

International Dialogue on Migration 2018

Statement By

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Excellencies

Distinguished Fellow Panelist

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

- Migration both voluntary and forced have contributed to the demographic landscape of the African continent
- The natural movement across political borders has always been part of the continent's history
- On the one hand, mass migration and human displacement are direct products of war, violence, hunger and poverty. But on the other hand, migration and mobility of people have been also part of livelihood strategies. Moving to a new place that offers better prospects is an important and common human act to diversify income and minimize risk, especially for rural households.
- We all know that decisions to migrate are taken not only because of socio-economic insecurity, food insecurity, conflict, but also as a consequence of individual aspirations and prospects. Root causes of migration are complex and multiple; however a particular attention has been always given to the relationship between food security, economic security and migration.
- The link between migration and development in particular is crucial in order to define the root causes for migration. The enormous development challenges facing the African continent and the need to ensure inclusive growth across the economic, social and environmental pillars of development is key to tackle motives to migration including poverty, conflicts, terrorism, political instability and absence of decent work opportunities.
- The question is how to ensure that migration is voluntary, legal, safe, orderly. For example, mobility of people, goods and services are the core for Africa's regional integration and they are mandatory elements for our success. Thus, migration

and mobility of people should not be seen as a threat, but rather as enabler for Integration and development.

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Ladies and Gentlemen

- Migration flows within the same country and migration flows between African countries are still much larger than migrations flows from Africa towards Europe. Rural migration in Africa is often part of a long-lasting tradition. The rural-urban divide is another challenge; policies for rural urbanization should consider interdependencies between food security, migration and mobility of people.
- Inspired by the vision to build a continent that is prosperous integrated and peaceful, the AU adopted Agenda 2063. There are two key goals on the top of AU 2063 agenda, the first is to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. The second goal is to modernize agriculture for increased productivity and production. We need also to address migration, agriculture and rural development nexus;
- Poverty will remain the main cause of migration. Sustainable and inclusive spatial development coupled with job creation in countries of origin would mitigate the main reasons for young people to engage in migration.
- To make migration work there must be multi-level partnerships - there is also a need to emphasize a holistic approach that reflects the nexus between development and migration and peace and security as well as an effective humanitarian system - inclusive partnerships that bring migration and development closer.
- The youth population in Africa is a great opportunity that needs to be seized, above all, we need to unleash creativity, initiative and energy of the young

population of Africa; this needs up scaling investment in health, education, science and technology.

- Partners can do more to assist unlock Africa’s vast potentials. Future support needs to be directed to the production sectors such agriculture, industry, and tourism to build the productive capacities on the continent. Development partners need to focus more on supporting infrastructure development, particularly in the area of energy, communications and transport.

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- At the level of the continent, in 2001 the then OAU called for the development of a Migration Policy Framework towards addressing some of the challenges of migration and creating a conducive environment for voluntary migration. This was adopted in 2006.
- In addition the free movement agenda was concretized through the adoption by the African Union policy organs of the Free Movement Protocol relating to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community. This protocol provides a new vista through which Africans can move freely on the continent;
- The free movement agenda is also supported actively by the adoption of the continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) recently in Kigali;
- It is expected that these two legal frameworks will assist underpins the importance of partnership, as a means of providing the requisite fillip to Africa’s development by promoting these goals;
- Therefore, coordinated action leading to coherence and effective sequence in promoting, planning and execution of action both at the national level and regional level will ensure that Africa is able to fulfill the SDGs by the year 2030.

I thank you for your Kind Attention