the importance of migration data and analysis to change the narratives on African migration.

AMO's Director also **presented a Book Talk on AU environmental law and Migration with Geneva Graduate Institute**, on 14 March, as part of the Sustainability Week hosted by the Geneva Graduate Institute, highlighting the African spectrum of environmental treaties and stressing the importance of these treaties to the current response and adaptation towards environmental degradation and climate change, expanding on the issues of climate mobility.

In addition, AMO's participation aimed to follow up on possible different projects with the Swiss Government and the Graduate Institute.

#### **4. Meeting of AMO's Director with Mrs. Heidi Kaila from the office of the Chief Economist for the Africa Region at the World Bank, 10 May 2024, Rabat, Morocco**

The meeting was held as part of the consultation on the World Bank report "Migration: Africa's Untapped Potential". During the meeting, Mrs. Kaila presented the key aspects of the World Bank's report "World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees and Societies." The report highlights that cross-border migration is a response to economic, political, and climatic changes, whether gradual or sudden.

AMO's director emphasized the observatory's efforts in statistical capacity building on migration statistics in Africa and its global engagements. She highlighted the importance of changing the narrative when it comes to African migration based on actual numbers and proper analysis, with a particular focus on the protection of their rights and pinpointing the priorities for development that will secure the prevention of brain drainage in African states while creating innovative solutions for the returnees.

#### **5. AMO receiving a High-Level Delegation from Togo\_ May 2024, Rabat, Morocco**

The Togolese delegation received by AMO's Director at its headquarters included the Director of Togolese Abroad, the Coordinator of the Diaspora Desk, and the Head of the Division of People and Property at the Directorate of Togolese Abroad, and the Director of the African Institute for Remittances (AIR).

The primary objective of this exploratory mission was to discuss and explore potential partnerships regarding the technical establishment of the Togolese National Migration Observatory. Key topics of discussion included:

- The importance of changing the narrative around migration to highlight the positive contributions of migrants and the diaspora to economic and social development.
- The need for robust, country-specific data to inform analysis and enable sound, fact-based decision-making.
- Sharing experiences on the impact of remittances and the contribution of the diaspora to economic and social development.
- Effective management of migration flows.
- Developing a comprehensive national migration observatory that will also focus on diaspora engagement and economic aspects.

#### **6. Consultations with Statistics Sweden, May 2024, Tangier, Morocco.**

During the meeting held in Tangier, Ambassador Negm emphasized the Observatory's objectives in improving African migration management. She highlighted the challenge of relying on external data and emphasized the African Union's comprehensive approach to migration, which encompasses the movement

of individuals, including migrants, refugees and displacement. Additionally, she provided an overview of the ongoing projects and partnerships the Observatory is working on.

Representatives of Statistics Sweden shared insights into their projects and partnerships to improve census data, particularly data related to migration in the continent. The meeting was centered on exploring opportunities for collaboration and cooperation on forthcoming projects. Ambassador Negm highlighted the importance of collaboration for strengthening migration governance. She also emphasized the need for joint efforts among AMO, RECs, and all relevant stakeholders in the African Union concerned about migration. This collaborative approach is essential to ensure the efficacy and utility of data and its analysis for providing the appropriate policy guidance for better migration management.

AMO's Director also visited Statistics Sweden and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) during her visit to Sweden on May 23 – 25 May, 2024. The purpose of this visit was to explore potential avenues for collaboration and to acquire valuable insights regarding data collection methodologies, fostering dialogue and exchange of knowledge.

## **V. ENGAGEMENT WITH ACADEMIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

### ***A. Engagement with Academia, Academic and International Law Conferences***

#### **1. Project with the Geneva Graduate Institute on African Migration Frameworks Research**

AMO provided extensive cooperation with researchers from Geneva Graduate Institute on a research project covering African migration legal framework and policies, with a focus on forced displacement, refugees and labor migration. The project also covers the implementation aspects, migration data in Africa, and the role of the newly established migration centers in the AU, including AMO.

This project was a result of the previous engagements of AMO with the Geneva Graduate Institute as previously mentioned.

