

**CHARLES UNIVERSITY**  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Institute of Political Studies  
Department of International Relations

**Master's Thesis**

**2023**

**Helena Králová**

**CHARLES UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Institute of Political Studies  
Department of Political Science

**International Organisation for Migration and African  
Union and their actions towards sustainable  
development in East Africa**

Master's thesis

Author: Helena Králová

Study programme: International Relations

Supervisor: Mgr. Jakub Tesař, Ph.D.

Year of the defence: 2023

## **Declaration**

1. I hereby declare that I have compiled this thesis using the listed literature and resources only.
2. I hereby declare that my thesis has not been used to gain any other academic title.
3. I fully agree to my work being used for study and scientific purposes.

In Prague on July 31<sup>st</sup> 2023

Helena Králová

## References

KRÁLOVÁ, Helena. *International Organisation for Migration and African Union and their actions towards sustainable development in East Africa*. Praha, 2023. 66 pages. Master's thesis (Mgr.). Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of Political Science. Department of International Relations. Supervisor Mgr. Jakub Tesař, Ph.D.

**Length of the thesis:** 106 185 characters

## **Abstract**

This thesis focuses on the African Union (AU) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), analysing their respective roles in implementing sustainable development in East Africa from 2015 to 2020. The essential research questions investigate how international organisations influence the process of socialisation and the acceptance of norms related to climate change, migration, and sustainable development. Furthermore, this research uses concepts of social constructivism, such as the norm cycle and socialisation, and outlines the two organisations' approaches to regional actors in East Africa. In this qualitative analysis, a case-study approach is adopted to help understand how different international organisations promote norms related to the same topics in the same region. To conduct the investigation, documents published by both international organisations are examined using critical discourse analysis. The results showed that the International Organisation for Migration draws attention to the positive contribution of migration to sustainable development and the living conditions of migrants. IOM focuses on a multi-stakeholder approach in its strategy. The study suggests that the African Union emphasises the role of states perceived as the main driving force and focuses on the local population in building climate resilience and transferring adaptation strategies connected with sustainable development.

## **Abstrakt**

Tato diplomová práce se zabývá rolí Africké unie a Mezinárodní organizace pro migraci v implementování cílů a strategií udržitelného rozvoje ve východní Africe od roku 2015 do roku 2020. Základní výzkumná otázka se zkoumá, jak mezinárodní organizace ovlivňují proces socializace a přijetí norem vztahujících se ke klimatické změně, migraci a udržitelnému rozvoji. Dále také tento výzkum používá koncepty sociálního konstruktivismu, cyklus normy a socializaci. Výzkum dále popisuje přístup dvou mezinárodních organizací k regionálním aktérům ve východní Africe. Kvalitativní analýza obsahuje dvě případové studie, které popisují, jak dvě různé mezinárodní organizace prosazují normy vztahující se ke stejným tématům ve stejném regionu. Tento výzkum se soustředil na kritickou diskurzivní analýzu několika různých dokumentů, které zkoumané mezinárodní organizace publikovaly. Výsledky analýzy ukázaly, že Mezinárodní organizace pro migraci se více zabývá prospěšností migrace ve spojení s udržitelným rozvojem a životními podmínkami migrantů.

Dále také zahrnuje ve svých strategiích více aktérů. Africká unie zdůrazňuje roli členských států jako jednoho z hlavního aktérů a také poukazuje na roli místního obyvatelstva v budování odolnosti vůči klimatické změně. Dále se zaměřuje více na adaptační strategie spojené s udržitelným rozvojem.

## **Keywords**

International organisation, sustainable development, climate change, migration, norm cycle, socialisation, East Africa

## **Klíčová slova**

Mezinárodní organizace, udržitelný rozvoj, klimatická změna, migrace, cyklus normy, socializace, východní Afrika

## **Title**

International Organisation for Migration and African Union and their actions towards sustainable development in East Africa

## **Název práce**

Mezinárodní organizace pro migraci a Africké unie a jejich úsilí o udržitelný rozvoj ve východní Africe

## **Acknowledgement**

I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor, Mgr. Jakub Tesař, Ph.D., not only for his guidance through the process of writing this thesis but also for valuable advice and inspiring thoughts.

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## Abbreviations

AU	African Union
CDA	Critical discourse analysis
CHD	Critical historical discourse analysis
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IO	International organisation
IOD	Indian Ocean Dipole
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NEPAD	The New Partnership for Africa's Development
SDGs	Sustainable development goals
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
USAID	The United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank

## **Introduction**

Though climate change has been widely studied around the world, the environment-migrant nexus remains a very complex and under-researched topic. Sub-Saharan Africa belongs to regions that are significantly affected by climate change (Clement et al., 2021, p. 81). That is why it is used to study the nexus between climate change, migration, and sustainable development in the current thesis. This master's thesis investigates the role of international organisations, particularly the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the African Union (AU). In doing so, it analyses their attitudes towards regional actors in East Africa regarding climate change, migration, and sustainable development. The main goals of the master's thesis are to determine how international organisations influence the acceptance of norms connected to the environment and sustainable development in East Africa. Based on the analysed data, this research also describes the norm cycle's current stage and sustainable development's role in this context. Critical discourse analysis is a common method considered suitable for this kind of research. Moreover, the connection between climate change, migration, and the need for sustainability in this complex nexus appears relevant in this area of research.

Both entities have released important strategic documents – Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 – wherein they committed to improving living conditions and the environment as well as mitigating the consequences of climate change. In light of these commitments, this thesis seeks to examine both organisations' actions regarding environmental sustainability. The scope of the research is limited to 2015–2020.

Recently, researchers have drawn attention to the connection between climate change, migration, and human mobility (Ferris, 2020; Martin, 2014; Perch-Nielsen et al., 2008; Cameron, 2018). Furthermore, international organisations play an important role in addressing issues related to climate change, migration and sustainable development (Felli, 2013; Ferris, 2020; Heilman, 2006).

The first chapter is divided into two sections: a literature review and a theoretical framework. The literature review summarises the current understanding of, academic debate surrounding, and factual scientific data on migration and climate change. This chapter demonstrates the linkages that led to my research idea. First, I introduce the importance of climate change, supported by scientific data, and the current role and development of the

academic debate on the environment-migrant nexus. However, the relationship between migration and climate change can be viewed from different perspectives which is elaborated on in detail in further chapters. It should be noted that this master's thesis did not investigate the effect of climate change on migration. Instead, it focuses on the current narrative established by international organisations. In their essential plans and documents (the Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development), both the organisations under study mentioned a need to focus on sustainable development in their work areas. In addition, their publications discussed climate change in connection with migration. The current research responds to those discussions and commitments by analysing these organisations' recent approaches to sustainable development and the climate-migrant nexus in East Africa. It also explains the focus on East Africa, which has suffered from natural disasters, climate impacts, and forced migration for decades, and includes case studies as examples. East Africa contains areas that are significantly affected by climate change, thus people are vulnerable in this region. For this reason, it is important to study the relationships and approaches of these influential actors in this part of the world.

In the second part of the first chapter, I focus on the theoretical framework of the master's thesis, which posits that the main leading theory of international relations is constructivism. In particular, social constructivism, a promising theoretical arm of constructivism, is applied. Next, I introduce the two main concepts for the thesis. The first is the norm cycle, presented by Finnemore and Sikkink (1993), which describes the evolution of norms and the norm cycle itself in a social environment and all the features connected to it. The second is the concept of socialisation, which contains features that are closely linked to the second phase of the norm cycle and that focuses more heavily on the change of behaviour and its features. Two other concepts examined are persuasion and social influence, as emphasized by Johnston (2001), which play a significant role in the adoption of new norms, attitudes, and views.

The second chapter offers a description of the research's methodology. Using qualitative research, I develop two research questions for my master's thesis based on the theoretical framework and literature review: 'How do international organisations influence the process of socialisation and adoption of norms related to sustainable development and migration in East Africa?' and 'How do international organisations approach regional actors in East Africa?' The research questions examine the relationship between the two international

organisations under study and the regional actors whose actions and decisions impact sustainable development in East Africa. The case study approach shows a different perspective on the same topic. Moreover, the analysis enables some evaluation of and comparison between these two organisations.

This chapter includes selection criteria for analysing documents published on the official website of the IOM, the AU, or their agencies related to East Africa and sustainable development. Furthermore, it mentions similarities between these two particular international organisations in addition to the specific SDGs and goals for 2063 that the analysis investigates.

I then discuss how I use critical discourse analysis to discover hidden patterns in discourse in this context, implementing research designs with aims similar to those created by Reisigl and Wodak (2017) and Doty (1993). I also use nomination, presumption, and argumentation as discursive strategies to facilitate the interpretation of the results by determining dimensions that help demarcate the scope of analysis and focus on important and relevant data. The dimensions are as follows: actors, framing the main topic, and strategy. This chapter additionally outlines detailed information on data analysis and processing. In particular, I prepare one coding scheme for both organisations based on the research questions. Key concepts from the theoretical framework and critical discourse analysis's requirements enable me to logically interpret coded data in documents using the research software ATLAS.ti. Widely applied in the social sciences, ATLAS.ti facilitates coding and data organisation.

The fourth chapter presents the results of the critical discourse analysis. It is divided into four parts. First, I introduce the results that cover the study of the IOM. Second, I summarise the analysis results regarding the African Union and attempt to answer both research questions. Third, I compare these two case studies, mainly through parallel and exploratory comparisons of the results of both analysed organisations. Fourth, I mention the limitations of the analysis and the obstacles that appeared during the research process, as well as discuss and evaluate the research overall. Finally, this master's thesis is concluded and summarised in the fifth chapter.

# 1 Literature Review

In recent years, researchers have increasingly begun to examine the impact of climate change on humankind and the environment. This trend has extended to academics who study migration. For instance, recent issues of the *Journal of Migration Studies* have devoted a relatively large amount of space to climate change's effect on migration. In her article, Ferris assumed that "climate change will become a driver of population movement" (Ferris, 2020, p. 613).

Similarly, Martin (2014) emphasised the connection between migration and climate change. Unlike Ferris, Martin posited that migration is caused by multiple factors (Martin, 2014, pp. 215–216). In the context of climate change, migration could be studied and described from different perspectives. In this chapter, I mention only relevant approaches that are connected with the objectives of this research. Firstly, Ferris concluded that climate scientists perceive migration as an effect of climate change in the current academic debate (2020, p. 613). Several studies have also investigated linkages between climate change or extreme weather conditions and migration (Perch-Nielsen et al., 2008; 2020; Cameron, 2018). Secondly, migration researchers understand migration as a way of adaptation, and humanitarian actors emphasise the elimination of potential disasters in the context of climate change (Ferris, 2020, pp. 614–615). Climate change disaster risk reductions and adaptation strategies were also described Becker et al. (2013), Prabhakar et al. (2008), and Djalante and Thomalla (2012). For instance, Gemmerne and Blocher (2017) focused on studying migration as a coping strategy, and Felli (2013) highlighted the role of international organisations such as UNHCR, IOM, and the World Bank (WB), which emphasises migration as an adaptive strategy. Further, Ferris claimed that development actors such as the World Bank have started to develop strategies targeting slow-onset disasters, noting that "development actors also moved fairly quickly to incorporate disaster risk reduction to their toolkit of good practices for sustainable development" (Ferris, 2020, p. 616). Heilmann (2006) elaborated on connection of migration and sustainability.

