

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Date: 25 October 2023

Venue: Gaborone, Botswana

### MEDIA ADVISORY

#### The 8<sup>th</sup> PAN AFRICAN FORUM ON MIGRATION (PAFoM-8)

**Theme: “Bolstering Free Movement and Trade Nexus in AFCFTA: Optimizing Benefits of Migration, Labour Migration for Development”**

### INVITATION TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

**What:** The 8<sup>th</sup> PAN AFRICAN FORUM ON MIGRATION (PAFoM-8) under the theme: “Bolstering Free Movement and Trade Nexus in AFCFTA: Optimizing Benefits of Migration, Labour Migration for Development”

**When:** 31 October – 2 November 2023, Royal Aria Convention Centre.

The meeting dates will be as follows:

- a) Ministerial Session: 2<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2023
- b) Senior Officials: 31 October-1<sup>st</sup> of November, 2023.

**Where:** Royal Aria Convention Centre, Gaborone, Botswana

**Who:** The 8<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Forum on Migration (PAFoM8) will be organized by the African Union Commission Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs & Social Development (HHS). The PAFoM-8 will be held under the theme “Bolstering Free Movement and Trade Nexus in AfCFTA: Optimizing Benefits of Migration, Labour Migration for Development”.

The meeting will be attended by Senior Officials and experts of relevant Ministries of AU Member States responsible for Migration, Labour, Trade, Employment, and related areas. Delegates will deliberate on the topical discourse and policies around migration and trade in Africa, with the main objective of improving understanding of the nexus between migration, free movement and trade, by unpacking socio-economic benefits and multiplier development dynamics of these phenomena on the Continent.

#### **Why:**

The Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFOM) is an African Union continental interstates dialogue Framework on Migration that brings together African Union Member States and other relevant stakeholders within the migration space to discuss and deliberate on various topical issues regarding migration and human mobility in Africa. As a continental Migration Governance Conference, this Forum aims at providing an opportunity for AU Member States and RECs, together with other relevant stakeholders to share information, best practices and also learn from each other on ways of improving migration governance in the continent.

PAFOM has been in existence for the last 8 Years and has recently evolved as a premier continental forum that contributes and shapes how migration governance in Africa can be improved for sustainable development as per the AU Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **Objectives and Expected Outcomes:**

The forum aims to:

- 1) Promote an improved understanding of the nexus between migration-labour migration, free movement and trade by unpacking socio-economic benefits and positive multiplier effects of this relationship;
- 2) Provide key recommendations for concrete initiatives that illustrate the nexus between trade and the free movement of people, especially labour, on the continent, and the resultant contribution to continental integration and AfCFTA implementation;
- 3) Stimulate a discourse that highlight labour migration and migration-trade nexus in trade and migration as a catalyst to realize the African Economic Community single market;
- 4) Advance dialogue to deconstruct barriers towards advancement of Free Movement of people in Africa.
- 5) Facilitate discussion to highlight the impact of legal identity and border management on free movement and AfCFTA;
- 6) Explore digital technological advancement for gathering of accurate data and information to generate critical statistics in contexts of Free Movement, Labour Migration and Migration for development.

By the end of this forum, the following will be key outcome of the PAFOM8:

1. Documented experiences and lessons learnt and best practices on migration and trade nexus initiatives are shared and disseminated.
2. Recommendations on strategic catalytic actions for optimizing labour migration to advance AfCFTA developed and affirmed.
3. AU Migration and Labour Migration governance policies and their strategic role in attaining regional integration and promotion of AfCFTA in line with AU 2023 annual theme strategically positioned.
4. Intra-Africa policy sub-themes for migration and labour migration-trade nexus framed and transformed into a syllabus for knowledge production to advance AfCFTA.

#### **Participation at the event:**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Forum on Migration (PAFoM8) will bring together senior officials of AU Member State in-Charge of Migration, Labour, and Climate related issues among other relevant Government departments. The meeting will also bring together other stakeholders including the UN, Academia, media, employers, workers union, civil society organizations, private sector, among others.

***Media representatives are invited to attend and cover the 8th Pan-African Forum on Migration (PAFoM8) in Royal Aria Convention Centre, Gaborone, Botswana***

#### **For media inquiries, please contact:**

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