



UGANDA'S STATEMENT

BY MR. MARCELLINO BWESIGYE

**COMMISSIONER, LEGAL SERVICES- MINISTRY OF
INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

AT THE

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE TO ADOPT THE
GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR
MIGRATION**

MARRAKECH- MOROCCO

10-11 DECEMBER 2018

President

Your Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr. President

It is an honor to join you today, two years after the UN General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration on migration and refugees which gave a basis for us to negotiate a text that will guide international migration governance.

During the six rounds of negotiations, Member States, underscored the important contribution of migrants in the countries of origin and destination in terms of remittances, skills transfer and innovation which translate into economic growth and sustainable development. The negotiations reiterated the need to address negative media narratives, perceptions and attitudes against migrants that often exacerbate other vices like racism and xenophobia.

Today, as we launch the implementation of this historic global compact on migration, our focus, should be on the positive attributes that promote inclusive economic growth, reduces inequalities and connect societies.

Mr. President

Migration is as old as humanity itself. This Compact has set out to strengthen international cooperation and solidarity in addressing migration in a holistic manner. It has been demonstrated that no state can address migration on its own due to the transnational nature of the phenomenon. It

is therefore critical that we redouble our efforts in strengthening mechanisms for enhanced international cooperation that will engender a comprehensive and integrated approach to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.

This calls for enhanced support from our international partners in the areas of capacity-building for, among others, data collection and analysis to inform policies that would enhance effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the commitments we have outlined in this Compact.

Mr. President,

Uganda as a country of origin, transit and destination, attaches great importance to this global compact. At the sub-regional level, Uganda working together with our neighboring countries within the East African Community, have launched what is known as the Northern Corridor Integration Projects – anchored on critical infrastructural projects in railways, road network, energy production and transmission, oil and gas exploitation – for the socio-economic transformation of our societies. This will significantly contribute to addressing the root causes and the adverse drivers that compel people to leave their countries of origin; which also aims at making a contribution to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, this requires huge capital and technological investments that also call for enhanced international cooperation with our partners.

Mr. President,

We have also recently adopted protocols on the free movement of people, goods and services under the East African Community and have now even put in place a roadmap for the issuance of an EAC e-passport to all the citizens of our member states, so as to remove barriers to the free movement of persons within our sub-region.

We are also committed to African Union Protocol on the free movement of persons which is expected to enhance business and investments, hence boosting the economies of both the recipient and origin countries. These regional initiatives contribute to the overall objective of enhancing international cooperation and solidarity in addressing migration in a holistic manner.

Mr. President,

Let me underscore again that migration is a major global issue that requires a holistic approach and enhanced international cooperation.

Uganda reiterates its commitment to the implementation of the Compact - for the realization of our wishes and aspirations as highlighted therein.

I thank you