Together, these studies outline how climate change affects livelihoods and in turn, significantly influences human mobility. Scholars have paid particular attention to reports published by the IPCC, the most recent of which found that climate change harms the environment and livelihoods. The IPCC clearly stated that global warming poses a critical risk of biodiversity loss, natural disasters, food production, and access to water (IPCC, 2022,

pp. 14-15). In their report, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) found that the impacts of climate change damage the environment and could lead to migration and conflict risk (USAID, 2022, p. 16). The Groundswell report estimated that climate change influences highly increase the number of migrants in Sub-Saharan. The pessimistic scenario indicates that the number of climate migrants will reach 85.7 million in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2050. Conversely, optimistic scenarios predict that the number will be 43.6 million lower than the pessimistic scenario suggests (Clement et al., 2021, pp. 80-81). The impacts of climate change can be observed in many parts of the world, though this master's thesis focuses specifically on East Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa has been affected by many alarming issues, such as natural disasters and other environmental problems, that are connected with climate change. For example, climate change has a direct impact on local farmers. It can cause a long-term shortage of basic crops such as maize (Stuch, Alcamo and Schaldach, 2020, p. 270). Similarly, Kassegn and Endris (2020) explained that floods, locusts, and the COVID-19 pandemic have endangered livelihoods in Ethiopia. Kassegn and Endris (2020, p. 11) also discussed the problem of flooding in the region and its impact on local agriculture. These studies and reports collectively outline a critical situation in climate-change-vulnerable areas, particularly in East Africa. The authors recommended that the government should strengthen climate change early warning mechanisms and support the inclusion of different stakeholders, such as international organisation (Kassegn and Endris, 2020, p. 24).

According to Martin (2014), international cooperation regarding migration governance needs to improve, and cooperation attempts to resolve problems resulting from climate change are only in the early stages. She additionally emphasised the need to develop new global strategies and frameworks to address this issue (Martin, 2014, p. 233). However, Kainz and Betts (2021, p. 83) mentioned that international society works on many international forums and agreements that address this problem, such as The New York Declaration. This document focusing on global migration included references to prevent environmental degradation, responses to natural disasters, and climate change's impact (UN, 2016).

Recently, several attempts have addressed the issues of migration and climate change. For instance. For example, Martin et al. (2021, p. 146) emphasised that the World Bank strives

to make a make the transformation of climate migration into development planning and policy into a mainstream practice.

The high number of international documents focusing on climate change's impact stresses the need to adapt to the environment and increase the resilience of particularly affected regions. USAID (2022, p. 8), for example, mentioned the need to develop and protect vulnerable areas in Climate Strategy 2022-2030. In particular, the report stated that increasing resilience is a critical factor for further developing adaptation. The current master's thesis focuses on how IOs incorporate sustainable development while addressing climate change and migration. IOs are active international actors and could become effective norm promoters. Finnemore and Barnett elaborated on this assumption, claiming that "officials in IOs often insist that part of their mission is to spread, inculcate, and enforce global values and norms" (Barnett and Finnemore, 2009, p. 713). They stressed that the UN and the EU promote their Western policy practices among non-Western states (Finnemore and Barnett, 2009, p. 713). For instance, Finnemore (2009) investigated how the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation contributed to educating states and promoting science policy in Lebanon (2009, p. 587) and East African countries (2009, p. 590). Other researchers have also drawn attention to the question of how international organisations teach and transfer knowledge to other actors in the international field. Susanto highlighted the role of IOs in promoting environmental norms and establishing them as international standards. In particular, she points out to the dominant position of the United Nations (2008, p. 4). Research by Gheciu (2005) examined how NATO used socialisation, especially the mechanism of teaching and persuasion, in post-Cold War Czech Republic and Romania. It must be noted here that different IOs make suggestions and promote a variety of topics. For example, Park (2007) focused on studying how the World Bank and International Finance Corporation (IFC) spread and promote sustainable development norms.

Most of the mentioned strategy reports refer to so-called sustainable development. As such, the concept is a crucial element of this master's thesis. The crucial binding commitment for this research is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) introduced by the UN in 2015, which consist of 17 targets (UN, 2015). Definitions of sustainable development were addressed across different disciplines. In this context, a definition from the Report of the World Commission on Environment titled *Our Common Future* becomes relevant:



“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (UN, 1987). Sustainable development consists of three closely linked pillars, namely economy, environment, and society (Elliott, 2013, p. 20). The scope of sustainable development is quite broad. For this reason, the present thesis focuses on only a few SDGs. The primary point of emphasis is the Sub-Saharan Africa because it is more vulnerable to climate change and environmental problems (Clement et al., 2021, p. 81). Previous analyses have indicated that regional projects significantly help to increase awareness of sustainable development. In a study of small farmers' welfare, Warinda et al. (2020, p. 27) found that regional projects increased farmers' prosperity, enhanced the agriculture policy environment, and ensured food security in a few African countries. This view was supported by the results of the investigation conducted by Chirwa and Mahamane (2017, p. 91), who highlighted a positive contribution of sustainable development in Sahel. However, the authors stated that the proper restoration of natural habitats is connected with the adoption of these practices among local population (Chirwa and Mahamane, 2017, p. 92).

In light of these findings, the present analysis focuses on East Africa and its connection with international organisations and sustainable development. Climate change has been shown to influence living conditions in Sub-Saharan Africa, and it is currently influencing the lives of millions of people across several states. This master's thesis intends to research the actions of the IOM and AU towards this global problem. Previous research has indicated a research gap in studies of the impact of SDG goals on the policy actions of the African Union and the International Organisation for Migration in East Africa. Although these organisations do not have a specific focus on climate change or the environment, they have gradually implemented climate action into their agendas. Felli (2013, p. 341) claimed that international organisations impact the framing of particular issues.

IOM also became one of the first international organisations to focus on environmental migration (Ferris, 2020, p. 614). The African Union is an international organisation striving for the development of the whole continent, and its 2063 Agenda stressed the importance of sustainable development in connection to the environment (African Union Commission, 2015, p. 16). The 2063 Agenda focused on Africa's resilience and sustainable development, and the Agenda for Sustainable Development included SDG goals. In this thesis, I address

this existing gap in scientific knowledge, in turn contribute to broadening knowledge in this research area.

## **1.1 Theoretical Framework**

This master's thesis seeks to use the above literature review to study international organisations' approaches to and influences on East Africa in terms of sustainable development, Agenda 2063, and SDGs. For this reason, it is necessary to identify relevant theoretical frameworks, including concepts that enable the study of the change of behaviour and relations among different actors. In this thesis, I use social constructivism as the primary theoretical framework guiding the research. Therefore, they can also, to some extent, influence other actors in international relations, such as states. For these reasons, It is a relevant approach for studying changes in world politics, particularly changes in behaviour of different actors. IOs often play the role of teachers, advocating certain narratives and views that can be transferred to other actors in the international system (Barnett and Finnemore, 2009; Finnemore, 2009; Gheciu, 2005; Susanto, 2008). These linkages are described in the literature review.

### **1.1.1 Key Concepts**

Social constructivism involves several concepts. For this research, I place particular focus on the life cycle of norms and socialisation. The cycle of norms helps with understanding the evolution of norms in the system. Social constructivists use the three stages of the life cycle of norms developed by Finnemore and Sikkink, who defined a norm as “a standard of appropriate behaviour for actors with the given identity” (Finnemore and Sikkink, 1998, p. 891). According to the authors, every stage is characterised by different actors, motives, and mechanisms of influence. The first stage, norm emergence, is characterised by identifying and promoting certain norms and increasing publicity. States are usually persuaded to adopt a new norm, an idea supported by norm entrepreneurs. The dominant mechanism at this stage is usually persuasion (Finnemore and Sikkink, 1998, p. 895). Norm entrepreneurs must overcome a tipping point and persuade the critical mass to adopt the promoted norms (Finnemore and Sikkink, 1998, p. 901). Norm promoters seek organisational platforms, such as non-governmental organisations or transnational advocacy networks. Finnemore and Sikkink claimed that these organisations could significantly influence the public perception

of norms through expertise and information, which can cause behaviour change (Finnemore and Sikkink, 1998, p. 899).

The second stage, the Norm cascade, is closely linked with socialisation, and norms become more known at this point because they have more followers. Further, states and international organisations become norm entrepreneurs. Finnemore and Sikkink stated that norm entrepreneurs and IOs can, during the Norm cascade, quickly pressure other actors and play the role of agents of socialisation (1998, p. 902). It is considered that the primary motives to accept new norms are legitimization, conformity, and esteem (Finnemore and Sikkink, 1998, p. 903).

**Table 1 Theoretical Concept Norm Cycle**

The Second Phase of Norm Cycle	
Actors	States, international organisations, networks.
Motives	Legitimacy, reputation, esteem.
Mechanism of influence	Socialisation, institutionalism, demonstration.
Aim	Persuade other to follow norm using combination of pressure for conformity.

(Finnemore and Sikkink, 1998, p. 895)

The second stage is crucial for the present research. IOs such as the IOM, the AU, and many others have attempted to influence and persuade other states, namely African states, that the norm of sustainable development could be beneficial in many ways. Socialisation is considered the dominant process in the norm cascade. States are willing to adopt norms because they “relate to their identities as members of an international society” (Finnemore and Sikkink, p. 902).

The final stage is normal internalisation. At this point, the norm is considered an inseparable part of living, and society follows it as a set norm. Finnemore and Sikkink described it as “taken-for-granted” (Finnemore and Sikkink, 1998, p. 904). The main actors who promote norms in the final stage are professions or bureaucracies, thus contribute to internalisation of norm. (Finnemore and Sikkink, 1998, p. 905).

Secondly, this thesis is inspired by the work of Alastair Johnston and his description of the concept of socialisation. Socialisation is described as a process when novices are presented the specific “expected ways of thinking, feeling and acting” (Johnston, 2001, p. 494). Johnston (2001, p. 495) points out that usually, new states, immigrants, and rulers face a significant amount of socialisation. In this master's thesis, the target group are regional actors in East Africa, particularly states. Further, the internalisation of values contributes to changing their perception and presenting them as “taken-for-grantedness” (Johnston, 2001, p. 495).

Social scientists want to discover why actors change their behaviour under the influence of norms. In this regard, socialisation includes several concepts to study the process of influencing and changing behaviour. Johnston stresses two main processes – persuasion and social influence. Firstly, persuasion involves different aspects such as “changing minds, opinions and attitudes about causality” (Johnston, 2001, p 496). Therefore, it also has an impact on identity. Johnston distinguishes three different ways of persuasion. Firstly, people are subjected to many high-intensity processes of cognition and arguments connected with the new norm. At this stage, the targeted group faces a significant amount of arguments and new information. After considering all arguments, the target usually changes the attitude (Johnston, 2001, pp. 496). Secondly, the persuader will likely provide sufficient legitimacy and justification by referring to culturally recognised authorities. These authorities, such as scientists and doctors, represent the convincing actor in this process. Lastly, the third way is connected with strengthening existing attitudes of persuadee (Johnston, 2001, pp. 497). Furthermore, Johnston states several conditions that contribute to the effectiveness of persuasion. For example, persuasion is significantly strengthened when the persuader is in the position of authority in the same group where the persuader is a member. Further, novices are repeatedly delivered information or when the persuadee is new in the social environment (Johnston, 2001, p. 499).

