



**WELCOME REMARKS**

**BY**

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**and Chair 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

**ALISA HOTEL,**

**ACCRA, GHANA**

- Mrs 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 the UN and other International Organizations
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this very important 2<sup>nd</sup> Validation Meeting of the Draft Plan of Action on the Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).

First, allow me to use this opportunity to thank the Government of Ghana for hosting this meeting. I further extend my appreciation to the African Union Commission for the significant work done in pushing forward the implementation of the GCM in Africa; through the development of the Draft Plan of Action that will go a long way in supporting AU Member States and RECs in addressing the challenges and opportunities of migration governance in Africa once adopted.

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

We gather today with the aim to review and validate the Draft Plan of Action for the Implementation of the GCM in Africa for the years 2025 to 2028. This document represents not just a policy framework, but a roadmap for our collective future, one that will shape how we approach the complex issues of human mobility across our diverse and dynamic Continent.

Human Mobility has shaped the very socio-economic fabric of our Continent posing diverse opportunities and challenges in our sustainable development aspirations. While African Human mobility has fostered family reunification, promote inter-continental trade, skills transfer and other related benefits including remittances for development in our

countries, we still face a myriad of challenges associated with irregular mobility in the continent.

A lot of progress has been made in continent towards building a vibrant and harmonized policy framework to support AU member States and RECs in promoting safe, regular and orderly migration. The Migration Policy Framework in Africa (MPFA) has provided a good basis for States in Africa to review their national policies to enable a vibrant environment to manage migration in their countries.

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

To compliment these efforts, the Global Compact for Migration, adopted in 2018, provides us with additional policy tool to enhance migration management across our Continent. Through its various Objectives, it identifies critical areas of cooperation and intervention by States to address both regular and irregular mobility.

As a continent, it is important to have a harmonized approach in implementing this Compact through an operational Plan. This will not only ensure that we jointly identify areas of focus within a given timeline but also ensure we remain coordinated in the review and reporting of the GCM for effective participation in the International Migration Review Forum in New York.

The Draft Plan of Action on the implementation of the GCM serves this purpose. It not only identifies key priorities of the GCM for our implementation but also builds a community of knowledge within national structures and also at the continental levels. This Plan of Action represents our collective commitment to addressing migration in a comprehensive, holistic manner that respects human rights and recognizes the potential of migration to contribute to sustainable development.

The Plan of Action further stands as a guide to Member States, RECs, and other stakeholders in embracing a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, which is essential for effective migration governance. By identifying Continent-specific priorities and proposing key areas based on Africa's migration governance interests, we are ensuring that our unique context and needs are addressed.

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

Over the next two days, we have important targets to achieve. First, we will further review and enrich the draft Plan of Action. This document is the result of extensive consultations, and a successful online 1<sup>st</sup> validation meeting held last month, 18-19 June 2024. Your expertise and insights are crucial in refining this plan to ensure it rightly reflects Africa's needs and priorities.

Second, we aim to validate this document in preparation for the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Specialized Technical Committee on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. In my capacity as the incumbent STC Chair, I emphasize that this step is critical in moving the Plan of Action towards its adoption by Member States.

Third, we will further review and deliberate on the revised African Common Position on Migration and Development (ACPMD) which was initially reviewed in July 2024 at the 'Benchmarking and Capacity Building Meeting for AU Member States and RECs Focal Points on Migration Governance' in Cotonou, Benin.

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

As I conclude, I encourage all of you to actively participate. As we begin our deliberations, let us keep in mind the millions of African migrants whose lives will be impacted by the decisions we make and the plans we put in place. Our responsibility is great, but so too is our opportunity to shape a future where migration is safe, orderly, and regular, contributing to the prosperity and development of our beloved Continent.

I look forward to the productive discussions, meaningful outcomes that will ensue. Wishing you successful deliberations.

I thank you