

KENYA

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND COORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT,
HON. PATRICK KETURET OLE NTUTU, DURING THE 11TH GLOBAL FORUM FOR
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (GFMD) MEETING OF 5TH - 7TH DECEMBER
AND THE ADOPTION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION (GCM)
SUMMIT 10TH - 11TH DECEMBER 2018, IN MARRAKESH, MOROCCO**

Special Representative of the Secretary-General,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta and the people of Kenya, I want to thank the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for the exceptionally warm reception and hospitality accorded to the Kenyan delegation since our arrival in this great Kingdom. We also thank the GFMD, individual governments, the civil society, the academia and the private sector for their roles in the intergovernmental negotiations culminating in this historic summit of the adoption of the first ever Global Compact on Migration (GCM).

Kenya supports the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) and reaffirms its commitments made during the New York Declaration in September 2016. The cardinal objective of the Compact is to make significant contribution to global governance, enhance cooperation and coordination on international migration.

We urge the rest of the world to adopt the Global Compact for Migration because its 23 objectives present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on all categories of migrants. The Compact provides both state and non-state actors with the requisite tools for addressing the myriad migration challenges and for harnessing the many opportunities associated with it in a Safe, Orderly and Regular way.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

It is the sincere commitment of the Government of the Republic of Kenya to implement the objectives of the Global Compact on Migration within the limits of its resource capacity and its sovereign right to determine who and what can be granted territorial access within its borders. Since the New York Declaration, Kenya has made remarkable progress in the implementation of the objectives of the GCM.

Appreciating the Whole-of-Government approach principle in migration governance, the Government of the Republic of Kenya has established a National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) which is a government-led interagency platform, whose objective is to bring together both state and non-state migration Stakeholders, for continuous dialogue and cooperation on migration and related issues.

Following the success of the NCM in managing migration in Kenya, the model is a trailblazer in our region, and is setting the pace for similar mechanisms at the regional and continental level. In this regard, Kenya stands ready not only to showcase this good practice, but also to share the lessons we have learnt in this process. I believe this is a positive contribution to the implementation of the international co-operation principle on migration management reiterated in the GCM.

Addressing the objective on **Ensuring that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation**, in 2016 the government of Kenya, in line with the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA), contributed to reducing statelessness by granting citizenship to 1,495 *Makonde* people who had remained stateless for a long period.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

The Government of Kenya appreciates the important role evidence-based policies play in the effective management and governance of migration. I am happy to report that we are at an advanced stage of developing our National Migration Policy, which advocates for the integration of migration concerns into national development strategies. The policy also upholds our national interests by enhancing the economic, social and human development through proper migration management.

Kenya is cognizant of the importance of training and research on migration. Subsequently, we have entered into partnership with the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance in Netherlands and the University of Nairobi to develop curriculum for Post-Graduate Diploma in Migration Studies.

With Technical support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services is in the process of establishing an Institute of Migration Studies in Kenya. This Institute will serve as a regional centre for training and research on migration, and will strengthen existing regional and sub-regional data and research centres on migration and migration observatories. We welcome others with similar interests to collaborate with us.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

As you may be aware, the Government of Kenya has reviewed the visa regime in line with the Presidential Decree of November 2017, requiring citizens of East African Partner States to move, settle and work in Kenya without hindrance, and those of other African countries to obtain visas on arrival at the ports of entry. I am convinced that this will enhance the flexibility of pathways for regular migration in our region. To this effect, I urge other member states and regions to emulate the Kenyan gesture and embrace free movement of persons regimes.

In line with the GCM objectives, the Government of Kenya has also embraced coordinated and integrated border management approaches, such as integrating One Stop Border Posts, which will ensure effective and efficient facilitation of international travel and trade.

Kenya's Diaspora Policy, together with the strategy on *reducing the High Cost of Remitting Money* and the *Nairobi Action Plan on Remittances* demonstrate Kenya's commitment to

promote faster, safer and cheaper remittances, which have undoubtedly become the number one source of foreign exchange for Kenya.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates, In order to minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin, the Government of Kenya has created wider latitude in its democratic space, structures and principles for national values and national cohesion for an inclusive society. These include:

- Ways and means of taming conflictual struggle for political power before, during and after competitive electoral process, have been devised in the famous Building Bridges Initiative by H.E. the President and the opposition Leader.
- It is in the interest of Kenya that neighboring countries attain peace. We invest enormous economic resources and devote diplomatic efforts to mitigate conflicts in the neighboring countries in order to reduce the stream of refugees and migrants in the region.
- The Kenya constitution makes provision for comprehensive Bill of Rights that addresses structural inequalities and all kinds of discrimination among citizens and migrants.
- The Government of the Republic of Kenya has put in place what we call the 'Big Four Agenda' whose objectives cut across all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Agenda is to provide:
 - a) Affordable healthcare for all
 - b) Affordable and decent housing
 - c) Manufacturing for value addition and job creation
 - d) Food security to reduce and eventually eliminate hunger
- The Big Four Agenda is a five years development blue print and the Government is committed to ensuring that its resources serve the achievement of its objectives. This will, in turn, reduce drivers of migration that compel people to leave their country of origin.

Finally, Ladies and gentlemen, the Government of the Republic of Kenya is aware of various concerns that have been raised by some stakeholders and states regarding the final objectives of the Global Compact on Migration, their implementability and the impact on the application of the Sovereign duty and right of States to manage the admission of non-citizens into their territories. Where-as we appreciate and identify with some of these concerns, it is our Government's belief that the global community is better-off with the Compact as negotiated than without one, and in this case, without any global general guidelines on Migration Management. As an aspirational document, we understand that States now have "a ready-to-refer to" document that will guide and inform Migration Governance at both the International and National levels. Furthermore, my delegation believes that there will be periodic and regular reviews of the GCM at which some of the concerns may be addressed. It is, therefore, my sincere hope that as we embark on the crucial phase of implementing the objectives of the GCM, the international community will embrace similar or better policies that will foster enhanced international co-operation on migration governance to make migration a positive sum game where all become winners, and no one is left behind. Thank you for your attention.