Next, Johnston also emphasised that social influence can significantly influence the attitude of different actors. Actors choose social influence to persuade others while using different kinds of social rewards and punishments. This form of socialisation also involves also social pressures (Johnston, 2001, p. 499). Furthermore, persuasive techniques are usually supported by benefits. Johnston stressed that accepting certain attitude bring reputation

benefits and image benefits. Otherwise, actors will face isolation from the group (Johnston, 2001, p. 506).

### **1.1.2 Research Questions**

This master's thesis analyses the norm cycle and socialisation of states into sustainable development. The selected norm is sustainable development. In connection with climate change, sustainable development is an increasingly relevant concept. Many IOs today mention it in their reports or include it in their strategic documents. For these reasons, it is possible to consider it an internationally perceived norm. In this research, I focus on cascade, the second dimension of the norm, and its attributes. I am also concerned with the concept of socialisation in this research, which means that socialisation features became relevant for analysing case studies.

This paper intends to investigate the techniques used by two international organisations to promote sustainable development with a focus on environmental sustainability in East Africa. Based on the knowledge gathered in the literature review and the concepts explained in the theoretical framework, this master's thesis addresses two research questions.

#### **1. How do international organisations influence the process of socialisation and adoption of norms related to sustainable development and migration in East Africa?**

The first research question is based on the assumption that IOs try to influence other actors in the international system to accept or internalise the norm of sustainable development. Furthermore, I explore whether international organisations put themselves in the position of norm entrepreneurs, as Finnemore and Sikkink suggested (1998, pp. 896–897). Similarly, I attempt to determine whether the motives of international organisations correspond to the concept of the norm cycle. Therefore, these activities and influences impact migration management, SDG commitments in the IOM, and the fulfilment of the 7th Goal of Agenda 2063 in the AU. This master's thesis analyses the tools and techniques the two IOs used to promote sustainable development concerning migration in East Africa.

#### **2. How do international organisations approach regional actors in East Africa?**

The second question focuses on relations between international organisations and regional actors. IOs must maintain contact and persuade regional actors and stakeholders to accept the presented norms. For this reason, it is also beneficial to analyse the relationship between the IO, such as those that act as opinion leaders or norm promoters, and regional actors who are followers. Consequently, the approaches of the AU and IOM are compared. Furthermore, the analysis shows which actors are emphasised in the discourse.

I assume that international organisations can influence the process of socialisation using a powerful role in the system, communication, and by emphasising different topics and different kinds of actions. The analysis is divided into three dimensions: actors, framing the main issues, and strategy related to SDGs and Agenda 2063. A detailed description of the dimensions is provided in the next chapter.

## **2 Methodology**

This chapter describes the research design in detail. In addition to explaining why qualitative research was chosen as the best approach for conducting and answering research questions, it outlines the reasons and justifications for choosing a qualitative research method. The chapter also explains data sampling and outlines why a case-study approach was selected to help understand the situation from the perspectives of two active international organisations in East Africa. The present study chose the critical discourse analysis of two cases as the leading research method. The methodology chapter describes the steps taken therein and reviews the data processing and software for qualitative data analysis. Finally, this chapter covers data coding schemes, the theoretical portion of which is connected to the practical part of the thesis.

### **2.1 Qualitative Research**

Based on the research questions, I chose a qualitative approach. The positive aspect of this approach is the number of methods and tools that enable researchers to focus on specific aspects of social behaviour and study changes in the social environment. In this master's thesis, case studies and critical discourse analysis were used as analytical methods.

### **2.2 Methods**

This master's thesis was intended to answer research questions through a combination of the case study method and critical discourse analysis. I start by explaining the benefits of using a case study for this research and then focus on the description of the two cases and their linkages to sustainable development. Further, selection criteria are mentioned in this subchapter, as are the importance and advantages of critical discourse analysis for this particular research. Additionally, this subchapter describes the specific technique inspired by Martin Reisigl and Ruth Wodak (2017) that was used for the analysis of codes.

This master's thesis used a multiple-case study to explore differences within and between two international organisations. Such an approach enables researchers to describe their participation in the normative cycle of sustainable development. The technique of analysis in both cases is critical discourse analysis. Critical discourse analysis (CDA) built the

framework for the data analysis and the interpretation of the results. For this reason, no other technique for comparing the two cases or interpreting the results was needed.

### **2.2.1 Selection of Case: Propositions**

This master's thesis sought to analyse the approaches of different international organisations. Two such organisations that cover the extent of East Africa and sustainable development were selected to focus on. In part, these cases were chosen due to their similarity – both are concerned with sustainable development for the future. The first case study examined the Organisation for Migration and its impact on East Africa. The IOM was established in 1951, and it has become one of the most influential intergovernmental organisations specialising in migration and migration governance (Pécoud, 2017, pp. 1622–1623). IOM's main activities have focused on migration governance. However, the organisation is also part of the UN system and must adhere to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals mentioned in Agenda 2030. Furthermore, Martin claimed that the IOM was active in environmental migration to increase awareness of climate change among states. Moreover, the IOM has been concerned with this issue since 1992 (Martin, 2014, p. 222).

The African Union, established in 2002 and comprising 55 member states, was the second organization analysed (African Union, 2023a). It worked for the current research because countries from East Africa have been part of this organisation for decades, and the AU has influenced development throughout the region.

The most essential components of the choice cases were their connection and relationship with sustainable development. They also needed to have expressed interest in tackling climate change in their strategic documents for the future. In 2013, the African Union adopted Agenda 2063 (African Union Commission, 2015). The overarching aim was to stabilise the region and contribute to development. This document additionally aimed to strengthen climate resilience (African Union Commission, 2015, p. 16). Agenda 2063 provides a strategic framework outlining 20 goals for the next 50 years for African states (African Union, 2023b).

Both organisations make their documents, such as their annual reports and other publications focused on strategic development, available online in English. The present thesis examined these materials solely between the years of 2015 and 2020. This research focused on the



African Union and the IOM because they adopted Agenda 2063 in 2013, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, respectively. Both organisations seem to aim for similar goals in Sub-Saharan Africa simultaneously. Originally, the timespan of analysis was going to be 2013. However, there was a lack of documents from that time. As a result, the research began with a document publication date of 2015, and documents were analysed until the end of 2020.

### 2.2.2 Agenda 2063 and SDGs

In summary, both the organisations under study focus on sustainable development and the improvement of living conditions and standards in Africa. They also both published overlapping agendas in Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Migration has been increasingly linked to sustainable development in recent years, especially in documents such as the New York Declaration (UN, 2016) and Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals. All 17 SDGs are interconnected with the Agenda 2063 Goals and Agenda 2063 Priority Areas (African Union, 2023b). Sustainable development and the 17 SDGs cover a significant number of topics. For that reason, it was necessary to narrow the scope of analysis.

**Table 2 Goals for Discourse Analysis**

IOM and SDGs	AU and 7 <sup>th</sup> Goal of Agenda 2063
SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation	Water security
SDG 7 Affordable energy	Sustainable resource management, climate resilience
SDG 13 Climate Actions	Climate resilience and natural disaster preparedness, sustainable resources management
SDG 14 Life below Water	Water security, bio-diversity, conservation
SDG 15 Life on Land	Bio-diversity, conservation

(African Union, 2023b)

The current analysis examined goals related to human actions and the environment. Specifically, I aimed this research at water management, conservation, climate resilience, and land degradation. In response, my source analysis primarily involved the seventh Goal of Agenda 2063 and 5 SDGs: SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 7 Affordable Energy; SDG 13 Climate Actions; SDG 14 Life below Water; and SDG 15: Life on Land. Table n. 3 shows topics that were analysed through discourse analysis in both case studies. It demonstrates that the seventh goal corresponds to the five chosen SDGs.

Nevertheless, the organisations do differ to some extent. For example, they have separate primary aims. The IOM ensures the scope of activities and humanitarian aid for refugees worldwide, while the Constitutive Act of the AU include several aims such as promoting peace and security, deepening international and economic cooperation. This research focuses on analysing sustainable development and economic cooperation in Africa (Africa Union, 2023a). While conducting this research, I observed a different division of Africa between the two organisations. Currently, the IOM operates in 10 countries<sup>1</sup> in East Africa; they call the region East and Horn Africa (International Organisation for Migration, 2023). According to the African Union, East Africa consists of 14 states (African Union, 2022).<sup>2</sup>

### **2.2.3 Contribution to Research**

The analysis of these two cases brings new knowledge about the nexus of sustainable development and migration in East Africa. This paper focuses mainly on the five SDGs and the seventh goal of Agenda 2050. The findings enable a comprehensive overview of their narrative about sustainable development. In addition, the in-depth discourse analysis provides a detailed description of relations between IO and regional actors and how AU and IOM perceive those actors. It also helps facilitate the discovery of the approaches IOs use to fulfil commitments regarding sustainable development.

## **2.3 Discourse analysis**

This research used qualitative data analysis to study text and language. Such deep-rooted qualitative research methods, which include content, discourse, thematic, and textual

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<sup>1</sup> Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda

<sup>2</sup> Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda

analysis, are commonly employed in the social sciences. Based the research questions and concepts introduced in the Theoretical Framework and Conclusion subchapter of the literature review, discourse analysis was chosen as the leading method of the present analysis. Consequently, I decided to use critical discourse analysis of documents published by the African Union and the International Organisation for Migration.

### **2.3.1 Critical Discourse Analysis**

Discourse analysis is a widely used method in social science, particularly in research on international relations. Several social scientists have recently developed different approaches to studying phenomena through discourse analysis (Fairclough, 2013; Leeuw, 2008; Van Dijk, 1993). In this master's thesis, I followed the approach suggested by Martin Reisigl and Ruth Wodak (2017) and the analytical methods used by Lynn Doty (1993).

Firstly, I focus on the description of Critical Historical Discourse Analysis (CHD) developed by Ruth Wodak. It is necessary here to clarify exactly what is meant by discourse. DHA is characterised by interdisciplinarity, problem-orientation, and the combination of theories and methods. It involves situating research between theory and data and focusing on intertextual and interdiscursive relations (Reisigl and Wodak, 2017, p. 94). Reisigl and Wodak described discourse as “a cluster of context-dependent semiotic practises that are situated within specific fields of social action” or “socially constituted and socially constitutive” (2017, p. 89). According to Reisigl and Wodak, discourse is interconnected with argumentation (Reisigl and Wodak, 2017, p. 89). This description is relevant for this research because I understand discourse like the authors above and adopt their views in this study. Wodak and Reisigl (2017, p. 90) characterise intertextuality as connections among various texts. Furthermore, they describe a context on several levels. For the purpose of this research, I use only characteristic described as “the intertextual and interdiscursive relationship between utterances, texts, genres and discourses” (Reisigl and Wodak, 2017, p. 93). Also, Reisigl and Wodak focus on socio-political and historical context. However, this aspect was not included in my analysis.

