



GCM RRA 31st August 2021

Opening Remarks by Aissata KANE, IOM Senior Regional Advisor for Sub Saharan Africa

Allow me first and foremost to sincerely thank the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the Africa regional review for the implementation of the GCM and Ambassador Abderrazzak Laassel, our today Chair for his kind welcoming remarks.

**It is also my great pleasure to thank my fellow speakers all
protocol observed**

I would like also to express IOM's immense appreciation for the collaboration among our respective Organisations that led us today to this important conference on the Africa regional review of the GCM implementation.

Excellencies, Distinguished participants and Colleagues,

Let me start by stressing that Member states adopted the GCM to remind us of the need to use a rounded approach to the mobility continuum.

A coherent multidimensional approach to human mobility that helps pave the way for inclusive, coherent and intersectional dynamics, where each actor has a key role to play to ensure an integrated and holistic response and sustained opportunities for safe and orderly migration.



The GCM is not only a range of objectives for all stakeholders to implement but rather a shared vision that migration can benefit migrants, their communities and countries, if well managed and people-centered.

We all know that political engagement for better migration governance, in line with the range of GCM objectives is not an end in itself.

This is a great occasion to virtually discuss the lessons learned and share the main takeaways of the GCM implementation in the African continent, especially important when looking ahead to the IMRF in mid-2022.

This regional review conference is indeed an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas on the future of mobility and migration in today's challenging times and circumstances.

Obviously, this has been an active year in preparation, both through various multi-stakeholders events, roundtables and consultations, inclusive of Academia and private sector, to seek to hear all voices, particularly those of migrants and the ones of the diaspora.

In the continent, 24 countries conducted open and inclusive multi-stakeholder consultations and submitted their national voluntary



reports on the progress towards the implementation of the GCM, each of them contributing to reflect the 360-degree dimension of the Compact.

With the adoption of the GCM, also in the continent and with almost all African countries subscribing to it, we were able to build a more inclusive platform which is critical in helping define a common and shared approach on migration as a source of opportunities rather than a problem-solving challenge.

This engagement is particularly relevant with the number of African countries that are GCM champions.

The beauty of the GCM, as we have seen it during the side events and the multi-stakeholder consultations, held on 26 and 27 of August resonates in the sense of ownership from each actor that lays the foundation for renewed and strengthened partnership, which reflects multifaceted priorities and coherent and complementary responses to emerging migration-related challenges and opportunities.

The GCM is therefore a landmark multilateral document to catalyze and boost combined support and assistance to addressing legal and humanitarian challenges of migration and foster its positive social, cultural and economic dividends within and outside Africa.



It reflects well the shift of focus on the socio-economic dimension of mobility. It helps to ensure a better correlation between humanitarian and development portfolios, within systemic challenges, the African continent is facing. It contributes to addressing structural inequalities that are the main drivers of irregular migration and subsequent human suffering.

It also provides IOM with an approach that fits perfectly with the new working methods of the United Nations to respond to development challenges of the continent in an integrated manner.

Thus, the importance to build on the African demographic dividend by engaging and empowering youth and women in the adapted development planning and implementation within existing cultural, social, and economic realities. A reality, in which the GCM as human rights and gender-responsive is fully grounded.

It is also the opportunity to share a narrative shift on migration as outlined by the Africa migration report, recently published by the AUC and IOM. It underlines and I quote that "Migration is a strong barometer of development progress dynamics. It is therefore an important part of Africa's history, reality and future.

The impact of COVID-19 on mobility, health, socio-economic on people on the move has been largely acknowledged. IOM's Adaptive responses to the consequences of lockdowns and



restrictive borders measures have shown the adaptability and agility of IOM's response to continue ensuring returnees' and migrants' wellbeing, safety and dignity.

Partnership and responsibility-sharing are critical in ensuring respect of human rights; to address human suffering, maximize the development potential of migration; to effectively managing irregular migration, to fighting human trafficking and smuggling and providing legal pathways for both migrants and host communities' stability.

All of these objectives should be based then on evidence-based policies and emphasized on the continuing need for migration data gathering analysis and exchange on all aspects of migration between countries and within countries for a successful implementation of the GCM

To conclude, I am sure that in a spirit of complementarity to the previous sessions held last week, this conference will provide an opportunity to assess the progress achieved on the implementation of the GCM on the African continent, in order to promote and build on the sharing of lessons learned and good practices among member states.

Thank you!