

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



Rwanda Statement by

Hon Dr. Richard Sezibera, Minister of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation

at the conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe,
Orderly and Regular Migration: Marrakech (Morocco)

- . **Excellency, Secretary-General of the United-Nations;**
- . **Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;**
- . **Representatives of International Organizations and the Diplomatic Corps;**
- . **Honorable Ministers and other government officials;**
- . **Distinguished guests;**
- . **Ladies and gentlemen;**

I have the honour to be here on behalf of His Excellency, Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and Chairperson of the African Union, to participate in this Intergovernmental Conference, which is an important milestone towards a comprehensive response to the issue of International Migration. President Kagame wishes this conference success.

The adoption of this Conference's Global Compact is an important step to concerted action on what is, clearly, an issue that requires our collective action.

Historically, migrants have built dynamic societies and countries. They have been sources of innovation, dynamism and economic vitality to their adopted countries. Organised migration has saved populations from extinction

and overtime, provided support to their societies and countries of origin as well. For example, while Africans have enriched countries and cultures across the world, remittances to the Sub Saharan Africa only stand at 39.2 Billion US dollars per year.

Many reports show us that international migrations take place between countries in the same region. Therefore, we must recognise it for what it is: a potential boon to growth and not an unsolvable security dilemma. With that said, there are indeed challenges that require our undivided attention. These are economic, social and environmental in nature.

Incomplete integration may lead to social strife and violence generating exaggerated fear. This is why sound leadership at the national level and international cooperation are important. Countries need to be able to provide the security and economic stability the people demand and deserve. A world of entrenched inequality is a recipe for uncontrollable migration and closed borders only complicate the problem

As a Rwandan, experience has shown us that the benefits of open borders, with the right monitoring systems, far outweigh the challenges, turning migration into an **asset**.

There is a sense of urgency to deal with the conditions that lead some Africans and others to risk their lives and livelihoods leaving their homelands in desperation.

Measures, such as, the **Single African Air Transport Market**, the **Continental Free-Trade Area** and the **Protocol on Free Movement of People and Goods** are steps in the right direction. The dismantling of barriers is aimed at creating more jobs, growth and wealth for the people of Africa, thereby defeating the purpose of unsafe and insecure migration. They deserve support and rapid implementation.

Excellencies,

This global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration is the result of a decades-long process and no doubt it will herald in a new era of international cooperation on international migration. We fully support the compact and the proposed implementation mechanisms.

I thank the African group in New York for their important contribution to this work and urge them to work with others to design a process that will allow us review progress in four years.

On behalf of His Excellency, President Paul Kagame, the Government of Rwanda and its people, I wish to once again reiterate our commitment to push and to champion the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration at national, regional, continental and global level.

I thank you all very much for listening.