The CHD presented by Reisigl and Wodak is a three-dimensional model that describes “the specific *contents* or *topics* of specific discourse” (2017, p. 93). Further, the authors state that “*discursive strategies* are investigated” and “*linguistic means* and specific context-dependent *linguistic realisation* are examined” (Reisigl and Wodak, 2017, p. 93). Similarly,

this master's thesis investigated sustainable development, climate change, and migration. Further, I used discursive strategies, which Wodak and Reisigl (2017) suggested in this research. While conducting the analysis, I also focused on linguistic means relevant to this research and mentioned in the coding scheme.

Secondly, Doty also used the Discursive Practice Approach to analyse US counterinsurgency policy in the Philippines. In my research, discursive practice approaches similarly enabled me to analyse “how” questions (Doty, 1993, p. 302). In addition, Doty investigated identities for subjects and their positions using textual mechanisms in the discourse as well as the discourse itself (Doty, 1993, p. 304).

Critical discourse analysis is a useful tool for analysing language. For instance, Reisigl and Wodak (2017, p. 88) claim that DHA is to study the language of people who are in powerful positions. In this research, I analysed the language of two powerful international organisations and their influence on shaping social reality. Analytical tools suggested by Reisigl and Wodak enabled to effectively study different aspects of social reality. Further, Doty states that “explanation must focus on language works to produce subjects and their relations” (1993, p. 305). Based on that research are able to understand elements of social reality.

### **2.3.2 Research Design**

I used a three-dimensional coding scheme and analytical tools similar to those employed by Reisigl and Wodak (2017) and Doty (1993). The analytical tools Reisigl and Wodak used were applicable to these two case studies and suitable for answering the research questions.

Reisigl and Wodak (2017, p. 95) applied five different discursive strategies in their CHD analysis of political speech regarding climate change: nomination, predication, argumentation, perspectivization, mitigation, and intensification. Researchers have focused primarily on the main discourse topics of the text; the main nomination and predication strategies in political speech; argumentation; and the principles of claims, topoi, and fallacies (Reisigl and Wodak, 2017, p. 102). Nomination, predication, and argumentation appeared to be the most relevant analytical tools for this kind of research because past researchers have employed these discursive strategies to reach the same objectives in reconstructing

discourse. For this reason, I used the same linguistic devices in the current research when analysing nomination, predication, and argumentation (Reisigl and Wodak, 2017, p. 95).

However, Reisigl and Wodak (2017, p. 118) studied cases on the macro-, meso-, and micro-levels of linguistic analysis and on the level of context. The present study was not so detailed, given that the number of codes was quite high. Furthermore, in contrast to the analysis conducted by Reisigl and Wodak, this did not include a detailed critique and focused on the socio-political dimension.

Similarly, Doty divided her analysis into three dimensions: the concepts of presupposition, predication, and subject positioning (1993, p. 306). Researchers use predication to analyse how predicates, adverbs, and adjectives modify and describe subjects. The presumption is a useful textual mechanism for examining the social environment and "constructs a particular kind of world in which certain things are recognised as true" (Doty, 1993, p. 306). Moreover, subject positioning involves studying "the position of subjects vis-à-vis one another by assigning them varying degrees of agency" (Doty, 1993, p. 308). It must be noted that Doty interpreted the results of the analysis for each dimension separately, which helped her describe discursive practice (Doty, 1993, p. 310).

In this research, I used the concepts presented in both case studies, particularly nominations, predication, and framing. These analytical tools significantly helped with the data analysis. In addition, these concepts enabled me to focus on details in interpretation that were important for answering research questions. The coding scheme explanation below more thoroughly describes these dimensions.

Both these approaches were relevant for this master's thesis because they analyse similar phenomena and relations between actors. This current research studied socialisation and the norm cycle in international organisations. In addition, within the framework of social constructivism, a critical discourse analysis could explain the relationships and the way social practices influence the concept of sustainable development. The analysis investigated how international organisations refer to the concept of sustainable development in East Africa in connection with climate change and migration. It further discussed the links to authorities, power-relations, advocacy, identifying the agents of socialisation and their tools, different sources of influence, and changing behaviour.

## **2.4 Data Analysis**

In this qualitative research, I scrutinised documents published on the official websites of the AU and IOM, which were the primary data sources for this analysis. Both the AU and the IOM published many documents during the set time frame that were connected with their actions and policies. These include papers such as annual reports and strategies. I analysed these documents to find answers to my research questions. Babbie states that “the aim of data analysis is the discovery of patterns among the data, patterns that point to a theoretical understanding of social life” (2011, p. 426). This data analysis enables an in-depth examination within the framework of case studies. Results showed the perspectives of two different international organisations on the nexus of climate change, migration, and sustainable development. I chose the most important documents published between 2015 and 2020 that were available on the IOM and AU websites. This period was selected based on the assumption that it would provide sufficient time to acquire data and answer all research questions. In addition, IOM and AU declared that they would adhere to sustainable goals in this time range. Furthermore, it seemed to be an unexplored period through which I could contribute to research knowledge.

### **2.4.1 Selection Criteria**

In selecting criteria, I determined topics connected with climate change, climate actions, the environment, and migration to ensure the analysis would answer the research questions. This analysis focused on reports covering recent developments regarding SDGs and climate change or issues connected with sustainable development and migration. In particular, I singled out African Union papers that covered Agenda 2063, reflected on the development of strategies in this field with a focus on the environment, and that mentioned the region of East Africa. Several documents were downloaded from the African Union Development Agency’s website. I applied these same criteria to the document published by IOM. The list of all documents examined for this research is provided in the appendix.

### **2.4.2 Analysed Documents and Software**

Overall, I analysed 23 documents, two for each organisation per year during the study period. Many were annual reports, guides, or documents that described future strategy. However, I could not find similar reports for each year. In some cases, the organisations included a

disclaimer at the beginning of the document which stated that “the findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the view of IOM or its Member States” (IOM, 2018). I chose to examine such documents anyway. Though they included such a disclaimer, these papers were nonetheless published by the organisations themselves and reflected the discourse they spread. The main tool utilized to code data was ATLAS.ti, research software that academics and students use widely for data analysis purposes. Babbie (2011) also recommended this software for qualitative analysis. Software is beneficial because it allows researchers to obtain deeper insight into their analyses (Babbie, 2011, p. 432).

### **2.4.3 Coding Scheme Development**

In this part, I introduce the process of developing coding schemes and data processing. In the current thesis, I used one coding scheme related to both research questions. I decided to follow the inductive approach to coding described by Chandra and Shang (2019, p. 93).

I began by launching a new project to import all qualitative data files into the software. ATLAS.ti has many tools that accelerate qualitative data analysis. I started with open coding, meaning I reviewed documents to discover the main topics and concepts in the analysed data. Then, I approached coding and highlighted whole sentences or paragraphs that seemed suitable for my analysis. I focused on text segments about climate change, migration, SDGs, sustainable development, and regional actors. In coding text segments, I developed codes for analysis before dividing the coded fragments of text into several categories. For this research, I used a two-level coding hierarchy. It is necessary to mention that the same codes were used to analyse documents from both organisations. Finally, I reviewed the analysed documents, re-examined the code, and re-categorised them again to ensure that a similar, applicable approach was used everywhere.

After all the documents were coded with appropriate codes, I proceeded with the last stage of qualitative analysis, which involved turning the coded data into the final narrative. I developed coding schemes for the data interpretation of the results of critical discourse analysis. The CDA framework mentioned above helped significantly with interpreting coded data.

#### **2.4.4 Explanation of Coding Scheme**

Categories: In this analysis, I focused on three categories or dimensions: actors, main topics, and strategy. Each was closely related to the objectives of the research questions in the following ways:

1. Actors: related to the second research question
2. Main Topics: related to the first research question
3. Strategy: related to the first research question

This coding scheme was divided into three important dimensions to enhance the overall understanding of discourse. The first dimension of the analysis scrutinised the role of international organisations and other relevant actors mentioned in the data. The main aim was to investigate the role, identity, and mandate of the AU or the IOM, as well as their descriptions of other actors. The selected documents provide sufficient dataset to study how the two organisations refer to their roles, tasks, mandates, and identities in the area of environmental sustainability. I ultimately used prediction as the main discursive strategy because it helped me answer the second research question by analysing the approach to regional actors.

In the second dimension, I analysed codes related to the main topics in this project: climate change, migration, and sustainable development. Framing the topics could show differences between the two cases. I facilitated the conception of topics through the lenses of AU and IOM by using nomination as a discursive strategy.

Finally, the third dimension involved analysing what actions were undertaken and what tools, strategies, or solutions were used to accomplish the seventh goal of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs (6,7, 13, 14, 15) in East Africa. When analysing techniques for preparedness and mitigation of the consequences of climate change, I focused on the argumentation used in coded data segments. In particular, I examined repeated connections and claims, such as claims of truth or rightness regarding an organisation's effort related to sustainable development, migration, and climate change. The second and third dimensions were related to the first research question because this research intended to investigate the influence of international organisations. This analysis aiming at argumentation could be beneficial in analysing the discourse.



**Table 3 Coding Scheme**

Coding Scheme				
Codes	Dimension	Discursive strategy	Objective	Devices/Linguistic expression
1.1. Self-presentation	Actors	Predication	Discursive characterization of social actors. Analysing their role, identity, tasks, capabilities attribute to the various subjects, and mandate of organisation (AU/IOM).	Descriptive characteristics, adjectives, adverbs, predicative nouns and pronouns.
1.2. Regional actors				
1.3. Other actors				
2.1. Climate change	The main topics	Nomination	Focus on discursive construction of phenomena.	Verbs describing the process, activity, interconnection, causality.
2.2. Migration				
2.3. Sustainable development				
3.1. International cooperation	Strategy	Argumentation	Focus on analysing persuasion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Claims of truth (referring to future action and recommendation).</li> <li>- Claims of rightness regarding organisation 's effort related to sustainable development development/migration/climate change.</li> </ul>	Claims, topois.
3.2. Crisis management				
3.3. Actions				
3.4. Recommendations				

Objectives and analysed linguistic expression were based on the analytical tools used by Reisigl and Wodak (2019, p. 95 and 113). Each discursive strategy used different linguistic expressions or devices; these are shown in the fifth column of coding scheme. This coding scheme was inspired by the coding system developed by Heller (2018, p. 86). Heller used deductive categories and divided the scheme into three levels (2018, p. 84). She also assigned linguistic expressions to each subcode in the dimensions.

