

UNION AFRICANA UNIÃO AFRICANA

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CLOSING REMARKS BY DR. JAPHET LISHOMWA

Director General

Department of Immigration, Zambia and Chair 4th STC on Migration, Refugees and IDPs

AT THE

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

- Ms. Doreen P. Annan, Ag. Chief Director, Ministry of Interior, Government of the Republic of Ghana,
- Ms. Angela Martins, Ag. Director for the Department of Social Development, Culture and Sports, African Union Commission
- Ms. Cisse Mariama Mohamed, Director, IOM Special Liaison Office to the AUC and UNECA
- Ms. Franziska Jebens, Representative, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Accra
- Senior Experts and Delegates from AU Member States
- Representatives from AU RECs Secretariats
- Representatives of International Organizations
- Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

As we come to the close of this crucial two-day validation meeting for the Draft Plan of Action on the Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) in Africa (2025 – 2028), I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all senior officials here present for your active participation, invaluable insights, and unwavering commitment to shaping the future of migration governance in Africa.

I would like to extend my appreciation to our hosts, the Government of Ghana, for their warm hospitality. My gratitude also goes to our partners IOM and GIZ for their support in organizing this meeting.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Over the past two days, we have engaged in thorough discussions and collaborative efforts to review and validate the Draft 3-Year Plan of Action and the and the Revised African Common Position on Migration and Development (ACPMD). Your expertise and diverse perspectives have been instrumental in refining these critical documents, ensuring that they align with the aspirations of AU Agenda 2063 and addresses the unique migration dynamics of national governments.

Key outcomes of our meeting include:

- i. A comprehensive review of the Draft 3-Year Plan of Action and the and the Revised African Common Position on Migration and Development (ACPMD), enriched by your inputs and reflections.
- ii. Validation of the Draft Plan of Action and the Revised African Common Position on Migration and Development, setting a solid

foundation for their endorsement at the upcoming 5th Specialized Technical Committee on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons this year 2024.

These achievements mark a significant step towards a harmonized and effective approach to migration management across Africa. The Documents we have collectively shaped will serve as a guiding framework for Member States, RECs, and other stakeholders in implementing the GCM and Migration Governance policies in general.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

As we conclude the meeting, let us remember that our work here is not just about policies and frameworks; it's about improving the lives of millions of African migrants and the communities they touch. With this GCM Plan of Action and the revised African Common Position, we are one step closer to realizing a future where migration is a choice, not a necessity, and where the rights and dignity of all migrants are protected and respected.

The decisions we make and the consensus we reach in this room will resonate far beyond these walls, potentially touching the lives of millions across our continent and beyond. Let us carry the momentum from this meeting into our respective roles and responsibilities, working tirelessly to ensure safe, orderly, and regular migration that contributes to the sustainable development of our continent.

I thank you all for your dedication and hard work. Safe travels as you return to your respective Countries, and I look forward to our continued collaboration in implementing these streams of work.

Thank you.