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Guiding notes for the Panel: “Towards a global compact on migration: comprehensive and coordinated initiatives to reduce vulnerability and empower migrants “

On 1500-1630 on July 19

Introduction: the theme of the panel is protection of migrants in vulnerable situations in the Global Compact on Migration

Key highlights of the discussion:

- Welcome the New York Declaration adopted in 2016 that is guiding the development of the compact on Refugees and one on migration in which IOM plays a key role
- A time of unprecedented migration globally, however the Horn of Africa has experienced mobility of people for decades; it may be considered a migration region
- What has changed is the use of dangerous routes for migration occasioned by the rise of the smuggling and trafficking cartels and shrinking of regular pathways /channels of migration. This has been exacerbated by socio-economic and political pressures as well

What have we been engaged in the IGAD region:

- We have in 2010 developed the IGAD Region migration policy Framework (RMPF) and its been adopted at the highest political level. It acts as a guiding reference providing strategic recommendations that address migration in a more comprehensive manner.
- IGAD has established a dialogue process in the IGAD Regional Consultative Process (RCP) on migration that provides a platform for member states, countries of origin and destination to have dialogue and seek common solutions to the challenges of migration while seeking ways to harness the development potential of migration. The RCP has kept member states, countries of transit and destination seized on migration and responding to matters raised as recommendations. A tracker has been developed that supports the monitoring of implementations done at the RCP.
- To promote a coordinated approach and with the realisation that migration is a multi-sectoral issue domiciled within different agencies and ministries of member states- and responding to strategic priority 1 of the IGAD Migration Action Plan (MAP), IGAD has embarked on the establishment of National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) in all member states. This brings together all agencies as identified to be relevant to the migration process by member states with Terms of Reference for a coordinated approached on migration. This is helping to further

a common understanding on key issues around protection for the broad range of stakeholders therefore contributing towards protection of migrants

In contributing to the Global Compact on Migration;

Member states of IGAD have held regional consultation on the Global Compact that will feed into the African consultation and note the below as key in protection of migrants

- Respect international norms with emphasis on migrant rights and urge member states of the UN to ratify and implement international instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Protection of the rights of migrant workers and their family members (1990) and all other relevant instruments;
- Fight against racism and xenophobia and the need to ensure the respect of the dignity and the protection of the rights to which migrants are entitled under the applicable international law, especially the right to equal treatment based on the principle against discrimination;
- Ensure policy and legislation frameworks provide comprehensive protection for vulnerable migrants without exceptions and avoid the practice of detention in favour of reception centres for migrants.
- Ensure the inclusion of migrants in the host countries internal identification and documentation systems to increase their recognition and provide access to basic services.
- Carry out capacity building measures including trainings programmes to judicial and law enforcement officials on human rights and protection of migrants to identify victims of trafficking and put referral systems in place.
- Call for equitable support in hosting, protecting and the provision of basic services to migrants.
- Call for a dignified treatment of returnees and deportees and full respect of their rights.