**Table 4 Description of Codes**

Code	Description of Code	Number of Codes	
		IOM	AU
1.1. Self-presentation	Description and characteristic features of IOs.	45	17
1.2. Regional actors	Sentences or paragraphs relevant to regional actors.	98	96
1.3. Other actors	Description of other international actors.	65	20
2.1. Climate change	Sentences or paragraph referring to climate change.	174	192
2.2. Migration	Sentences or paragraph referring to migration.	190	74
2.3. Sustainable development	Sentences referring to environmental sustainability, sustainable community, sustainable livelihood.	158	182
3.1. Cooperation	References to cooperation in relation to sustainable development, climate change or migration.	105	19
3.2. Crisis management	Text referring to strategies and crisis management (for example in agriculture, water management, natural disasters, land degradation).	59	56

3.3. Actions	Recent actions and support delivered by IOs in East Africa.	180	76
3.4. Recommendations	Recommendations mentioned in documents related to sustainable development and future steps.	66	147

Table 4 shows all codes used in analysis, their description, and total number of collected codes.

### **2.4.5 Connection to Theoretical Concepts**

After conducting the analysis, I compared the findings with the concepts outlined in the theoretical framework in subchapter discussion. The first dimension revealed whether the self-presentation corresponded to the description of the agent of the international norm and its motives in the norm cycle. Moreover, I focused on the features of other actors described in the data and their role in the second phase of the norm cycle. The analysis intended to uncover how organisations stress the importance of environmental sustainability in their agenda setting and argumentation in terms of strategy and goals. The concept of socialisation was chosen to help interpret the findings. Features of persuasion and social influence were analysed in the second and third dimensions. Finally, I evaluated the connections between the second phase of the norm cycle, as suggested by Finnemore and Sikkink (1998), and the findings of this research. In doing so, I highlighted possible deflections from theory. In the next chapter, the analysis shows visible similarities or differences between the two organisations and their discourse.

### **3 Analysis**

This chapter includes the results of the analysis of both case studies. The first case study focused on the analysis of IOM's documents. I mention the main findings, which are divided into three dimensions. Next, the analysis results are interconnected with theoretical concepts in the subchapter discussion. A similar structure describes the results of the second case study. In addition, this chapter includes a comparison of two case studies. Further, this section also identifies the limitations of the research and briefly describes the connection to academic debate. Lastly, I summarize my reflection on the analysis.

#### **3.1 First Case study: IOM**

##### **3.1.1 IOM: Dimension 1**

The first dimension focused on describing the main actors in the discourse. A number of characteristics were identified by the IOM. The organisation was repeatedly described as a global leader with *broad operational experience, a driving force, and a global migration agency that plays a dominant role in shaping migration policies*. Several associated adjectives highlighted this finding, such as global, responsible, leading, flexible, and indispensable. The organisation's capabilities included responding to crises and disasters, providing support to governments, offering advice, and protecting vulnerable groups.

Four groups of regional actors – national authorities; cities; local populations, including farmers and pastoralists; and migrants – were identified. National authorities, including governments, ministries, and other national bodies, were described as entities that receive support from the IOM in the form of advice. These authorities were also able to transfer the change in their countries. They were described as responsible and essential actors with the power to make crucial decisions.

Cities are important actors on a local level because migration is primarily urban, which means they can enable development. The local population was described as vulnerable to climate change. As a result, they face many challenges and threats, including income losses and food insecurity. Farmers in particular were attributed to agricultural productivity, food security, and threats. Similarly, migrants were associated with vulnerability, barriers, forced labour, exclusion, and exploitation. They were also repeatedly described as vulnerable people in need who were involuntarily relocated. The results of the analysis suggest that members of this group are in a difficult situation and cannot control or manage their lives.

These factors are affecting the population. Nonetheless, migrants were also described as agents of sustainable development.

This analysis additionally discovered other actors who were engaged in the discourse, such as the private sector, civil society, NGOs, international organisations, and diasporas. These actors were either purely or partly international. In turn, they were classified in this group. In simple terms, these actors could be beneficial for migration management and sustainable development.

### **3.1.2 IOM: Dimension 2**

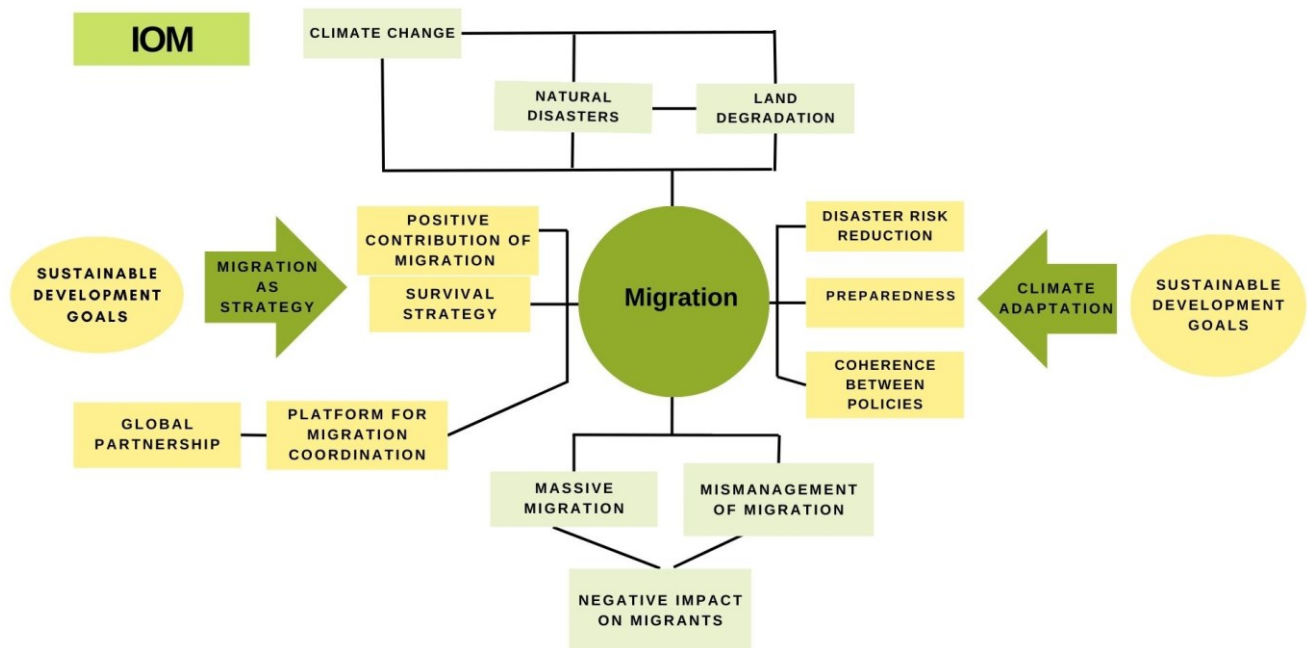
In the second dimension, findings drew attention to the framing of three important issues in this research: climate change, migration, and sustainable development. Climate change was associated with verbs such as *trigger*, *intensify*, *reshape*, *threaten*, *cause*, *affect*, *contribute*, and *influence*. Analysed materials included many references that this phenomenon causes natural disasters and contributes to the degradation of land. Furthermore, Climate change was described as a phenomenon that triggers the displacement of people and reshapes human mobility. Analysis revealed an emphasis on migration as a component of climate change. Focused on the fact that climate change will affect the population in the future, the IOM appeared to draw attention to the role of migration in climate change. Taken together, these results suggest an association between climate change and migration.

Migration was further described as human mobility or displacement. Negative aspects connected with migration included that it can negatively affect the environment and people's livelihoods, and that several countries are facing increasing migration. There was a direct link between migration and climate change in the studied research, with migration being called a response to climate change. Migration was also shown to interact with sustainable development, and the IOM tended to refer to migration as a positive or survival strategy because the practice can achieve the SDGs. Migration was framed mainly as a positive approach. For example, migration brings benefits, offers opportunities, can help achieve goals, and contributes to sustainable development.

The IOM described sustainable development not as a phenomenon but as an instrument or strategy to achieve specific goals. The analysis results additionally indicate a strong connection between climate change, migration, and sustainable development. To begin, organisations draw attention to migration-related SDG targets. The IOM also emphasised

the positive role of migration in sustainable development. For instance, the analysis showed several references to environmental sustainability. For instance, the diaspora helped finance projects related to environmental sustainability in their home countries. Moreover, the IOM mentioned the importance of using *environmentally friendly adaptation and mitigation efforts in partnership with migrant and host communities*. Regarding sustainable development, the IOM showed to be striving for better inclusion of migrants in climate disaster risk reduction and awareness-raising related to climate change and migration. The IOM also demonstrated a commitment to expanding environmental sustainability, discussing a need to incorporate it into its strategies and key management frameworks. According to the IOM, governments should address the environmental drivers of migration, promote sustainable agriculture, and reduce water scarcity.

**Figure 1 IOM – Nexus of Climate Change, Migration, and Sustainable Development**



The Figure 1 shows the interconnection of climate change, migration, and sustainable development. The upper part displays several causes of migration, namely climate change, natural disasters and land degradation. For the purpose of this research, the figure shows these crucial factors, however, it is noted that push factors exist. The IOM was mainly concerned with the process of migration, which is the core of this graph. The lower part

indicates the negative consequences of migration, such as massive migration and mismanagement of migration which have negative effects on the living conditions of migrants. Further, the arrows on the right and left sides show positive strategies based on sustainable development goals. On the right side, the arrow shows climate adaptation based, and the arrow shows the positive impact of migration on the left side.

### **3.1.3 IOM: Dimension 3**

I analysed four selected codes in the third dimension – international cooperation, crisis management, IOM actions, and recommendations. This portion of the analysis highlighted argumentation and showed claims that repeatedly occurred in the dataset. I sought to use these claims to show the reasoning employed to promote norms connected to migration and sustainable development. In the first case, the IOM referred to its actions in addressing problems related to climate change and migration and accomplishing sustainable development.

The IOM's action on SDGs focused on natural disaster preparedness and implementing SDGs in migration governance. They also emphasised migration support and helping people in need. Furthermore, the IOM was engaged in raising awareness and collecting data on migration. In addition, the organisation played an active role in formulating important strategic documents and focused on integrating migration aspects into climate change and disaster risk reduction policies. For example, the IOM mentioned “a) the integration of human mobility considerations in climate change, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction policies and strategies; and (b) the inclusion of environmental and climate change concerns in migration policies, support policy development” (2017, p. 12). Further, IOM provided technical assistance and training to important stakeholders.

Next, the analysis also focused on cooperation. According to the IOM, cooperation efforts should include local and national authorities as well as broad cooperation with other partners such as the private sector, diaspora, NGOs, civil society, other international institutions, and academic or research institutions. These partnerships would significantly reach the SDGs, policy coherence, and regional environmentally sustainable projects. Furthermore, their reports stated that it is crucial to build their capacity to meet the SDGs.

One of the IOM's focuses was crisis management, which highlights disaster risk reduction, prevention, preparedness, and management issues. In these discussions, the organisation again stressed migration as an adaptation strategy. In particular, their documents emphasised the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach and cooperation, increasing understanding of these complex issues on national and local levels. The organisation further prioritised reducing forced migration caused by climate change. This analysis showed that adaptation of migrants become part of disaster risk reduction and management. The organisation emphasised the importance of global partnerships and the role of its local offices in increasing understanding of crisis management. The codes related to crisis management included such things as *should or politicians need to*.

