



OPENING REMARKS BY

Mrs. Angela Martins

**Acting 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

I gives me pleasure and honor to join you all in this meeting to validate the Draft Plan of Action for the implementation of the GCM in Africa. On the onset, I wish to thank the Government of Ghana for accepting to host this meeting in this beautiful city of Accra. I also wish to thank our partners, IOM and GIZ for their technical and financial support towards successfully hosting this meeting. This meeting is a commendable example of how the three institutions can leverage their mandates and organizational capacities for mutual benefits.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Global Compact for Migration is a policy document that guides on how States should manage migration and human mobility at the national and international levels. It not only provides policy prescriptions on how States can collaborate on migration issues, but also work together in addressing challenges associated with irregular migration. The GCM is the first International policy framework that provides a clear normative structure on how good migration governance should look like.

It is therefore imperative for the continent to device an innovative way in which the Compact can effectively be implemented. This implementation tool should also provide guideline on key priorities to be focused on within a particular timeline while at the same time providing clarity on how States can collaborate and build partnerships among them. This is what the Draft Plan of Action that is before you, seeks to achieve.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

This meeting of Experts is another wonderful opportunity before us to fine tune this Draft to enable it to reflect to our collective aspirations. We need to look at this document in a most practical and pragmatic way since once adopted we shall be tasked in implementing it. It will also be important to jointly agree on how future review process should look like once the Plan of Action has been adopted by AU member States during the upcoming STC on Migration, Refugees and IDPs.

In all these, we are guided by the Pan-African ideology that this process is an AU Member State driven process, for African migrants by Africans. We are also guided by the understanding that migration is key to social and economic development, benefiting migrants, countries of origin, transit and destination. Realization of these developmental benefits requires that migration must be managed in ways that promote sound migration policies and practices at a national, regional and continental level.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

As I conclude, allow me to commend the Government of the Republic of Ghana that has stood out as one of the leading countries in implementation of the GCM. This is evident in their recent development and consideration of its National Action Plan on the implementation of the GCM.

Such a good and exemplary efforts need to emulated by all other AU member States and RECs as well. We hope this Draft Plan of Action will provide the necessary guidance of how National Action Plans should be developed. We acknowledge the fact that each Member States have their own national priorities in the implementation of the GCM. It is however important that we all have a harmonized approach, through the Plan of Action that we can all be inspired from. This will enable us to be well coordinated in our reporting and reviewing mechanism.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

As I conclude, I wish once again to thank all of you for finding time to attend this meeting. I also wish to appreciate the Government of the Republic of Ghana for their kind reception and agreeing to join us in this meeting.

I wish you all a wonderful deliberation and looking forward for a vibrant discussion and exchange of best practices during our two days.

I thank you

End.