

**THE 8TH PAN AFRICAN FORUM ON MIGRATION
(PAFOM 8)**

COMMUNIQUE - GABORONE CLARION CALL

We the Senior Officials responsible for Immigration and Migration, International Cooperation, Trade and Investment, Labour and Employment from AU Member States and RECs; and Members of Parliament from Continental and Regional Institutions of Parliament meeting in Gaborone, Botswana; during the 8th Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFOM) from 31st October to 2nd November 2023; under the theme “Bolstering Free Movement and Trade Nexus in AfCFTA: Optimizing Benefits of Migration, Labour Migration for Development”; under the Chairpersonship of the Republic of Botswana represented by the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Rule Jimmy Opelo and honoured by Hon. Anna Maria Mokgethi, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs during the opening session.

1. Express our appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Rwanda for hosting the 7th PAFOM in Kigali, Rwanda in 2022 and further congratulate the Republic of Botswana for taking on the Chairpersonship of the 8th PAFOM and successfully hosting the Forum in Gaborone, Botswana.
2. Affirm that PAFOM interstate dialogue should be organized bi-annually to provide ample time for Chairpersons to popularize and implement PAFOM recommendations.
3. Commend the leadership of the AU Commission, for coordinating PAFOM and closely collaborating with International Partners to deepen policy discourse geared towards addressing migration, labour migration and trade agenda to support Member States and RECs in Africa.
4. Are mindful of the importance of the Institutions of Parliament to foster the nexus between ‘Free Movement and Trade in the context of AfCFTA with a view to optimizing benefits of Migration, Labour Migration for Development’, through leveraging Parliamentary mandatory roles as the representatives of the people and constituencies; conducting oversight; budget appropriation and allocation; and legislative and law-making.
5. Appreciate the various initiatives, good practices, approaches, tools and methodologies developed by the AUC, RECs, Member States, International Partners, and other stakeholders working on strengthening Africa socio-economic integration.

6. Acknowledge that harnessing and leveraging the gains of free movement, migration and trade in Africa opens opportunities for unlocking and optimizing the positive outcomes of AfCFTA for socio-economic and sustainable development on the Continent towards the achievement of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030.
7. Are well aware of the indispensable and important need to continue the dialogue on the nexus between Free Movement and Trade in AfCFTA: Optimizing Benefits of Migration for Development in line with many of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).
8. Express concern on the status of free movement in Africa with many African Countries remaining generally restrictive on movement of people despite political commitments to remove barriers to enhance free movement of all African citizens in all African countries.
9. Note with concern the lack of adequate capacity to ensure legal identity, and border governance. Also, concerned about limited capacity of some Member States to establish efficient civil registries to confirm the identity of their nationals and implement integrated border management systems, consequently making migrants and labour migrants invisible in the system including achieving the aspirations of the Free Movement Protocol.
10. Note with concern the lack of adequate monitoring, reporting and feedback mechanisms resulting in none and/or poor implementation of resolutions.
11. Taking note of the above and underscoring the plethora of deliberations on the emerging policy propositions, challenges and best practices in bolstering free movement and trade nexus in AfCFTA, we hereby recommend:

On Conversation on the Nexus Trade-Mobility-Labour Migration in the AfCFTA

12. AUC and RECs to provide capacity building and technical assistance, particularly on technology and equipment, in order to address security challenges that may arise with the implementation of the Free Movement Protocol.
13. AUC and RECs to engage with other stakeholders on free movement and free trade, including youth groups, civil society organisations, parliaments, social partners, to encourage governments to implement continental frameworks.
14. Member States to improve the regulatory environment in order to facilitate movement in its full scope, including right of entry, right of residence, and right of establishment.

Further align trade and migration strategies with the AfCFTA and reduce barriers of doing business on the Continent in order to attract investors.

15. Member States to develop local value-chains to optimise resource utilization on the Continent as well as to create employment and quality jobs for the youths.

On Free Movement, Labour Migration and Trade Nexus in the AfCFTA: Empirical Evidence from the AU and Member States' Approaches

16. Member States to harmonize legal instruments and policies in line with the provisions of the Free Movement Protocol.
17. Leverage on existing programs such as the Joint Labour-Migration Programme (JLMP) to expand regular pathways for migrant workers in view of reducing trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.
18. AUC and Member States to strengthen border governance using the databases of Interpol existing in the National Central Bureaus and appropriate and effective border management systems to ensure safe, orderly, and dignified movement in accordance with GCM.
19. Member States to mobilize and allocate budgets for border management infrastructure development across the Continent.
20. AUC, RECs, Member States, and National coordination mechanism on migration (NCMs) to deepen engagements with stakeholders at national, regional and continental levels. Further, deepen engagement with each Member State's lawmakers and policymakers to advance advocacy for the ratification of the protocol.
21. Member States to enhance legal pathways, prevent irregular migration in particular transnational organized crime.