Finally, the IOM mentioned several strategies regarding the nexus of climate change, migration, and sustainable development. They emphasised increasing resilience, implementing complex and coherent policies regarding climate change and migration, and creating a platform for coordinating and integrating migration into climate change plans and strategies. All these recommendations were suggested to improve living conditions and reach SDGs. In the following section, I focus on the interpretation of the results.

### **3.1.4 Discussion**

In this part, I build on what I described in the theoretical framework. The second dimension of the norm cycle is characterised the “use of expertise and influence to change behaviour of other actors” (Finnemore and Sikkink, 1998, p. 899). International organisations and states were characterised as norm promoters in the norm cascade. In this case study, the IOM posed as a supranational authority aimed at influencing the decisions and behaviours of other actors. Consequently, they are likely to follow the norm. The analysis found several documents across the years under study that confirmed the assumption that the IOM creates pressure and repeatedly promotes certain strategies and arguments to norm followers. Norms followers are mainly states as well as national and local authorities who are supposed to accept, implement, and integrate certain recommendations and strategies. These actors were described as receivers of pieces of advice and support delivered by the IOM.

One focus of the present research was on investigating instruments of socialisation in the promotion of norms. The IOM was found to use features of persuasion such as the process of cognition, the perception of norms, and the strengthening of attitudes. All the actors



mentioned above were shown to be facing a great deal of similar arguments regarding climate change, migration, and sustainable development. In the dataset, the IOM extensively promoted its position and arguments; for this reason, the process of cognition was quite strong. However, the analysis did not discover the reactions of states and other target groups or the consequences of this influence. Furthermore, the results showed that the IOM has created a variety of partnerships with different stakeholders through which it might apply its standards and promote its messages. The organisation also frequently repeated similar arguments and claims. In particular, the analysis uncovered that the IOM uses strengthening attitudes in a variety of ways, such as to actively support national authorities to integrate and implement suggested policies. Regarding social influence, costing of social rewards and punishment, identification with relevant groups, and cognitive and social pressure, the present research found no direct patterns of social influence. It was difficult to test the actor's conformity with the position. No visible features of acceptance of norms from the positions of states in East Africa were observed. This analysis was also unable to discover the effects on norm followers and their attitude towards norms. It is now necessary to answer research questions.

### **Research questions**

- 1. How do international organisations influence the process of socialisation and adoption of norms related to sustainable development and migration in East Africa?**
- 2. How do international organisations approach regional actors in East Africa?**

To conclude, the IOM clearly appeared to play a significant role in addressing the challenges connected with climate change, migration, and sustainable development in East Africa and other countries. In framing these two issues, climate change was directly linked to migration. Furthermore, the IOM significantly emphasised migration as a suitable strategy to adapt to challenges caused by climate change. The IOM additionally highlighted the integration of migration in disaster risk and climate change strategies and drew attention to the need to implement more migration issues in the SDGs. The organisation was also shown to influence socialisation in different ways. These influences could be divided into a few categories. Firstly, IOM actively engaged on the national level and assisted governments in advising in implementing of migration issues into climate change and disaster risk reduction

frameworks. Secondly, the organisation promoted a multi-stakeholder approach and held a position of authority. Further, the IOM repeated similar claims, which supported spreading its narrative.

The results of the analysis further revealed that the IOM approaches regional actors differently at the nexus of climate change, migration, and sustainable development. For instance, national authorities were associated with responsibility and the power to decide and were thought to play an active role in addressing changes and improvements in the region. Cities also played important roles in this discourse because they face massive influxes of migrants. For this reason, the IOM considered them a key local stakeholder.

That said, people living in areas affected by climate change were described as a vulnerable population seeking help and in need of protection. For example, farmers were associated with agriculture and food insecurity. Migrants were additionally described as a vulnerable group; however, they could become an important driving force for achieving sustainable development goals. For this reason, the IOM emphasised their positive role in sustainable development. The organisation approached other actors from a position of authority, describing itself as a global leader meant to support and help other actors such as states and people in need.

## **3.2 Second Case study: AU**

### **3.2.1 AU: Dimension 1**

This subchapter focusing on the AU identifies the main findings and includes interpretation. This section begins with the analysis of results describing actors. Most descriptions in the documents were related to the African Union Development Agency (NEPAD). The agency was characterised as a development organisation with an implementation component, catalysts, and knowledge institutions that provide advisory services to member states. This agency appeared to focus on sustainable development and technical assistance. Both concepts proved to be essential for the continent's transformation. The role of the AU as a leader or authority was not mentioned.

The analysis indicated that the AU focuses primarily on the description of regional actors. A significant amount of space was dedicated to states. The AU was more specific regarding

mentioning states, which it characterised in two ways. Firstly, the organisation mentioned that states are affected by climate change, suffer from land degradation, and face challenges related to climate change. Secondly, they are perceived as a driving force because they are associated with many active verbs and actions. For example, the AU attributed them to verbs like *achieve, on track, promote, integrate, and improve*. In particular, states were associated with achieving environmental sustainability, could facilitate progress in mitigation and adaptation strategies, and were able to integrate SDGs. The next crucial regional actor was the population. The AU emphasised population growth as well as the fact that the population is affected by the consequences of climate change, such as floods or droughts. In addition, the organisation mentioned other regional actors: farmers and rural communities. Farmers are often connected to food production and face challenges due to climate change. In the analysed data, the AU stressed that land is degraded and farmers should focus on resilience. Migrants were mentioned very briefly in the context of diaspora engagement.

The analysis also found several stakeholders engaging in migration management or sustainable development in East Africa. One of the most frequently mentioned actors was the diaspora. The AU emphasised collaboration with the diaspora and strengthened its engagement in migration management issues; it was described as an essential part of being an important participant. Furthermore, the AU mentioned international organisations and entities such as the EU, UN, or League of Arab States that were characterised as contributors who provide aid. Additionally, the private sector was described as a critical player. Moreover, NGOs and civil society were associated with formulating policies and implementing programmes.

The AU often used the IPCC as the leading authority in connection with the effects of climate change and future predictions. The AU typically refers to Agenda 2063 or the SDGs to justify its claims regarding the nexus of climate change, migration, and sustainable development. The organisation also called for the cooperation and engagement of different stakeholders and emphasised the importance of partnership.

### **3.2.2 AU: Dimension 2**

The discourse regarding climate change could be divided into two categories. First, climate change is Africa's leading cause of problems, like extreme weather conditions, hunger, or forced migration. Climate change also affects agriculture. Thus, it influences food security

in Africa. The AU assumes that it will negatively affect the continent in the future. Second, the AU drew attention to building resilience against climate change, which is mainly associated with the food system and farming households. According to the AU, it is necessary to build resilience and reduce climate-related risks. In addition, results of analysis showed the strong emphasis on the reduction of the negative effects of climate change.

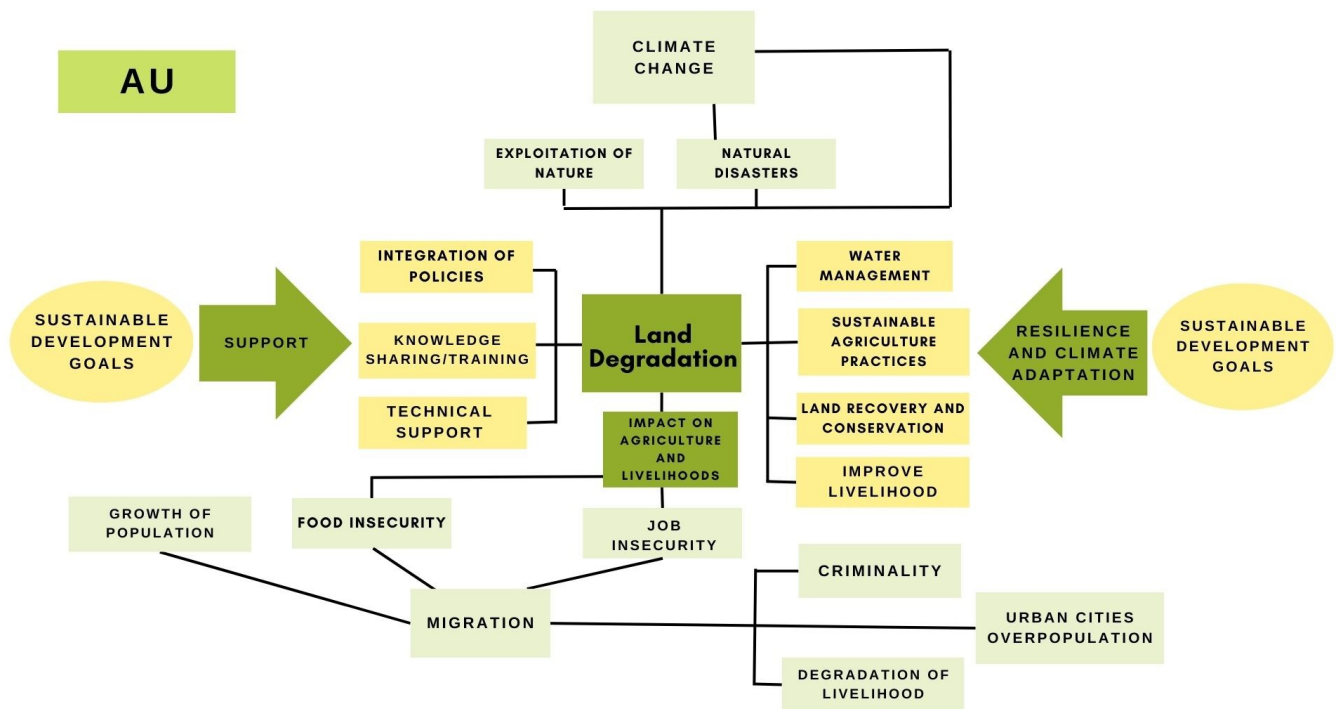
Migration was described from many perspectives throughout the AU's documents. In this part, I mention the most repeated characteristic of this phenomenon. The data described migration as a phenomenon on the rise that is connected to urbanisation. In other words, migration was characterised as a multi-faced phenomenon involving population movement, mass migration, forced displacement, or forced migration. The AU additionally referred to migration as a dynamic process that should be well-managed in rural and urban areas. Climate change was mentioned as a driving factor of migration. The organisation also briefly mentioned a connection with development. For instance, they mentioned that migration should be implemented into national development strategies, emphasising that migration and development are integrated. The AU further highlighted how the movement of people could negatively affect the environment. For this reason, migration was partly linked to environmental degradation. In addition, migration might lead to criminal activity.

In terms of sustainable development, the AU mentioned all scrutinised goals: environmental sustainability, sustainable land and water management, sustainable fisheries, sustainable land and water practises, and renewable energy. Data above the scope of this research showed that the African Union drew attention to sustainable agriculture and food security. There were no specific characteristic adjectives describing sustainable development. However, sustainable development was connected with sustainable water management and sanitation and mentioned as a strategy to address climate challenges and improve livelihoods in East Africa.

Sustainable development practices showed to enable the building of climate resilience, promotion of food security, and Agenda 2063 to improve living standards. The AU claimed that the Paris Agreement supported sustainable management, and sustainable development is part of Africa's transformation. Furthermore, the AU stated that sustainable development should be incorporated into national development policies. The organisation repeated that member state should to achieve sustainable development.