Within this context, AMO received a visit of two researchers from the project to AMO headquarters in Rabat on 15-18 April 2024. During the visit, AMO's Director provided an extensive interview on the dynamics shaping migration in Africa. The comprehensive interview covered a wide array of migration issues across the

continent, including the complexity of legal frameworks and the challenges of implementation. It also addressed the mandate and role of AMO regarding migration issues, particularly through harmonizing, expanding and strengthening African migration data and knowledge base. AMO also facilitated additional interviews for the researchers with migration organizations in Africa.

**2. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the African Society of International Law (AfSIL) on Climate Change and Migration, 27-29 October 2022, Cairo, Egypt**

AMO's Director attended the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Climate Change and its Challenges. Ambassador Negm emphasized the urgent priorities of COP27, particularly regarding financing and adaptation, while underscoring the severe human crisis precipitated by climate change, particularly in Africa. She explored the intricate interplay between climate change and its impacts on trade, development, and migration.

AMO's Director highlighted a surge in climate-induced migration, which poses significant challenges to the continent's development trajectory. Amb. Negm recalled the needs to enhance African data capacity, not only in relation to migration but also in relation to all aspects of climate change from droughts to floods.

**3. Symposium in Commemoration of 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, 2 February 2023, Valetta, Malta**

Focused on the rule of law impact on global security, the symposium represented an important opportunity to explore potential collaborations between AMO and various institutions aimed at advancing knowledge on migration data focusing on the nexus between migration and peace and security.

AMO's participation aimed to elaborate on the different legal approaches, norms and frameworks to address the connections between conflict, security and population movements, stressing the need for coherent approaches to tackle the challenges associated with migration within the framework of the rule of law and security concerns.

**4. Seminar on Forced Migration organized by the Faculty of Economics and Political Science's Centre for Research, Political Studies and Cultural Dialogue, Cairo University, 24 October 2023, Cairo, Egypt**

The Director of AMO participated as keynote speaker in the Seminar that addressed forced displacement and the challenges of development in Africa. The seminar aimed at enhancing the dialogue between scholars and stakeholders to understand the importance of data in analyzing the impacts of forced displacement on development in the Continent. She stressed the importance of Africa controlling its

own resources and the need to assess and acknowledge the impact of conflict and external interventions on the exacerbation of displacement and forced migration, and the importance of sustained peace and development.

**5. 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the African Society of International Law, 27-28 October 2023, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

AMO's Director participated in the conference as a panelist focusing on the theme of African migration governance and the vital role of migration data and knowledge in addressing the various forms of mobility within Africa.

AMO's participation aimed to deepen discussions with African stakeholders, to better understand the African governance principles related to migration within the context of international law, and the challenges which are typically grounded in a recognition of the importance of migration in the African context, with a focus on African perspectives.

**6. Conference marking the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Organizations Law Review, 17 November 2023, Vienna, Austria**

The conference was organized by Public law Grotius Centre for International studies. AMO's Director addressed the importance of migration data and knowledge for the work of international organizations law, and the essential role of international collaboration in addressing transnational migration challenges.

The conference allowed AMO to hold discussions with the academia to better understand issues of migration data and knowledge required to develop and implement appropriate legal frameworks and policies, based on a deeper understanding of the different drivers of migration.

**7. Participation in the High-Level Panel on “The EU-Africa Migration Agenda – Realizing a New Partnership”, March 2024, Brussels, Belgium**

The Panel was organized by the European Center for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) and the European Think Tank Group (ETTg), in cooperation with the Overseas Development Institute in London (ODI) and the Nordic Africa Institute in Sweden.

Ambassador Negm stressed the importance of reaching a consensus between the AU and the EU regarding migration and related issues such as the protection of

migrants, their human rights, and the rules related to the protection of asylum seekers. The Ambassador also emphasized the need to increase safe pathways for migration and to direct resources towards economic development in Africa.

She highlighted the importance of reshaping the narratives surrounding migration by highlighting the success of returnees and the challenges faced by those who take the irregular pathway. She pointed out that changing the narratives requires rethinking political practices and changing policies to achieve different outcomes. The Ambassador also indicated that stopping wars and conflicts is crucial. She refuted the claim that Europe has spent significant amounts on development programs in Africa, highlighting that the exploitation of African natural resources without significant returns to the benefit of the development in the continent was not a sustainable option.

