



**CLOSING REMARKS BY**

**Mrs. Angela Martins**

**Ag. Director, Social Development, Culture and Sports  
African Union Commission (AUC)**

**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**

- **Mrs. Doreen P. Annan**, Acting Chief Director, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Ghana
- **Dr Jeff Lishomwa**, Director General of Immigration for the Republic of Zambia and STC Chair for Migration, Refugees and IDPs
- **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
- Experts from AU Member States
- Representatives from AU RECs
- Representatives of International Organizations

### **Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen**

As we gather on this final day of our Expert meeting, I must admit with a lot of appreciation the rich exchange of ideas and contributions that this meeting has elicited to enrich the draft documents. I am happy to have witnessed vibrancy, honest and professional engagement of distinguished delegates for the last two days. We have not only provided justice for the draft documents but have also shown keen interest to apply our knowledge and experiences to improve the quality of these documents.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for your dedication and time. I wish to assure you that we will capture all your inputs and guidance to the two documents as we prepare for the STC on Migration, Refugees and IDPs. I also wish to commit to you that we will share the documents as soon as possible so that you have adequate time to go through the revised versions, consult widely and be prepared for the STC.

### **Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen**

While this validation meeting has been a success, thanks for your attendance and active participation, it will be effortless if we don't available ourselves to attend the upcoming STC on Migration, Refugees and IDPs. As a Statutory body, the STC is an AU Decision making committee that will consider all these documents and adopt them accordingly. I call upon you to consider attending the Experts meeting of the STC so that we can have the continuity of the rich discussions we have had so far in that session.

From experience, having the same experts in the STC gives credit to the validation meetings and provide that required continuity of the subject

matter. If for some reasons you may not be able to attend, I call upon you to brief relevant colleagues and your Principals accordingly. This will make our work much easier and smoother.

### **Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen**

I wish to thank the Government of Ghana for their support and active participation in this meeting. It has been great to note that colleagues from different departments in the Government actively engaging in the meeting. This is something that need to be emulated by all of us when hosting AU Meetings. I also wish to congratulate Ghana for developing your Action Plan on the implementation of the GCM and hope that with the experience in this meeting, you will have an opportunity to refine the document and also provide leadership within ECOWAS in developing a regional Plan of Action.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues in the department, led by Dr Sabelo for their wonderful support in successfully pulling this meeting. Your collective and individual efforts portray what team work is all about. You have exhibited high level of professional acumen and standards that have contribute greatly in successfully hosting this meeting.

### **Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish to thank our partners, IOM and GIZ (both country office and Regional ones) for your exemplary support to this meeting. Allow me to take make a special mention to Mr. Nii Andy, the Director for GIZ 'Shaping the development -oriented migration Program (MEG) for agreeing to partner with us in hosting this meeting. It is a pity that he can not join due to the loss of his brother. I pray that God give him solace during this difficult time and pray that we continue with this collaboration of supporting AU Member States and RECs in implementation of the GCM and other migration governance issues in the near future.

As you prepare to depart to your respective places and countries, I wish you all journey mercies and looking forward to see you again in future.

I thank you.