



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
4 February 2022

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Africa

### Regional review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Rabat (online) 31 August and 1 September 2021

## I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 73/326, the General Assembly encouraged member States to consider presenting the results of their reviews of progress in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration<sup>1</sup> on a voluntary basis, drawing on contributions from all relevant stakeholders, as part of their national statements at the International Migration Review Forum, the first of which would be held in 2022.

2. In preparation for the first International Migration Review Forum, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the African Union Commission, jointly convened regional multi-stakeholder consultation meetings in 2020 and 2021, culminating in the first African regional meeting to review progress in the implementation of the Global Compact. The meeting was held on 31 August and 1 September 2021 and was hosted by the Government of Morocco.

3. The purpose of the present report is to highlight the key issues raised in the deliberations and the inputs received during the two-day review meeting. The report also summarizes the presentations made and recommendations issued. The contents of the report will serve as input for the first International Migration Review Forum. The report reviews progress in the implementation of the Global Compact in Africa, highlights key challenges and lessons learned, and discusses several opportunities for African States to achieve safe, orderly, and regular migration as envisaged in the Global Compact.

4. Although over 1,000 individuals had registered in advance for the review event, the main meeting was attended by 470 participants from all five African subregions, drawn from representatives of Governments, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, diaspora communities, and migrant organizations from Africa that are involved in formulating and/or implementing policies and programmes related to international migration.

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 73/195.



## **A. Background**

5. Pursuant to paragraph 50 of the Global Compact and resolution 73/326, the regional economic commissions and other relevant regional stakeholders were invited to review the implementation of the Global Compact within their respective regions.

6. In resolution 73/326, the Director General of IOM, as Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration, was asked to assist, upon request by member States, in the preparation and organization of regional reviews of the implementation of the Global Compact.

7. The regional reviews are expected to draw upon national responses in the implementation of the Global Compact, regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national level, and contributions from all relevant stakeholders, as well as parliaments and local authorities.

## **B. Organization**

8. The African regional review meeting was organized in line with the four thematic clusters/areas of the International Migration Review Forum:

(a) Ensuring voluntary, safe, and orderly migration, which covers Global Compact objectives 2, 5, 6, 12 and 18;

(b) Protecting migrants through rights-based border governance measures, which covers objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21;

(c) Supporting the integration of migrants and their contribution to development, which covers objectives 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22;

(d) Improving evidence-based policymaking and public debate and enhancing cooperation on migration, which covers objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23.

## **II. Day one: 31 August 2021**

### **A. Opening session**

9. In his opening remarks, the representative of Morocco, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abderrazzak Laassel, welcomed all participants and noted that the meeting was being held virtually owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. He emphasized that migration governance required regional coordinated efforts and that there were important lessons to be learned from Africa, especially in terms of humane and dignified treatment of migrants.

10. The Director of the Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division of ECA, Thokozi Ruzvidzo, said that the commencement of trade under Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on 1 January 2021 marked a significant milestone in realizing the free movement of people, goods and capital on the continent. The Agreement and other key pan-African free-movement policy instruments, including the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment, along with other regional integration initiatives, provided pathways for regular migration by easing restrictive immigration and visa practices.

11. The Head of the secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration, Jonathan Prentice, noted that the African review meeting marked the end of the round of regional reviews ahead of the International Migration Review Forum in 2022. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, ECA member States had continued their work to implement the Global Compact.

12. Among other expected outcomes, Mr. Prentice expressed his hope that the Global Compact review process and that all who were involved would be ambitious, that the meeting would conclude with concrete recommendations on what needed to be done, and that migrants and their communities would truly be placed at the centre of conversation during the meeting.

13. The Director of the Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development of the African Union Commission, Mariama Mohamed Cisse, noted that African States had made progress in implementing the Global Compact despite the COVID-19 pandemic. She mentioned that the draft African Union plan of action to implement the Global Compact would be submitted at the upcoming meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons and urged that African States receive support in Geneva and New York to ensure success in Global Compact implementation.

