

## SIDE EVENT ON DATA AND EVIDENCE organized by IOM Regional Offices and AU/STATAFRIC

THE AU Agenda 2063 and the revised AU migration policy framework for Africa and its action plan are the reference frameworks for migration in Africa, and they are also in line with objective 1 of the GCM. They emphasize the continuing need for migration data gathering analysis and exchange on all aspects of migration between countries and within countries. The establishment of the STATAFRIC and the AMO is a signal of the commitment of the AU to work on strengthening the capacity of AU MSs in the production and harmonization of statistics in Africa.

In this line, also the establishment of the Africa Migration Data Network (AMDN) launched in April 2021 and bringing together representatives from all AU member states and also include regional economic commissions development banks etc and NSOs. is a step towards better sharing of good practices, data and information, common concepts and definitions and methods so to contribute to the harmonization of data across the continent. The network will also hopefully address the challenge reported by speakers on duplication and lack of coordination on activities.

However, and despite the progress there are persistent gaps in the quantity and quality of data collected and national regional and continental level, and strong collaborative efforts need to be established among relevant institutions working on migration data to address existing challenges faced by many countries in Africa. In this line the recent training courses and activities carried out by the AU in collaboration with GMDAC/IOM, Statistics Sweden, OECD, ILO etc are a good example of capacity building with MS.

Efforts on improving the data availability quality access and use of migration data are also prominent within i.e. IGAD and the regional commissions, with the recent creation of the migration WG and through the support to MSs on the creation of similar technical WG at national level. One important finding is the different capacities observed in different countries so activities and initiatives need to be tailored to the specific country needs.

More investments are needed to leverage existing sources or administrative statistics, as the example of South Africa shows, by including migration modules to existing national surveys, thus being able to report against a common indicators framework that can speak not only to national plans but also to international commitments, like the SDGs and the GCM.

Alongside the call for coordination and collaboration, which is a fundamental principle underpinning the GCM, there is also the call for a whole of government approach, one that goes beyond the involvement of home affairs or national stats office only and sees everyone involved with the understanding that data producers and data users should be brought together to understand data needs and data availability and how to use existing sources to promote evidence-based policies and ensure that nobody is left behind.