The second graph shows how AU understands the relations between climate change, migration and sustainable development. The AU labelled climate change, natural disasters and exploitation of nature as the leading causes of land degradation, which poses the main problem in this graph. According to the AU, land degradation significantly influences agriculture and livelihood in Africa. The negative impact on agriculture might lead to food insecurity and job insecurity in affected regions. Further, the AU highlighted that migration might cause other harmful effects such as criminality, overpopulation in cities and further degradation of livelihood. Two green arrows show the AU's implementation of sustainable development into their strategies to reduce the degradation of land. Based on the 7th Goal of Agenda 2063, the AU tried implementing resilience and climate adaptation strategies. The arrow on the left side shows the AU's tools to implement its strategy.

**Figure 2 AU – Nexus of Climate Change, Migration, and Sustainable Development**



The figure 2 shows how AU understands the relations between climate change, migration and sustainable development. The AU labelled climate change, natural disasters and exploitation of nature as the leading causes of land degradation, which poses the main problem in this figure. According to the AU, land degradation significantly influences

agriculture and livelihood in Africa. The negative impact on agriculture might lead to food insecurity and job insecurity in affected regions. Further, the AU highlighted that migration might cause other harmful effects such as criminality, overpopulation in cities and further degradation of livelihood. Two green arrows show the AU's implementation of sustainable development into their strategies to reduce the degradation of land. Based on the 7th Goal of Agenda 2063, the AU tried implementing resilience and climate adaptation strategies. The arrow on the left side shows the AU's tools to implement its strategy.

### **3.2.3 AU: Dimension 3**

Identifying patterns of tools, strategies, and claims was the biggest challenge of this research. The third dimension was divided into four sections: cooperation, international coordination, strategy, and AU actions. The AU used similar phrases in all these sections. The analysis of the results showed clear statements encouraging states to follow their commitments and show them the right steps to achieve them. The AU repeatedly used phrases such as *should*, *recommended*, *African countries must*, *the continent must*, *it is a priority*, and *the government should implement*. The organisation specifically outlined what policymakers should do and what their objectives should be. In this dimension, I analysed claims that shape the discourse created by AU.

The AU stressed the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach and cooperation with regional bodies and international actors to address migration. This approach enables the sharing of knowledge and best practises in migration governance. The AU additionally emphasised effective planning, coordination, and implementation.

One finding was that the main priority in the strategy was building resilience to climate change. This result suggests that there were many strategic issues, such as the focus on food production and rural development, with informing farmers and capacity building. Moreover, to justify their strategy and claims, the organisation referred to Agenda 21, Agenda 2063, Paris Agreement, and the Millennium Declaration.

Regarding Crisis management, there was evidence that the AU aimed to promote reducing vulnerabilities, strengthening national capacities and local dimensions, building food resilience, and incorporating the role of cities and migrants. The scope of the claims was very diverse. For this reason, I mention only the most relevant for this research.

One of the other focuses of the current analysis was the actions that IOs accomplish to meet commitments. Beyond making recommendations to member states, the AU also engaged in legislative processes. For instance, it helped formulate treaties and guidelines regarding climate change adaptation and water management. Furthermore, the AU provided technical support and training to farmers and the local community regarding environmental protection and sustainable agriculture management. The findings further suggested that the AU identified areas relevant to climate change response, including forestry and land restoration, and showed strategic direction for future steps. In addition to incorporating all aspects included in the seventh goal of Agenda 2063 into its strategy, the organisation mentioned the progress of countries and their fulfilment of commitments. In the following section, I focus on the interpretation of the results. In the following section, I focus on the interpretation of the results.

### **3.2.4 Discussion**

In the analysis, I observed features of the second phase of the norm cycle. The African Union appeared to represent the advisor who gives recommendations and assists the state in transferring specific strategies or norms. They also aimed to show the state how to achieve specific goals and evaluate their progress toward sustainable development commitments. Member states were in turn described as regional actors affected by climate change. However, they were also considered a driving force able to achieve the commitments and improve living conditions in East Africa.

Similar to the IOM, the AU used socialisation tools to promote its norms and strengthen commitments. Specifically, the analysis indicated that the AU used features of cognition, with similar arguments interwoven through different dimensions. In addition, the AU used specific phrases to describe what regional and other types of actors should do to fulfil their commitments. Additionally, like the IOM, the AU mentioned several international organisations and entities, such as the IPCC or international agreements, to justify its actions. However, it was difficult to evaluate the impact of these efforts.

The analysis did not demonstrate direct features of social influence. Indeed, the study was unable to reveal whether the AU uses social rewards or punishments to spread norms. However, the AU's documents did provide a detailed evaluation of progress in Agenda 2063 for its member states alongside recommendations. Based on the analysis results, I assume

that member states face cognitive and social pressure to some extent. As I mentioned, they repeatedly faced similar advice, claims, and evaluations and wanted to achieve similar goals. However, this research could not answer the question of how important it is for Eastern African states to identify with all these claims and future steps. To summarise, the analysis found that the AU likely aimed to persuade others to follow its suggested strategy while using socialisation tools. Next, I will answer the research questions.

### **Research questions**

- 1. How do international organisations influence the process of socialisation and adoption of norms related to sustainable development and migration in East Africa?**
- 2. How do international organisations approach regional actors in East Africa?**

The AU's strategy was aimed at member states that become the target of its influence campaign. The document analysis showed that the organisation was very aware of the current stage of achieving the goals of Agenda 2063 in the countries of East Africa. It is an advantage for an organisation to provide recommendations, support, and evaluation to member states. The benefit of this organisation was its well-organised approach and knowledge; for this reason, the AU claimed to be an advisor that could adapt its strategy to spread norms effectively. Furthermore, the organisation used persuasion to strengthen states' attitudes towards accepting norms related to sustainable development. They also focused on raising awareness and training the local population and farmers, which is another way to spread its strategy or influence. The results of the analysis indicate that AU uses evaluation and track progress among its member states. For this reason, they face social influence, especially punishment and awards, because AU states to, some extent, fulfil their commitments. Some of them might feel under pressure knowing the results of other states.

One major point of emphasis for the AU was the role of states and authorities on both the national and local levels. These actors were perceived as important for bringing about change and achieving targets in Agenda 2063. Based on the findings, most of the socialisation efforts were aimed at states. Furthermore, states are repeatedly requested to follow AU's suggestions and provide necessary data as well as implement recommendations in crucial strategies. Farmers were another important stakeholder mentioned primarily in terms of their ability to build resilience against climate change and strengthen food security. Farmers and local



populations were mainly described as recipients of help and someone who needed training and improvement in environmental sustainability awareness. Migrants were also mentioned in the dataset. However, the AU did not assign them such an essential role as IOM. The following section includes the comparison of two case studies.

### **3.3 Comparison**

The analysis found several differences between the AU and the IOM. Although the IOM described itself as a leader or authority, the AU was more likely to be an advisor or organisation that provides technical assistance. The main difference, though, was the two entities' different perceptions of migration. The IOM strongly emphasised the role of migrants in achieving sustainable development. However, the AU did not draw attention to migrants as an essential factor in sustainable development policies. Contrary to this finding, the AU focused on member states as the main driving force.

In the case of the IOM, they provided a detailed structure of stakeholders and their potential for collaboration. By contrast, the AU was more specific in mentioning states from East Africa and the problems they face. In addition, the AU emphasised the role of farmers rather than migrants. It is also necessary to note that the AU's documents mentioned other stakeholders in a more general way. Similarly, the IOM was more general when referring to the countries or regions of East Africa.

In the second dimension, the IOM significantly stressed the potential of migration and migrants for sustainable development; however, the AU focused more closely on resilience and adaptation as the norm. The next difference related to sustainable development. The IOM clearly connected sustainable development targets with migration and emphasised the importance of migrants for sustainable development. Environmental sustainability was also briefly mentioned by the IOM. Nonetheless, the AU's documents centred around environmental sustainability in East Africa and drew attention to fulfilling commitments.

Regarding the third dimension, the IOM promoted the integration of migration in sustainable development frameworks, disaster risk reduction and its relation to climate change, the elimination of forced migration, and a multi-stakeholder approach. Conversely, the AU was found to have prioritised climate resilience, livelihood improvement, and food security. In essence, their aim was to eliminate the consequences of climate change.

Similarities between the case studies were also observed through the course of the current research. For instance, both organisations drew attention to the government or sovereign states, which they described as drivers of change. They also both mentioned the diaspora as an essential stakeholder in migration management and its engagement in sustainable development. The results further demonstrated similarities in the second dimension. Climate change in particular was described as a phenomenon influencing migration and damaging the environment. Moreover, the AU and the IOM each stressed the importance of well-coordinated migration. Both organisations also included select SDGs (6,7, 13, 14, 15) in their analysed documents.

### **3.4 Connection to Academic Debate**

In this short paragraph, I describe the major connections with academic debate. Based on the findings, the AU and the IOM used methods of socialisation and their authority to influence the acceptance of strategies connected to sustainable development. This kind of behaviour corresponds to findings presented by Park (2007), who analysed WB and IFC and their approach to sustainable development norms. Further, Susanto brought similar findings while investigating the dominant role of the UN in transferring environmental norms. Furthermore, this analysis confirms the IOM's role in promoting migration, as Felli (2013) suggested in his study. Similarly, correspondents to Heilmann (2006) claim that migration is a very beneficial factor in sustainable development. However, this argumentation is not fully applicable to AU's findings because AU focuses more on local sustainability, building resilience, and food security.

### **3.5 Limitations**

In this part, I outline the limitations of this research approach, mention difficulties encountered in conducting the analysis, and answer the research questions. This research involved coding and studying 23 documents overall. In the beginning, I determined the criteria for selection. Although the AU published many documents and reports in the last decade, I could not find proper documents corresponding to the selection criteria in 2018. For this reason, I included only one document published by the AU from 2018. Given the fact that I collected 11 documents published by the AU which provided sufficient information for the analysis, I assume it is a minor mistake. However, this research design would be suitable for a group of researchers due to the large amount of data available. It

could be argued that this research was biased because I was the only person who coded and analysed the data. I am additionally aware that the analysis included only documents published by IOS. For this reason, this master's thesis only had the capacity to analyse the approach of international organisations. This could be considered a weakness because the current research did not include any opposing documents produced by other actors involved in the discourse.

Furthermore, the IOM failed to focus specifically on East Africa in its annual reports, and their connections to sustainable development, migration, and climate change were general. Consequently, it was difficult to compare their findings with the AU, which was more specific to development activities in East Africa. In the second case study, analysed documents focused primarily on agriculture and development. For this reason, the AU referred more to agriculture and sustainable development. The objectives of this research were very specific, as was the selected dataset. In the nexus climate change, migration and sustainable development, I focused mainly on tools of socialisation and their approaches towards regional actors. In turn, this research did elaborate in-depth on the socio-political status of IOs. When coding documents, I noticed that many included disclaimers. Nevertheless, I decided to study these documents regardless of any such disclaimers because they nonetheless influenced the discourse and included content that the IOs themselves produced. One of the most challenging components of this research was finding relevant data sources to fulfil the criteria and suitable analytical tools to conduct the analysis and interpretation.