14. The Senior Regional Advisor for Africa at IOM, Aissata Kane, said that the Global Compact was a shared vision that well governed migration could benefit migrants at their points of origin, transit and destination. The Global Compact, if well implemented, would help to build a more inclusive platform to transform migration into an opportunity. The implementation of the Global Compact provided an occasion for African States to build on the demographic dividend and to partner with young people and women in addressing the gender and human rights dimensions of migration governance. It would also shift the narrative by emphasizing the positive contribution that migration makes to development.

15. A representative of the major group for young people and children, Immanuel Clifford, highlighted the importance of young people in the successful implementation of the Global Compact. Young people needed to be given access to documentation, without which they faced barriers in gaining access to education, health care, jobs and other services in countries of destination. While young people wanted to contribute to development in countries of destination, they faced restricted access to job opportunities.

## **B. Summary and key messages**

### **1. Thematic round table 1: Ensuring that migration is voluntary, orderly, and regular**

#### **Background**

16. Migration and labour mobility are at the heart of Africa's development, with nearly 80 per cent of Africans migrants moving within the region. The latter shows the potential of migration for the continent's development, economic growth and transformation. The Global Compact provides an unprecedented opportunity. African States need to be empowered to implement it, with a focus on the well-being of migrant workers and the potential of migration as an asset to development.

#### **Discussion**

17. Participants noted that labour migration was an asset, and, as such, the private sector should be involved in the identification of the skills required by industries that could be supplied through migration. The importance of building the capacity of employer organizations at the national level was also highlighted.

18. While COVID-19 had exposed the vulnerability of African economies, at the same time it had presented many opportunities and possibilities in the digital economy, including online business platforms and working remotely. It was suggested that digital platforms could offer an easier way to conduct recruitment and issue permits in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

19. Participants pointed out that many countries on the continent had developed policies to manage migration. However, poor migration governance was pushing young people to look for alternative pathways to economic prosperity.

20. One of the issues raised was whether remittances to States of origin could be enough motivation for Governments to organize a regular migration regime for their nationals in countries of destination. Concern was raised about the plight of African workers recruited to work in the countries of the Middle East, in many of which sponsorship systems were applied. Many migrants used irregular channels such as trafficking or entered destination countries on tourist visas and then began working irregularly.

21. While several African countries had embassies in destination countries, they did not provide consular protection services to their nationals in those countries, making those individuals vulnerable to exploitation and increasing irregular migration. There was need for strategies for intra- and inter-regional cooperation to protect workers who were not covered by consular protection and to combat human trafficking. Good labour migration governance was impossible without sound migration policies that were aligned with the Global Compact.

### **Recommendations**

22. On creating decent work in countries of origin and countries of destination for migrant workers, African States should:

(a) Promote decent work for young people while ensuring and promoting safe, orderly and regular migration and making migration a choice. Africa needs to create decent jobs for its young people through effective and targeted employment policies, industrialization, the extension of social protection to all, as well as regional, subregional and national job-creation partnerships;

(b) Implement the provisions of the Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, and the Plan of Action for Promotion of Employment and Poverty Alleviation, adopted at the third extraordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Ouagadougou in 2004, which together constitute a relevant and important framework to guide the work of African States;

(c) Promote bilateral and multilateral agreements on social protection;

(d) Invest in and promote skills-development and recognition, and accurately anticipate the skills needed and opportunities in countries of origin and destination (in partnership with the private sector).

23. On protecting migrant workers, African States should:

(a) Promote and speed up the ratification of the African Union protocol on the free movement of persons and facilitate the issuance of work permits to migrant workers;

(b) Protect the labour, human, economic and social rights of migrant workers through the ratification and mainstreaming of international labour conventions and the review of national legislation relevant to promoting the rights of migrant workers;

(c) Adopt and effectively implement bilateral labour agreements that are evidenced-based and formulated through social dialogue and anchored in international normative frameworks;

(d) Promote fair recruitment processes within and outside Africa;

(e) Implement global and continental commitments, conventions and protocols that ensure the protection of the rights of migrant workers and address discrimination against migrants.

