

**Distinguished representative of the Government of Senegal;
Distinguished Delegates representatives of AU Member States,
Distinguished Representatives of RECs,
Distinguished Representative of IOM, ILO, IOM GIMDAC, Statistics
Sweden,
Distinguished Representatives of Development partners,
Colleagues from the AUC;
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

- On behalf of the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC) and AOM, I would like to welcome all of you to Dakar. It is a pleasure and honor to address these remarks at this **Labour Migration Statistics Side Event: Under the Theme “Addressing labour migration data gaps in the 1st-3rd editions of the labour migration statistics reports for better policy development in Africa”** and congratulate the organizers to choice this theme to be debated. I would like to express my gratitude for the government of Senegal for accepting to host this event.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

- As you are aware, it is through data that we can be able to develop evidence based policies to achieve the prospects of the Africa we want. Also, developing and harmonizing migration statistics in Africa plays a significant role towards improved migration governance at national, regional and continental levels.

- **Migration data and statistics have proven to play a pivotal role in the field of migration.** Indeed, the importance of quality, accessible, disaggregated, reliable and timely data to inform policies, actions and public opinions is well recognized and highlighted in multiple international and regional frameworks.
- It is obvious that Africa migrant population has increased steadily in the past decade. Similarly, the number of women and children migrant in Africa becomes high and growing. However, the reliability of producing accurate and reliable gender migration data continues to face challenges at continental, regional and national levels. This is partly due to methodological challenges, including absence of standardized definitions of migrants and migration, variation in data collection methods and the kinds of data gathered, and the difficulty of capturing incidences of undocumented forms of migration.
- The issue of migration is become a political, social and economic challenge for Africa. To address this issue, the Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government adopted two keys instruments for the management of migration in Africa: (i) Joint AU/ILO/IOM/UNECA Labour Migration Statistics Programme (JLMP) and (ii) **New Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA) and its Plan of Action 2018-2030** on eradication of child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery in Africa which calls for quality, reliable and up-to-date statistics at national, regional and continental levels.

- To support this desire of the AU Heads of State and Government, African Union Commission in collaboration of the main stakeholders of JLMP, has produced since 2017, three editions of Labour Migration Statistics Report in Africa. These three editions of the report revealed the problems that African countries encounter in the production of reports, particularly in terms of data disaggregation. In addition, labor migration flows data is almost non-existent at the level of some African countries despite the fact that this phenomenon is important for them.
- It is also noted that data on remittances of migrant workers is very partial at the country level in Africa. Countries are only publishing data on the formal remittances of migrant workers. Despite the fact that informal remittance of migrant worker remittances is very high in African countries, we have very little data on these remittances transfer.
- Thus, we can see that the results of these three editions of the reports on labor migration statistics show that there is a real problem at the level of data in the African countries. To resolve these problems, the African Union Commission, through the Specialized Technical Group (STG) on Migration of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA), is working with African countries for the establishment of methodologies and methods for labor migration.
- The African Union Commission is now working to support African countries in setting up specific labor migration surveys, and also to

introduce labor migration modules in labor force surveys, household surveys, and also population and housing censuses. In addition, the African Union Commission is working with African countries for the use of administrative sources in the production of statistics on labor migration.

- This side event on the sidelines of the Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFOM) will allow an exchange on the problems encountered by African countries in the development of statistics on labor migration, and also to discuss the best approach to be adopted for better data collection for the 4th Edition of the report on statistics on labor migration in Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

- With these policy frameworks in place, the commission looks forward to supporting AU Member States to produce reliable and desegregated data on migrant in African Union and its member states to take appropriate measures to develop policies and action plans to ensure timely detection, identification, and protection of migrant. Further, they will assist in identifying the associated risks for migrant by gender to ensure that adequate, practical, efficient and effective protection rights of migrant.
- In addition, the AU Head of States and Governments took a decision of the establishment of 3 critical Centers in Africa in addition to the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC) mainly, the African

Migration Observatory based in Morocco, the Research and Analysis Migration data in Mali and the Refugees Center based in Sudan.

- The African Migration observatory will ensure synergy of activities in migration statistics, build the capacity of statisticians and specialists in migration, and boost the dialogue between producers and users of migration data.
- Then, collection, management, dissemination, and analysis of migration data are key for establishing evidence-based policies. So, in order to achieve this objective, AMO will coordinate and work closely with STATAFRIC and the strategic partners (IOM/GIMDAC, ILO, SCB, UNECA, etc...) for the improvement of the capacities of AU Member States for the production and management of harmonized, quality and timely gender migration data.
- In light of these acknowledgement and efforts by our leaders, I therefore call upon all stakeholders to collaborate with the Commission to avail comprehensive information on all varieties, volume, directions and contexts of desegregated migration data and in forms that are comparable at national, regional and continental level.
- The observatory, STATAFRIC, the Mali Centre and Sudan Centre are young institutions and ready to collaborate with AU strategic partners and with your support will ensure the achievement of the continent goals of the Ag 2063/ 2030 Agenda of SDG.

- Finally, I am looking forward to having wonderful deliberation with you and wish to reiterate the Commission's willingness to support the implementation of the outcomes from this meeting.

I thank you