I took these limitations into account and attempted to prevent their considerable influence on the analysis results. For instance, I determined the criteria for the selection of documents and provided detailed descriptions of coding schemes to outline the interpretation process. The coding scheme connected codes with the analytical tools that other researchers have also used to interpret analysis results. I further reviewed the documents and codes two times before approaching data analysis. This was meant to avoid misrepresenting the results of the analysis.

Despite these limitations in the research, this project did contribute to general knowledge of the behaviour of international organisations such as the AU and IOM and their role as promoters of norms in the nexus of sustainable development in connection with migration

and climate change. These findings may enhance understanding of how different international organisations work to address similar challenges. Furthermore, the current analysis provided in-depth insight into relations with regional actors and other stakeholders.

The results emphasised other aspects that are essential issues for future research. Further studies should examine topics related to the acceptance of norms stressed by international organisations and in countries in East Africa, focusing on the national and regional levels. It would also be beneficial to study countries' approaches to the nexus of climate change, migration, sustainable development, and the transfer of narrative produced by international organisations. Another relevant avenue for future research would be to examine how diasporas or other relevant stakeholders engage in sustainable development. It might further be interesting to compare approaches to sustainable development and migration across different African states. In addition, future research should be concerned with the comparison of different IOs and other developing actors who promote achieving sustainable development goals and environmental sustainability. Finally, it would be beneficial for future research to focus on the evaluation of sustainable development practises and their impacts on livelihoods and migration in this region.

### **3.6 Reflection**

Now, I discuss my reflection on the nexus of migration, climate, and sustainable development. At the beginning of the research, I perceived climate change as one of the possible causes of migration due to the degradation of livelihoods and nature. I understood sustainable development as a solution to combat the negative effects of climate change and migration in the Global South. However, after writing the literature review, I realised that this issue could be studied from different perspectives. It was additionally clear that the effects of climate change have caused a change in the environment, and East Africa comprises countries that are significantly affected by such changes.

In addition, the AU and IOM were found to have approached the perception of sustainable development differently. On the one hand, the IOM claimed that migrants are beneficial for sustainable development, though they also stated that climate change influences migration and affects livelihoods in East Africa and the Global South. On the other hand, the African

Union were shown to have used sustainable development to strengthen resilience in East Africa and adapt to climate change.

Overall, the research helped me understand that sustainable development is not limited to one set of rules. Indeed, the concept can be adapted and modified in numerous ways. Furthermore, international organisations can develop their own understandings based on their role in the international system and subsequently transfer this narrative to other countries or stakeholders. In this research, I focused on analysing the AU and IOM specifically; It is possible that other IOs approach sustainable development differently or emphasise different aspects thereof.

To conclude, there is no universal way to understand or implement sustainable development. Despite two international organisations adhere to similar goals, the analysis results showed that understandings might differ. The IOM tended to refer to migration as a positive or survival strategy, and migration was framed mainly as a positive approach. AU focused on different kinds of adaptation strategies connected with building climate resilience and supporting the land recovery process.

## **Conclusion**

This master's thesis focused on investigating discourse connected to the nexus of climate change, migration and sustainable development and the description of regional actors in East Africa. This master's thesis aimed to investigate and approach regional actors through critical discourse analysis. This research helped discover similarities and differences between two regional organisations focusing on one region and specific topics. This research brought me a new perspective on studying two specific international organisations and understanding their tools to promote norms among norm followers.

To conclude, this research aimed to examine the approach of two IOs. Several issues were identified in both case studies in the context of the first research question, which focused on describing the influence of IOs on norm acceptance and promotion. In the first case study, the IOM stressed the role of migration and migrants in achieving sustainable development goals. Further, the organisation linked the effects of climate change with migration. Overall, the IOM emphasises the need to integrate migration into disaster risk reduction. To a lesser extent, the IOM draws attention to environmental sustainability and supports them in addressing the environmental drivers of migration. The IOM uses a variety of tools for socialisation. The most significant is persuasion. In several analysed documents, the IOM repeated similar claims and recommendations related to migration governance and disaster risk reduction. The IOM was quite active in promoting its know-how and formulating important strategic documents. Further, the signs of social influence were limited. Nevertheless, especially states likely faced peer pressure to less extent. Analysed documents did not provide sufficient proof of social influence.

Concerning the second research question, IOM distinguished several important regional actors such as governments, local authorities, migrants, and cities. The organisation attributed characteristics to each actor and approached them differently. According to, migrants are affected by climate change but are also a driving force of development. The IOM assumed that states and national authorities can change the current situation. For this reason, these regional actors were given support and technical and expert help by the IOM. Further, the organisation emphasised the multi-stakeholder approach in addressing sustainable development goals.

In the second case study, the AU drew attention to building climate resilience and adaptation strategies related to the 7th Goal of the Agenda 2063. Member states were given similar advice and recommendations for water management, sustainable agriculture, and land recovery. The AU is in the position of advisor providing technical assistance. Persuasion was quite visible in AU's actions. For instance, the AU repeatedly strengthened its arguments with providing technical advice and encouraging states to implement sustainable development criteria into national strategies and policy frameworks. In the same way, the AU focused on the local population and provided them with training and raised awareness activities regarding environmental sustainability. In the analysed documents, the AU evaluated progress in achieving goals of the Agenda 2063. The evaluation included different facts and numbers, which means that the AU is well-oriented and knows state capacities and problems. Regarding the approach towards regional actors, the AU significantly emphasised the role of states and local population. For these reasons, the AU addressed most recommendations and pieces of advice to these regional actors.

The most significant differences were found in describing the role of migrants in achieving sustainable development goals. The IOM strived for incorporating migration issues in most of the recommendations. On the other hand, AU focused more on the stability of the local population and improving their livelihoods. Further, the IOM was more general in evaluating progress and making broad recommendations applicable to many countries affected by climate change. In the second case study, the AU used detailed recommendations for specific stakeholders and provides an in-depth evaluation of the progress in environmental sustainability.

In the analysed documents, the IOM briefly mentioned the region of East Africa. For this reason, the interpretation of its actions is more general. Despite all efforts, the results of the analysis could be partly biased. However, I prevent this obstacle by creating a coding scheme and setting selection criteria described in the methodology. Further, the interpretation might have been broader and more in-depth in the context of the socio-political level. In addition, I analysed only one document published by the AU from 2018 due insufficient number of documents available online.

I have chosen this topic for a couple of reasons. Firstly, I wanted to scrutinise how migration and migrants are perceived in the context of climate change and better understand sustainable

development in East Africa, which is affected by the consequences of climate change. This research design enabled me to find more about relations between IOs and different actors for this reason and what each IO emphasises and promotes.

Analysis of two IOs, one of which operates on a global level and the other focuses on the issues of one continent, allowed me to gain better insight into transferring norms and different perspectives of each international organisation. Critical discourse analysis and its tools enabled me to answer both research questions effectively. The analysis division into three dimensions was seminal because the first dimension described the main features attributed to different actors, the second dimension framed the most crucial phenomena in this research, and the third dimension showed various claims and tools.

Further research is needed to determine more detailed studies on migration and sustainable development in East African states and how national and local actors accept and implement norms promoted by IOs. Moreover, exploring how African states perceive migration in the relation to achieving sustainable development goals or commitments would be beneficial. Furthermore, there is a lack of research on the contribution of diaspora and other stakeholders regarding sustainable development and migration as an adaptive strategy. Lastly, future research should focus on comparing and studying different IOs and developing actors operating in East Africa in environmental sustainability.

This research aimed to address the gap in studying two specific international organisations which aim to improve policies in climate resilience, migration management, and sustainable development in East Africa. This research indicates that AU and IOM approach differently towards regional actors. However, they still have similar goals and use similar persuasion techniques. Further, this research contributes to broadening knowledge in understanding norm-setting in East African countries. This research brings new perspectives on issues connected to climate change, migration and sustainable development and the perception of different actors and their roles in the system.

In this research, I discussed the concept of the norm cycle and socialisation. The analysis showed detailed discourse, including relations and promoted norms and claims. The current framework, power relations, and position of different actors and their behaviour correspond to the second phase of the norm cycle described by Finnemore and Sikkink (1998, pp. 902–903). The research results confirmed that IOs play a significant role in promoting norms and



putting themselves in the position of the advocate. Furthermore, the analysis demonstrated that they could use instruments of socialisation through different channels to achieve their goals.

## Summary

The purpose of this master's thesis was to determine how IOs influence the acceptance of norms related to sustainable development and migration in East Africa. Furthermore, this study investigated the relations between IOs and regional actors in East Africa. In the first chapter, the main theoretical concepts were outlined. The norm cycle, as well as the socialisation and social influence, were used in this research.

For the purpose of this research, I have chosen qualitative data analysis. Two international organisations operating in East Africa were selected. Firstly, the IOM is a global organisation addressing migration issues worldwide. Secondly, the AU is a regional organisation focusing primarily on African issues. These two case studies provided in-depth insight into functioning international organisations and their socialisation practices.

Based on predetermined selection criteria, data were collected from databases available on the official websites of both international organisations. It was decided to use critical discourse analysis as the leading method of this research. The coding scheme for interpretation was prepared according to the procedure used by Reisigl and Wodak (2017) and Doty (1993) with a couple of modifications.

Returning to the questions posed at the beginning of this master's thesis, it is now possible to state that the IOM and AU used socialisation to influence norm acceptance and their suggested strategies. Both organisations used persuasion in their approach. For instance, they strengthened their attitudes among different regional actors. Further, the AU evaluated the progress of member states in achieving goals listed in the Agenda 2063, thus exposing them to social influence and peer pressure.

Further, they used their position of authority or advisor to make recommendations and promote specific strategies and claims. However, the IOM drew attention to the connection between the living conditions of migrants, the positive contribution of migration to sustainable development, and natural disaster preparedness. At the same time, the AU focused more on adaptation strategy, improving degraded land, and ensuring food security in at-risk areas.

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## List of Appendices

### Appendix no. 1: List of Analysed Documents

#### IOM

2015

Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Policy Brief Series. 1(9), December 2015, ISSN 2410-4930.

Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Policy Brief Series, 1(5), November 2015. ISSN 2410-4930.

2016

Annual Report for 2015

Assessing the evidence: Migration and Climate change in Kenya

2017

Annual Report for 2016

Migration in the 2030 Agenda

2018

Annual Report for 2017

Migration and the Agenda 2030

2019

Annual Report for 2018

Strategic Vision 2019–2023: Setting course for IOM

2020

Annual Report for 2019

IOM Institutional Strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development



## AU

2015

Reports on sustainable development goals for the Eastern Africa  
NEPAD Annual Report 2015

2016

NEPAD Annual report 2016  
MDGS to Agenda 2063/SDGs Transition Report 2016

2017

Annual results based report 2017  
Implication of the Paris Agreement on Africa

2018

Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018-2019)

2019

Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) – Biennial Review  
Report 2015–2018  
A Blueprint for the implementation of rural transformation policies in Africa

2020

Framework for Irrigation Development and Agricultural Water Management  
African Development Agency - NEPAD Annual Report 2019

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