



Opening Remarks for Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Clementine Mukeka

- Excellencies,
- Distinguished delegates
- Ladies and gentlemen
- Good morning!

- It is an absolute pleasure and honor on behalf of the Government of Rwanda to welcome you all to Kigali! I know many of you have visited Kigali before, so welcome home! It's good to see familiar faces in the room. And for those for whom it is the first time, Karibu sana in the land of a thousand hills and a thousand smiles.

- The Government of Rwanda is honored to host the 7th Pan African Forum on Migration and we hope that deliberations will enable us to have concrete resolutions to build better and more resilient communities.

- Looking at this year's theme: "Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Migration and human mobility in Africa: Building Adaptation Strategies and Resilient Communities". It is a topic of great importance as our populations are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
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- Let us use this opportunity to strengthen our collaborations as a continent and develop strategies that work for us. It is essential that we prioritize these discussions and align ourselves as AU Member States.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

- Climate change continues to induce migration and human mobility on our continent and is expected to increase due to diverse effects of climate change. These links are not only evident but have terrible humanitarian implications.
- We can't pretend that it is not happening any more.
- Droughts, floods, and landslides are the deadliest hazards in Africa and across the world, causing injury, damage to public goods, and destruction of productive land, all of which have long-term economic impacts. Therefore, there is an urgent need to take risk reduction measures to help communities become more resilient to climate shocks.
- Strengthening community resilience requires looking at climate hazards and local topographic conditions simultaneously. Building climate resilience is best done by designing and implementing solutions in an integrated manner, using hard infrastructure measures and nature-based solutions as well as governance solutions and community-based practices.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

- Before I conclude, let me take this opportunity to thank the African Union Commission for organizing this forum and to all of you present for honoring the invitation.
- With these few remarks, I declare this Senior Official Session officially open and wish you fruitful discussions.

Thank you for your kind attention

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