On Civil Registration and Legal Identity

22. AUC and RECs to advocate for the gradual implementation of the Free Movement Protocol based on the Pan-African model.
23. AUC and RECs to advocate for ratification of Free Movement Protocol vis-a-vis the already existing national and regional policies/frameworks for alignment but also to address knowledge gaps and the overall understanding of the Free Movement Protocol. Further, promote positive reciprocity of bilateral and regional existing Free Movement Protocol agreements.
24. AUC to revive the African Union Conference of Ministers responsible for Civil Registration and develop a comprehensive programme to address gaps and challenges of civil registration and legal identity related matters on the Continent.

25. AUC, RECs and International Organizations to build capacity of Member States to develop and/or strengthen civil registration and legal identity systems to allow for social inclusion. Further promote development of complementary civil registration systems among Member States to facilitate interoperability in sharing of information and connectivity.
26. Member States to align civil registration and legal identity policies as well as mutual recognition systems, including streamlining trade and customs procedures, and harmonization of trade rules.
27. Member States to put in place institutional capacity amongst relevant line Ministries and Departments to better plan, budget, advocate and scale up delivery of legal documents, as well as strengthen collaboration between national civil registration offices and national statistical offices.
28. Member States to benchmark and leverage on existing border management information systems at their disposal to strengthen border management functions by fostering regular pathways to facilitate trade and human mobility, while keeping their borders closed to illegal activities. In addition, encourage collaborations amongst Member States and RECs to facilitate integration of border management systems.

On Facilitating Trade, Mobility and Regional Integration through Public-Private Sector Engagement and use of Technology and Innovation.

29. Member States to leverage technology and digital platforms in optimizing the benefits of migration and trade as well as reducing risks associated with these phenomena. Further harness the gains of technology and Artificial Intelligence to augment activities and processes in intra-African trade.
30. AUC to build capacity of Member States and RECs to develop together with the private sector, innovative policies and strategies that attract investment and trade towards the promotion of AfCFTA and regional integration.
31. AUC, Member States and RECs to sensitize the private sector especially SMEs on the Free Movement Protocol and raise awareness on benefits of free movement to facilitate trade for development in the context of the AfCFTA. Further develop and establish initiatives that support and boost SMEs to increase their competitiveness in the Continental Market.
32. Member States and AUC to prioritize and fast track policy initiatives towards establishing a continental simplified trade system that simplifies visa procedures, border procedures as well as payment systems on the Continent.

33. Member States and AUC to work towards the harmonization of data collection and information systems on the Continent to facilitate intra-Africa trade. Furthermore, work towards harmonizing tax laws and consider a single trading currency for African States.
34. Member States and RECs to enhance public-private partnerships to enable public and private stakeholders to discuss issues as and when need arises for purposes of addressing mobility and trade priorities at national and regional levels and leverage on diaspora engagement and resources.

On Parliamentary Engagement: Exchange between RECs and Parliamentarians on Free Movement, Labour Migration and Trade Nexus.

35. AUC to leverage the convening powers of Continental and Regional Parliaments to convene inter-REC meetings and further encourage Regional Parliaments to inspire National Parliaments to seriously consider advocating for the increased ratification of the Free Movement Protocol at the national level.
36. AUC, Member States and RECs to strengthen engagement of Members of Parliament on issues of migration and mobility, trade and regional integration.
37. Encourage Member States to involve the Members of Parliament in the implementation of communication and sensitization initiatives aiming at sharing positive impacts on migration and mobility, trade and regional integration.
38. RECs to further support Member States including the National Parliaments to develop legal pathways for migration in order to ensure the protection of the rights of migrants.
39. AUC to create coordination mechanisms between RECs secretariats and Regional Parliaments to advance continental integration agenda.

We the Senior Officials responsible for Immigration and Migration, International Cooperation, Trade and Investment, Labour and Employment from AU Member States, and Members of Parliament from Continental and Regional Institutions of Parliament support the implementation of the action points in this Communiqué.

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