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**VALIDATION MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS OF AU MEMBER STATES
AND RECs FOR THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION (GCM) IN AFRICA (2025 –
2028)**

28 - 29 AUGUST 2024,

ACCRA, GHANA

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

I. BACKGROUND

Mobility in Africa has been an inherent feature of most African indigenous societies. Historically, most communities in Africa moved from one part of the society to another for various reasons including search for food, pasture, water while others moved for family reunification and trade. In modern day African Society, migration in Africa is characterized by both regular and irregular migration patterns. While much of the mobility is intra African, international migration out of the region is characterized by various push and pull factors. Today, people keep moving in search of education and jobs; while others move as a result of conflicts and climate change.

However, such movement comes opportunities and challenges to sending, transit and receiving countries. Given the importance and contribution of migration to Africa's development and its accompanying challenges- when it is not well managed, the African Union Member states acknowledge the need for managing migration in a harmonized way. The Global Compact on Migration (GCM) is an important framework for enhanced migration management in the continent. After the adoption of the GCM in 2018, the African Union Commission (AUC) initiated a process of bringing coherence in the implementation of the GCM in line with the aspiration of the AU Agenda 2063 by drafting a Plan of Action in the Implementation of GCM. This will enhance a harmonized framework on how the GCM will be implemented in the continent. The Plan of Action (PoA) for GCM implementation in Africa has identified key priorities of the GCM and provides a guide to Member States (MS), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other stakeholders on what the continent should focus on in the next three years, based on the continent's needs and aspirations.

As directed by the 3rd STC on Migration, Refugees and IDPs (STC-MRI) in 2022, this Plan of Action also takes cognizance of lessons learnt during the 1st International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) that was held in New York in 2022. The PoA therefore not only identifies Priorities that have featured in various round table discussions on GCM implementation in other regions; but also proposes key areas based on Africa's migration governance interest and priorities. As such, this Draft Plan of Action envisages a whole of government and whole of society approach in the implementation of the GCM in Africa and will play a key role towards a harmonized approach in the review, reporting of the implementation of this Compact in the continent. It will also provide a basis for the preparations of future Continental Review Forums at national, regional and continental levels as well as the forthcoming International Migration Review Forums once adopted by Member States.

The AUC together with IOM and GIZ are therefore hosting a second validation meeting of the Plan of the Action after a successful online validation meeting that held on 24 to 25 June, 2024. This follow up meeting will be held in Accra, Ghana from 28 to 29 August 2024. The meeting will present an opportunity for Senior Officials from selected AU Member States Regions to review the revised GCM PoA. This will be in preparation for submission to the upcoming STC-Migration, Refugees and IDPs, where this Plan of Action will be considered. The meeting will also reflect on the continental review process of the GCM in preparation to the upcoming GCM continental review meeting to be held on 9-10 October 2024 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Participants will have an opportunity to reflect on the key agenda of the meeting for them to prepare accordingly.

II. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the meeting will be for Member States to:

- a) Review the Revised draft 2 Plan of Action and provide their inputs in order to enrich the document in preparation for the 4th STC on Migration, Refugees and IDPs before the end of the year.
- b) Validate the Draft 2 Plan of Action in preparation for the STC.
- c) Reflect on the GCM Continental Review Process and its complementarity with the POA.

III. FORMAT OF THE MEETING

The Validation meeting will run from **28 to 29 August 2024** in **Accra, Ghana**. The 2-day meeting will be in person and will be divided into several sessions with presentations, break out session and plenary sessions for the PoA on the first day and more general discussions on the second day on issues related to the GCM implementation and review.

IV. EXPECTED OUTCOME

It is anticipated that the Validation Meeting will bring the following expected outcome:

- a) A revised and validated GCM Implementation Plan of Action by Member States and RECs.
- b) Agreed common understanding on how the forthcoming GCM Continental Review process will be conducted.

V. LANGUAGE

The meeting will be conducted in all AU languages.

VI. PARTICIPANTS

The validation meeting will bring together senior officials from selected AU Member States Regions and RECs in charge of migration and human mobility from their respective departments and Ministries. Other participants will include invited Experts from the UN Network on Migration including IOM, who will jointly be hosting the meeting together with the Commission in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit/ GIZ).

VII. DOCUMENTATION

- i. Revised Draft 2 of the Plan of Action for the Implementation of GCM in Africa (2025 – 2028).
- ii. Common African Position (CAP) on the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular Migration.
- II. The Revised Migration Policy Framework for Africa - MPFA (2018 - 2030).
- III. Report of the AU Senior Officials Virtual Validation Workshop of the Plan of Action on the Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) in Africa (2025 – 2028).