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# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Africa

### Regional review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Rabat (online) 31 August and 1 September 2021

## I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 73/326, the General Assembly encouraged member States to consider presenting the results of their reviews of progress in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration<sup>3</sup> on a voluntary basis, drawing on contributions from all relevant stakeholders, as part of their national statements at the International Migration Review Forum, the first of which would be held in 2022.
2. In preparation for the first International Migration Review Forum, the



## **A. Background**

5. Pursuant to paragraph 50 of the Global Compact and resolution 73/326, the regional economic commissions and other relevant regional stakeholders were invited

12. Among other expected outcomes, Mr. Prentice expressed his hope that the Global Compact review process and that all who were involved would be ambitious, that the meeting would conclude with concrete recommendations on what needed to be done, and that migrants and their communities would truly be placed at the centre of conversation during the meeting.

13. The Director of the Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development of the African Union Commission, Mariama Mohamed Cisse, noted that African States had made progress in implementing the Global Compact despite the COVID-19 pandemic. She mentioned that the draft African Union plan of action to implement the Global Compact would be submitted at the upcoming meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons and urged that African States receive support in Geneva and New York to ensure success in Global Compact implementation.

14. The Senior Regional Advisor for Africa at IOM, Aissata Kane, said that the Global Compact was a shared vision that well governed migration could benefit migrants at their points of origin, transit and destination. The Global Compact, if well implemented, would help to build a more inclusive platform to transform migration into an opportunity. The implementation of the Global Compact provided an occasion for African States to build on the demographic dividend and to partner with young people and women in addressing the gender and human rights dimensions of migration governance. It would also shift the narrative by emphasizing the positive contribution that migration makes to development.

15. A representative of the major group for young people and children, Immanuel Clifford, highlighted the importance of young people in the successful implementation of the Global Compact. Young people needed to be given access to documentation, without which they faced barriers in gaining access to education, health care, jobs and other services in countries of destination. While young people wanted to contribute to development in countries of destination, they faced restricted access to job opportunities.

## **B. Summary and key messages**

### **1. Thematic round table 1: Ensuring that migration is voluntary, orderly, and regular**

#### **Background**

16. , with nearly 80 per cent of Africans migrants moving within the region. The latter shows the potential of migration development, economic growth and transformation. The Global Compact provides an unprecedented opportunity. African States need to be empowered to implement it, with a focus on the well-being of migrant workers and the potential of migration as an asset to development.

#### **Discussion**

17. Participants noted that labour migration was an asset, and, as such, the private sector should be involved in the identification of the skills required by industries that could be supplied through migration. The importance of building the capacity of employer organizations at the national level was also highlighted.

18. While COVID-19 had



24. On labour migration governance, African States should:

(a) Strengthen understanding of the potential of migration to drive development and transformation on the continent;

(b) Promote the formulation and implementation of evidence- and rights-based, gender-responsive migration policies through a social dialogue, along with a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach. Such policies should be aligned with national policies on skills, employment and national development, and they should



engagement of the diaspora, and builds a strong foundation for the collection of comprehensive data on migrants.

36. The contribution of migrants to both origin and receiving areas was highlighted in the discussions.

and processing documentation. Data paucity continues to inhibit the monitoring of progress.

**Recommendations**

43. To improve value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate and enhance cooperation on migration, African States should:

(a) Strengthen international cooperation for the effective management of migration flows through partnerships (e.g., with United Nations agencies);

(b) Strengthen data collection through the integration of migration questions into national censuses and surveys to generate a better understanding of the profile of migrants;

(c) Promote the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on regular migration pathways and labour migration to inform policies and identify





**C. Session 4: Key findings from subregional reports**

59. The following issues emerged from the countries that are members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development:

(a) The 2021 meeting on the regional consultative process of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development had focused on the implementation and review of the Global Compact;

(b) Migration had gained prominence both at the regional and national levels.

65. Migration data on the continent were becoming increasingly available. African States should ensure that migration data were collected as part of national censuses collect. With the data that is currently available, levels of migration, trends and differentials could be measured as an initial step in policy formulation. Most of migration on the continent was for economic reasons and Africa had the capability to generate such information.

**E.**

