

**AFRICAN UNION SENIOR OFFICIALS' VALIDATION WORKSHOP OF THE  
PLAN OF ACTION ON THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND  
REGULAR MIGRATION**

28 – 29 AUGUST 2024  
ACCRA, GHANA

**Closing remarks: Chief of Mission, IOM Ghana, Benin and Togo**

Mrs Doreen P. Annan, Acting Chief Director, Ministry of the Interior, the Republic of Ghana,

Dr Jeff Lishomwa, DG Department of Immigration, Zambia and STC Chair on Migration, Refugees and IDPs

Ms Angela Martins, Acting Director for the Department of Social Development, Sports and Culture, AUC

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

- I would like, on behalf of IOM, to thank the African Union Commission for organizing this validation meeting. The initiative undertaken by African Member States to develop a plan of action to support the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration are commendable and demonstrate their commitment to the GCM aspirations.
  
- The discussions here have been very rich, and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the very constructive suggestions to the working documents – notably the Plan of Action for the implementation of the GCM and the Common Position on Migration and Development for Africa. Congratulations to you all for that. My special commendation to the delegation from Ghana again, for the active participation and contribution as well.

- As mentioned in the opening segment of this meeting, migration is a national, regional and global issue. While it is acknowledged that migration cannot be stopped, it is a phenomenon that needs to be well managed in order to harness its benefits. Furthermore, migration is an issue about people – people who have ambitious dreams for a better life but sometimes may be subjected to exploitation and abuses in the process.
- I am happy to note that these issues have been addressed in the two documents and in particular in the GCM Plan of Action that is guided by the GCM Principles – one of which is to have a people-centered approach to all actions around migration.
- The understanding that migration – and migrants - can constitute a resource rather than be seen as a security issue is key as we forge the way forward. I am equally happy to note that this issue was highlighted during the two-day workshop.
- The younger generation in particular, who are constantly searching for a brighter future, should be offered the possibility to build their own success in their country, in their region or abroad, without having to compromise their safety, their skills or their values.
- These past two days you have discussed African priorities – your priorities – for migration governance and management, and how the Compact can help you to achieve them – let me draw out a couple of common threads from the two days:
  - You have acknowledged that the GCM Plan of Action provides a framework and guideline for member states as they seek to develop their individual action plans at national level based on their local contexts while taking into consideration the existing instruments and frameworks for migration.
  - Recognizing that the discussions which have taken place over the past two days are coming right before the forthcoming Africa Continental Reviews, it

is clear that Member States are committed to promoting good migration governance across the African continent in line with the GCM vision.

- It is my hope that most if not all of you represented here will be able to physically participate in the reviews in Addis Ababa as we look forward to vibrant discussions to harness the promise of migration.
- Lastly, a huge thank you for the government of Ghana for hosting this meeting and for providing every assistance requested at a short notice. My special thanks to the Ministry of Interior, in particular, for all the support they provided for this meeting.

I thank you!

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