



## Wrap up/Summary of the Multistakeholder consultation at the African Regional Review of the GCM

Hakima Haithar

### Opening Session

- Reminded us of the spirit of migration- its whole of society approach and we see this with the list of participants, speakers and organizers of the consultation that this is being achieved. We are all learning from one another and hopefully work more in partnership than have parallel processes.
- **Cooperation** came up in many of the presentations- the need for cooperation at international, national, bi-lateral, departmental levels. Be it for data collection, alternative to detention, labour, and streamlining policies.
- **Mobility as a human right** was also stressed. Mobility for development and growth and it being the basic DNA of all humans. Humans have moved from time in memorial and will continue to do so- to seek opportunities, improve their lives and those of their families.
- Charles spoke to the worrying trend of countries not welcoming migration and the need for this to change. As governments commit to the GCM implementation and migration and human mobility taking centre stage hopefully we shall see these changes.
- The AU's commitment to the GCM was applauded with 9 GCM champion countries

### Presentations

- **COVID-** was another area that was of focus. From limiting migration, the implementation of the GCM, health concerns, the impact on the health sector and resources for migration being diverted and border closures. They was a call for a universal health care that include migrants and a global health action plan.
- **Remittances** was another area that was a highlighted on a few presentations. Its benefit for the continent. Some countries now have a diaspora desk there was a push for other countries to follow this lead and see the benefits from the diaspora in terms of knowledge and resources. It was noted that the diaspora was currently the largest investor with \$42 billion in 2020 and increase from previous years. Member states were implored to see the benefits of the diaspora and look at tax incentives for them.
- With the diaspora being the largest investor on the continent with \$42 billion in 2020 which was an increase from 2018 and 2019. **Push factors to migration** was addressed and how Africa needs to resource its development so migration is a choice and not a necessity.
- **Narrative of migration** was also spoken about. How journalists report on migration and the need for more in-depth investigative before reporting with journalist needing to be more careful when it came to terminology.
- **Criminalization of migration** was also addressed and the lack of regular pathways forcing young people taking risky journey to migrate.

### Discussions



- **Political will** was also highlighted- which made the difference between progressive policies and implementation of the GCM.
- **Lack of data was also highlighted**- the need for strengthened data collection strategies. Where data was available, data should be shared at all levels for improved policies as well as appropriate programs to be put in place. Data on missing persons also needs to be improved. With many migrants lost at sea and on migratory routes.
- **Documentation** was raised in two presentations, the cost and also young people not being registered which leads to statelessness. **Regularizing migrants such as in South Africa for Lesotho and Zimbabweans was key** as detention was not a deterrent but unnecessary expensive.
- **Xenophobia and** discrimination is also another area that was mentioned with migrants continuing to face discriminations in countries of destination.

### Discussions

- There was a call for the ratification of **the Free movement protocol** and the need for the **African passport** to ensure visa free movement for Africans on the continent.
- **Good practices** highlighted included- Zimbabwe with migrants having access to all services, Tunisia- increased cooperation of different ministries on missing people.
- **Advocacy** was required- for policies on the continent as well as the realization of the GCM.
- **Labor migration** to be seen in a different light- cooperation amongst various departments in country as well as internationally.