24. On labour migration governance, African States should:

(a) Strengthen understanding of the potential of migration to drive development and transformation on the continent;

(b) Promote the formulation and implementation of evidence- and rights-based, gender-responsive migration policies through a social dialogue, along with a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach. Such policies should be aligned with national policies on skills, employment and national development, and they should feed into subregional and continental commitments.

25. On the roles of multiple actors, coordination and cooperation, African States should:

(a) Promote social dialogue on labour migration governance, strengthen cooperation among social partners and civil society, and harness more partnerships between worker organizations and employer organizations at the continental level on issues relating to fair recruitment processes;

(b) Promote the involvement of the private sector while building the capacity of national employment organizations in relation to migration;

(c) Build the capacity of stakeholders to ensure their full contribution to the implementation of the Global Compact according to their areas of specialization;

(d) Enhance cooperation between countries of origin and countries of destination to protect the interests, rights and welfare of migrants.

## 2. **Thematic round table 2: Protecting migrants through rights-based border governance measures**

### **Background**

26. The objective of this round table was to explore opportunities and challenges in making progress on objectives 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 21 of the Global Compact. The key issue discussed was how to ensure the security and integrity of borders in line with international norms and African Union instruments, including the African Union Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation.

### **Discussion**

27. The discussion highlighted the importance of addressing in any policy framework the issue of children and young people in vulnerable situations, who represent 25 per cent of international migrants and close to 60 per cent of internally displaced persons on the African continent.

28. Several African States have set up committees to support good governance of border management and provide support to victims of trafficking through special mechanisms to assist them in gaining access to health, housing and repatriation services.

29. International cooperation and partnership were also seen as paramount to facilitate regular migration. Collaboration could take various forms, including financial support and capacity-building/training programmes for officials, support in building border posts, identifying and handling of remains of migrants who die enroute, and the collection and compilation of critical migration data.

30. Working groups on missing migrants should be established at the subregional level to ensure that the required rescue, medical and forensic work is conducted through a collaborative approach. Such mechanisms would provide data and documentation on missing migrants at the national level.

### **Recommendations**

31. To better protect children and young people through rights-based governance, African States should:

(a) Strengthen national child protection systems and promote child-sensitive cross-border and regional cooperation, including by strengthening the ability of entities that provide social services to find solutions for undocumented migrants who may be at risk of statelessness;

(b) Design pre-screening processes and reception systems that protect children and young people and that systematically collect sex- and age-disaggregated data on mothers and children;

(c) Invest in adequate reception and care services to protect children who enter any African country from detention, and provide appropriate services through case management systems in collaboration with civil society organizations and other non-governmental organizations;

(d) Ensure that services, including health and education, are available to and accessible by for migrants, irrespective of their migration status, and recognize education qualifications obtained in countries of origin and transit;

(e) Support migrant children and young people in integrating back into their home communities through case management, tracing and finding family members, family reunification, psychosocial support, and long-term monitoring.

32. On missing migrants, African States should:

(a) Mainstream the issue of missing migrants into national migration governance frameworks and policies by strengthening national interagency collaboration;

(b) Take measures to prevent migrants from going missing by preventing family separation, enabling communication between migrants and their families, and uniting families wherever possible;

(c) Strengthen the medical, legal and forensic capacities of African States to respond to issues of migrants;

(d) Standardize the collection and sharing of information and establish effective coordination mechanisms to locate missing migrants;

(e) Strengthen measures to prevent the detention of migrants and ensure that migrants have access to consular services in countries of transit and destination.