**8. 118th Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law (ASIL), 3-6 April 2024, Washington D.C., US**

The Director of AMO participated as a panelist in a panel, organized by ASIL and the African Society of International Law (AfSIL), on Migration Data and Analysis articulating the African perspective on the intricate nexus between Migration Data and International Environmental Law. Specifically, the presentation aimed to shed light on how migration data and analysis are integral components in navigating our increasingly interdependent world and fostering a deeper understanding of this pressing issue in light of the current environmental challenges.

AMO's participation aimed to enhance strategic insights and fortify AMO's network of relationships within the realm of migration and international law. Furthermore, by engaging with a diverse array of scholars, practitioners, judges, and international law professionals comprising over 1,200 participants from approximately 75 countries, the meeting allowed for enhancing the understanding of the existing rules on migration-data sharing and protection and bringing it to the regional context to facilitate AMO's work regarding enhancing the collection and dissemination of migration data and analysis.

**9. AMO's Director participation as a Key Note speaker at the Conference on "African Migrant Women: Motives, Challenges and Consequences", organized by the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences at Ibn Zohr University, 13-14 May 2024, Agadir, Morocco**

The Director of AMO emphasized AMO's role that aims to enhance the governance of migration in Africa. This includes addressing gaps in migration data, advancing the knowledge base of the continent on migration and mobility in Africa, contributing to evidence-based policies, and supporting migration's role in development. She highlighted the challenge of relying on external data and stressed the AU

comprehensive approach to migration, covering human mobility including migrants, refugees, displacement, and irregular migration.

Amb. Negm emphasized the importance of addressing the phenomenon of African women's migration while acknowledging the specificity of the African context. This includes the issues of development, given that a large number of African countries are among the least developed in the world, the increasing scope of conflicts within Africa, the prevalence of epidemics, and the existing discrimination between men and women within African societies. She highlighted the increasing migration of women and children and the issues related to the feminization of migration. She noted that 80% of migration occurs within Africa, contrary to prevailing narratives in Western media stressed the importance of influencing the discourse on migration.

She addressed the issues of African migrant women within the context of the AU Migration Policy Framework Review and its eight pillars, as well as the 2018-2030 Action Plan, based on the AU priorities, policies, and Agenda 2063. She highlighted the importance of protecting African migrant women, particularly in vulnerable conditions.

### ***B. Lectures on Migration in Africa/ Raising Awareness Highlighting the African Perspective on Migration Issues***

#### **1. Lectures on Migration Data and Its Relevance in the Maritime Domain, International Maritime Law Institute and Institute of the Rule of Law and Justice, 25 -26 May 2023, Valetta, Malta**

This academic engagement allowed exploring collaboration between AMO and both institutions on enhancing migration data knowledge. It also presented an opportunity to promote AMO's work through academic institutions. The lecture addressed links between population movements and oceans and the need to develop coherent approaches to address the challenges of migration movements in the context of sudden-onset and slow-onset natural hazards in the international migration governance agenda.

Moreover, it allowed putting proposals aiming at exchanging best practices on migration data and analysis issues, as well as exploring establishing a network of academic institutions willing to work with AMO in the implementation of migration data-related initiatives.

It also represented a continuation of AMO's previous activities with various academic stakeholders to better understand the relevance of African migration data in migration governance.

## **2. Lecture on Migration in Africa at Geneva's University Summer School, 19 June 2023, Geneva, Switzerland**

The lecture showcased the Observatory's efforts regarding advancing African migration data harmonization and knowledge. In addition, it expounded on the AU Migration Policy Framework to allow for better understanding of the main migration issues from an African perspective, called for the reconstruction of the narrative on migration in Africa, and stressed the importance of enhancing the positive contribution of migration to development.

AMO's academic engagement further aimed to foster an academic dialogue on migration issues and migration data in Africa and to explore possible engagements with the University of Geneva in that regard.

## **3. Lectures on Migration in Africa, University of Leicester, 5 -8 March 2024, Leicester, U.K**

The primary objective of the lectures was to familiarize academic institutions with AMO's efforts to foster migration analysis, thereby deepening comprehension of migration and development dynamics in Africa.

The engagement expounded on AMO's ongoing discourse with diverse stakeholders to open new fronts for cooperation regarding the importance of African migration data and its interplay with migration governance, encompassing climate change, economic conditions, and conflicts, among other factors.

