

Regional migration governance in Eastern and Southern Africa

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Abstract

In 2006, the African Union Commission developed the Migration Policy Framework for Africa as a guiding framework to assist regional economic communities and member states to understand and manage their migration. The framework was revised in 2018 and included a 10-Year Plan of Action to assist member states and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in developing instruments that reflected their respective migration profiles and provided strategic guidance to the key stakeholders and social partners. The migration governance structure in the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has been strengthened based on discussions with members with technical and financial support provided by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The aim of this paper is to compare the regional migration governance structures of the EAC and SADC to determine how they have evolved through time to respond to the changing social, political, economic and environmental conditions at present today. This paper will take stock of the migration profile in the respective regions; highlight the regional instruments that are guiding member states in their efforts to strengthen regional integration; and the role and impact of the regional migration governance structure in managing migration in the respective regions.

Biography

Linda Adhiambo Oucho, PhD, is an established migration expert and Executive Director of the African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC), an independent think tank leading in policy-based research on migration and development issues in Eastern Africa and beyond. She has led research projects on thematic areas including internal, regional, and international migration, poverty, climate change, youth-employment-migration nexus, forced displacement as well as diaspora engagement with national development. Oucho works in partnership with international institutions including University of Ghana, Open University and Carleton University and works closely with national governments assisting key stakeholders to understand migration dynamics to inform the development of policies on migration. She has consulted for many non-governmental organizations, serves as an editorial board member for the *International Migration Review* (IMR) and is a Migration Research and Publishing High Level Advisor for the International Organization for Migration (IOM). She is an active member of the National Coordination Mechanism for Migration (NCM) led by the Government of Kenya in partnership with non-state actors.