### **3. Thematic round table 3: Supporting the integration of migrants and their contribution to development**

#### **Background**

33. The contribution of migrants and diaspora communities to the economic growth and development of countries of origin and destination should therefore be recognized and promoted. Ensuring protection and support for migrants is one of the key pathways to achieving the objectives of the Global Compact. Several challenges impede the ability of migrants to contribute to development in Africa, including: the exclusion of migrants in both countries of origin and destination; the denial of the contributions of migrants; and lack of adequate contingency plans, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

34. Regular migration has considerable potential to contribute to development by enabling the circulation of knowledge and ideas, by encouraging trade and investment, and by promoting cultural exchange and mutual understanding.

#### **Discussion**

35. The importance of training migrants in new technologies and introducing them to the various cultures in their host countries were noted as being critical in improving the contribution of migrants to development. The Global Compact offers the continent a new framework, paves the way for new policies, strategies and

engagement of the diaspora, and builds a strong foundation for the collection of comprehensive data on migrants.

36. The contribution of migrants to both origin and receiving areas was highlighted in the discussions. It was also observed that implementation of the Global Compact and other existing frameworks, protocols, strategies and policies would further improve the contribution of migrants to development.

37. Promoting financial literacy and educating communities on various means of building and preserving wealth, such as credits, savings, investment and insurance, are key to maximizing the utility of the resources of the diaspora for the benefit of countries of origin.

### **Recommendations**

38. To support the integration of migrants and their contribution to development, African States should:

(a) Ensure that migrants and their families retain the benefits of their remittances by implementing appropriate legislation and regulation, which reduces barriers to sending and receiving remittances, promotes cost-effective transfer mechanisms, avoids the establishment of monopolies, and encourages competition between remittance handling agencies;

(b) Leverage the potential of the diaspora to contribute to the development of their countries of origin through investment in community development;

(c) Should support migrants in obtaining visas and work permits in countries of destination, as well as documents like death certificates, marriage certificates and education certificates;

(d) Ensure that migrants and their families are supported and empowered through training on their rights, as well as adequate investment in skills training, entrepreneurship, industrialization, information and communications technology, and financial literacy.

## **4. Thematic round table 4: Improving value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate and enhancing cooperation on migration**

### **Background**

39. The roundtable focused on addressing objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23 of the Global Compact. At present, there is general dearth of solid migration data. Data collection remains a challenge, in particular for data needed to understand the challenges of those in vulnerable situations. The pandemic has further accentuated data gaps. COVID-19 has affected the ability to collect data, as seen in the resulting postponement of several data collection exercises and censuses. Invariably, difficulty in obtaining migration data and information presents an obstacle to having a complete picture of migration.

### **Discussion**

40. There is clear complementarity between the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and the Global Compact. The relation between international migration and displacement calls for human rights to be strengthened. Moreover, migrants face challenges in gaining access to services and obtaining protection from States to guarantee their dignity and human rights.

41. The various multi-stakeholder consultations held over the course of the year highlighted the challenges that remain in providing safe, orderly and regular migration and in shifting the narrative.

42. Barriers continue to exist that are both formal and informal and may entail restrictive national laws, arrests, deportation and others related to gender, language

and processing documentation. Data paucity continues to inhibit the monitoring of progress.

### **Recommendations**

43. To improve value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate and enhance cooperation on migration, African States should:

(a) Strengthen international cooperation for the effective management of migration flows through partnerships (e.g., with United Nations agencies);

(b) Strengthen data collection through the integration of migration questions into national censuses and surveys to generate a better understanding of the profile of migrants;

(c) Promote the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on regular migration pathways and labour migration to inform policies and identify opportunities in destination countries;

(d) Facilitate the provision of assistance by stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society, as they are uniquely positioned to assist migrants in all stages of the migration journey;

(e) Empower local communities to respond to growing migrant needs by providing information on the potential that migrants bring to their communities.

## **III. Day two: 1 September 2021**

### **A. Official opening ceremony**

44. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Residing Abroad of Morocco, Nasser Bourita, warned against getting caught up in the dehumanization of migrants and in the increasingly visible tendency to securitize migration. Within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, migration was seen as a crisis within the crisis, except that migration was not a crisis, but rather a structurally sustainable phenomenon.