Moreover, the lectures addressed the book, entitled **"An Introduction to the African Union Environmental Treaties"** emphasizing the links between migration and climate change. AMO's participation also highlighted AU's mission to align its work with the Global Compact for Migration aiming at bridging knowledge gaps concerning migration data and analysis across Africa, in addition to addressing the implications of the new EU policies on migration from a perspective based on the knowledge and understanding of the migration context in the continent.

This engagement represented a valuable opportunity to contribute to the broader goals of AMO by engaging with scholars and strengthening collaborative ties within the academic sphere.

## **4. Lecture on "The Impact of the War in Gaza on Migration in Africa", Uppsala University in Sweden, 20 May, 2024, Uppsala, Sweden**

Ambassador Negm discussed the impact of the war in Gaza on migration in Africa. She highlighted that the situation in Gaza has resulted in the internal displacement of around two million people due to the war.

Ambassador Negm pointed out that the situation in Palestine has implications for African countries, particularly North Africa, as Gaza shares a border with Egypt, making it a crucial crossing point for those displaced by the war. The targeting of civilians has resulted in a significant loss of life, with at least 35,562 people reported killed by the UN as of May 20, 2024. In addition to the impact of the war in Gaza, Ambassador Negm also discussed the ongoing conflict in Sudan, which has led to a humanitarian crisis. Approximately 10 million people have been displaced due to the conflict, with around 9 million displaced within the country and about 2 million displaced to neighboring countries such as South Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Chad.

Ambassador Negm stressed that the wars in Gaza and Sudan directly affect countries facing internal crises, creating a new burden that impacts the development and economic stability in North Africa. She emphasized the importance of migration data as a crucial tool for addressing this issue and developing internal measures to respond to the humanitarian disaster. Finally, Ambassador Negm highlighted the impact of the war on women and children and emphasized the need to prioritize the protection of displaced women.

**5. Lecture on “AU Environmental Treaties” at the University of Stockholm, 24 May 2024**

The lecture was organized by Stockholm Center for International Law and Justice, in collaboration with the Stockholm Center for Environmental Law and Policy.

Ambassador Negm stressed the importance of enhancing the ability of African member states to use legal mechanisms effectively in addressing environmental issues, particularly in light of the ongoing impact of climate change, which has led to increased mobility within Africa. She also highlighted the significant role of the Bamako Convention, which regulates the import of hazardous waste and their movement across borders on land and by air to prevent Africa from becoming a dumping land for nuclear wastes from countries in the northern hemisphere.

She highlighted that the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights was the first to codify and advocate for the right to healthy environment. She emphasized the importance of environmental governance in relation to environment and mobility, especially that migration has been on the rise due to climate change. Hence, there is importance to implement strict measures to protect the African environment from any further degradation due to practices taking place outside of the continent. She further highlighted the importance of raising awareness of the impacts of pollution and climate change on the living conditions of people to ensure that we reach the sustainability aspired for in AU Agenda 2063 and the UN SDG 2030.

### ***C. Engagements with Civil Society***

#### **1. Participation of AMO's Director as Panelist at the Annual International Law Weekend of the International Law Association 19 - 21 October 2022, New York, US**

The Conference represented the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Branch of the International Law Association, under the title "The Next 100 Years of International Law".

AMO's Director participated as a panelist in the Session on "**Reimagining the System of World Organization: Are the UN's Principal Organs Performing Their Tasks?**"

The conference included a session that highlighted the legal issues affecting refugee protection as the world is witnessing the largest refugee numbers since World War II, entitled "**From Policy Back to Principles: Refugee Protection under International Law & State (Non)-Compliance**". The session discussed whether the international community should "(re)consider establishing a specialized global court or mechanism for enforcing refugee protection under international law" and the implications of the approach to refugee protection centered on soft law implementation of responsibility sharing, with the adoption by States of the non-binding 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and 2018 Global Compact on Refugees, particularly ahead of the preparations for the second Global Refugee Forum in 2023.

The conference also included important networking sessions focused on different international law aspects that intersect with migration issues including International Environmental Law, International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law.

#### **2. Participation in the Launch of the Centre for Humanitarian Action at Sea Platform, 19 October 2023, Geneva, Switzerland**

AMO participated in the launch of the Centre for Humanitarian Action at Sea Platform at the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) Headquarters in Geneva. The event was organized by the IFRC and Red Crescent Societies and SOS Mediterranean.

