

WELCOME REMARKS BY THE MINISTER FOR THE INTERIOR, HON. HENRY QUARTEY (MP) AT THE AFRICAN UNION SENIOR OFFICIALS' VALIDATION MEETING FOR THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION IN AFRICA, ACCRA, 28TH AUGUST, 2024

The Director-General, Department of Immigration of Zambia and Chair on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons,

The Chief of Mission, IOM Ghana, Togo and Benin,

The Representative from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany,

The Acting Director Department of Social Development, Sports and Culture of the African Union Commission,

Senior Officials from the Member States,

Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corp

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning.

On behalf of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo-Dankwa Akufo-Addo and the Minister for the Interior, Hon. Henry Quartey, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to this Validation meeting which aims at finalizing the continent's Plan of Action for the implementation of it's part of the Global Compact for

Safe, Orderly and regular Migration adopted by the United Nations in December, 2018.

Let me from the onset thank the African Union Commission for choosing Ghana and in particular Accra as the location for this meeting. This meeting comes on the heels of an Informal Cross-Regional Dialogue of the Global Compact on Migration held in Accra in November 2023 participated by over 27 Champion Countries to share their experiences in their implementation of the Compact.

Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen

The Compact presents our safest anchor for the effective management of international and internal migration. In Ghana, the compact is helping us ensure consistency across policy domains by integrating migration into our national development plans working with relevant areas and levels of government, including civil society and the academia. Migration has been integrated into our national development policy framework. Further, broad consultations with stakeholders have been held to formalise a National Implementation Plan for the GCM in Ghana.

Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen

Despite the modest gains, a lot remains to be done in terms of implementation. The Government through the Ministry of the Interior, has finalised a National Coordinating Mechanism (NCM) for the

Implementation of the GCM and most importantly, coordinating all migration-related activities. Hopefully, beyond its coordinating functions, the NCM which was launched in November 2023 provides the platform for dialogue and collaboration for actors working on migration in Ghana.

Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen

Globally, while millions of migrants and displaced persons have been factored in national development planning, far too many have been left behind. This has been exacerbated by the triple forces of climate change, conflicts and violent extremism.

For instance, climatic and environmental factors are increasing drivers of rural-urban migration, and food insecurity and destabilizing already vulnerable communities. With a large population depending directly on agriculture, the impacts of localized disasters are likely to have even greater accumulated impacts on rural livelihoods over time as a consequence of climate change. Ghana is most at risk of droughts, coastal erosion, floods and landslides. According to the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) for Ghana, over 100,000 people were displaced due to climate change events and spillovers from the Sahelian region between 2022 and 2023.

As we gather to discuss the GCM implementation, we need to take into account the multi-dimensional nature of the challenges that confront

the world today – including direct and indirect effects of violent extremism, growing food insecurity and impacts of climate change.

Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen

While migrants are at the receiving end of these catastrophic challenges, they represent an important resource in finding solutions to these problems. For instance, under the leadership of His Excellency the President, Ghana has developed a Diaspora Engagement Policy that will aim to catalyse the developmental potential of the diaspora for Ghana's economic growth. Further, H.E the President of Ghana, launched the now famous 'Year of Return' and 'Beyond the Return', as a way to engage the Ghanaian diaspora in our national development process leading to the granting of citizenship to over 250 persons from the Caribbean, Europe and Americans who traced their lineage to Ghana. Through these initiatives, we are recognising the rights of migrants and their role as key players in our national development

Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen

Ghana is committed to working with the African Union to ensure the meaningful implementation of the GCM. This way, we will be in position to effectively coordinate migration on the continent in ensuring a whole of society, a whole of government and respect for the human rights of migrants. Ghana is committed to the GCM

processes through the implementation of its National Migration Policy, the National Labour Migration and the recently adopted Diaspora Engagement policy.

Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen

To conclude, I will like to urge you, during deliberations for the next two days focus your attention on forging of the right partnerships, in the spirit of the SDGs, towards the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, Regular and Responsible Migration to ensure that major outcomes from this meeting do not remain in our files as a conference report.

I thank you all for your attention and wish all of us a fruitful discussion.

Once again I say AKWAABA!