The event aimed at fostering the cross-sectoral dialogue and collaboration among different players, including humanitarian players and private sector, in order to address pressing search and rescue issues.

Presenting the AU perspective, AMO emphasized the need to have data and knowledge at the forefront of the migration debate and the importance of enhancing

AMO's work on the continental level together with our international partners, to use this data to reach the relevant population and to ensure that the organization is part of this international dialogue and foster links with continental regional efforts in this regard.

AMO is still involved in this project to continue bringing the AU voice to the process.

**3. Participation in the Panel on “Women, Social Crisis and the Feminization of Migration” with ICESCO, during the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Publishing and Book Fair, 10 May 2024 in Rabat, Morocco**

During the panel discussion, AMO's Director introduced the role of AMO in enhancing African migration data and analysis on migration and assisting AU member states in harmonizing data collection and analysis for evidence-based migration policies.

Amb. Namira Negm (Dr), emphasized the importance of prioritizing the protection of migrant women, who face unique challenges and growing pressures that affect their families, children, and society. She underlined that women make up almost half of international migrants, stressing the importance of addressing their challenges and needs through appropriate migration planning and policies.

AMO's director also highlighted the "feminization of migration," which reflects the strong presence of women in migratory flows and the different aspects that this implies, given the increased visibility of migrant women in data analysis. Migrant women face double discrimination linked to being both women and migrants, as well as difficulties in accessing financial and educational resources and cultural and hierarchical pressures that can lead to poverty and family disintegration.

She also explained that migration could also positively affect women's empowerment, including economic autonomy and contributions to support their families and communities. She concluded by stating that migrant workers in developed countries, particularly those working in healthcare or domestic work, face an increased risk of exploitation or abuse.

**4. Participation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of 70 African Women of Expertise on the Challenges and Impacts of AfCFTA, 13-14 May 2024 in Tangier, Morocco**

AMO's Director represented the AU Commission at the meeting. She highlighted the significance of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the significant role it can play in development and in achieving the objectives of Agenda 2063. She emphasized that it is not just about trade, but investments as well, which are crucial for development to offer a better life to the African population.

She highlighted the importance of women's participation in achieving development and emphasized the importance of engaging youth in projects and work to change

the discourse on migration and its negative impacts. She demonstrated that migration has positive impacts, with capacity building and remittances contributing to our livelihoods.

AMO participation in the conference also included a presentation on “Integration and Mobility In Africa: The Role of AMO and the impact of AfCFTA.”

## **5. AMO’s Participation at GITEX AFRICA, 29-31 May, Marrakech, Morocco**

AMO’s Director participated in the 1st panel on regulation and innovation. She highlighted the delicate balance between fostering innovation and enforcing ethical standards. She emphasized the necessity of creating regulatory framework for Africa that encourages tech advancements & safeguards public privacy & security. She highlighted the importance of international collaboration to set universal AI standards adapted to different jurisdictions, stressing that AI technology has to be developed and deployed responsibly. She also stressed that despite that African states might not have full-fledged regulations to AI, but regulations on IT & technology in the African states can be used in this regard. She mentioned that AI can be used in the context of migration in order to monitor flows and trends while being mindful not to use it in a manner that infringes on human rights of migrants, ensuring to protect their identities and respecting the rules of data sharing.

AMO’s Director also participated in the second panel focused on Policy development along with the Chief of Technology & Innovation section, UNECA. She addressed the intricacies of policy development for AI and the crucial role of policymakers in shaping a future where AI serves humanity responsibly and equitably. In the African context, she outlined that strategies for developing comprehensive AI policies should focus on the needs and priorities of development, especially that we don’t need to replace humans with machines in our young continent where we need to create jobs. Using AI and related tech should not be copied as is from the north but adapted to the needs of the youth in Africa.

AMO Director highlighted that using digital migration is one great avenue to train young Africans to become experts of AI tech in order to use these new technologies to address local problems with tailored solutions. She cited a local project in Tanzania, in which a young African developer used drones to monitor the impacts of climate change on agricultural land and analyzed the data for better planning for internal displacement and identified the adaptation needs. She stressed that Africa needs AI developed specifically to its benefits.