45. The Director General of IOM and Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration, Antonio Vitorino, stated that, last year, the COVID-19 pandemic had wreaked havoc around the globe and ravaged communities, with a particularly devastating impact on the most vulnerable, including migrants and people on the move, and had severely disrupted trade and travel to and from Africa, which had led to a spike in unemployment. That threatened to undo much of the progress that had been achieved in recent years, with increasing numbers of migrants facing food insecurity and compromised access to health-care services.

46. Ms. Ruzvidzo, representing Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ECA, Vera Songwe, said that, as participants discussed the progress made towards the implementation of the Global Compact in Africa, they needed to take into account the significant linkages between the Global Compact and the success of the African Continental Free Trade Area, which marked a significant milestone in the realization of the free movement of people, goods, and capital on the continent, and progress towards enhanced availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.

47. The Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union Commission, Amira el-Fadil, said that the Global Compact review meeting provided a unique opportunity for the countries of the continent to reflect on how they could best implement the Global Compact, despite the numerous challenges that countries were facing, including the COVID-19 pandemic. She called for collaboration among

African States and regional economic communities in order to build the capacity of relevant national institutions for effective implementation of the Global Compact.

48. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, Felipe González Morales, hailed the Global Compact as a landmark initiative in the implementation of a multilateral approach to migration governance. Migration could not be addressed by each country in isolation, but required a collaborative approach among all stakeholders.

49. The Minister of State in Charge of Economic Diplomacy and Consular Services of Ethiopia, Tsion Teklu, observed that the beginning of Africa's journey in the implementation of the Global Compact had been promising, and Ethiopia was committed to building upon it. The safety and dignity of migrants should be paramount.

## **B. Sessions 2 and 3: Review of progress and challenges in implementing the Global Compact in Africa**

50. Sessions 2 and 3 were combined into one, with panellists drawn from African States making interventions. The issues raised are summarized below.

51. The COVID-19 pandemic had led to developments that ran counter to the spirit of the Global Compact. Many migrant workers had returned to their home countries, where the already saturated job markets were unable to absorb them. Moreover, protracted political, economic and security crises, as well as the effects of climate change that triggered migration, continued to blur the lines between voluntary and forced migration.

52. Significant progress had been registered in establishing institutional mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of the Global Compact, including a multi-agency migration governance architecture that ensured a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach.

53. Continued effort should be directed at addressing the root causes of irregular migration through sustainable development, enhancing public investment and improving infrastructure in areas with the highest rates of poverty.

54. Pathways should be established for regular migration and the skills of young people should be upgraded to enhance their employability, in accordance with the needs of national and global labour markets, and to enhance their participation in sustainable development efforts.

55. Migration champion countries had a role to play in raising awareness to strengthen migrant protection and in the campaign to help those who had lost their jobs and had to return to their countries of origin. Champion countries must also exchange good practices and share their own experiences in respect of progress made.

56. African States continued to lack resources to provide public services to migrants in countries of transit and destination. There was an urgent need to adopt the humanitarian-peace development nexus paradigm that ensured peaceful co-existence between migrants and host communities.

57. It was essential that African States and all stakeholders, especially the private sector, develop their workforces by facilitating the acquisition of new sets of skills to respond to changes in technology and labour market demand, with a view to diversifying capacity and improving employment opportunities.

58. African States agreed that it was urgent to combat criminal networks involved in smuggling and trafficking in persons. It was also noted that border management gaps needed to be addressed collectively at the subregional and continental levels.

### **C. Session 4: Key findings from subregional reports**

59. The following issues emerged from the countries that are members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development:

(a) The 2021 meeting on the regional consultative process of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development had focused on the implementation and review of the Global Compact;

(b) Migration had gained prominence both at the regional and national levels. Early efforts to institutionalize migration, which were taking place in the context of national development plans, needed to be strengthened;

(c) Sector-specific efforts were underway to make migration governance a key issue in such areas as diaspora affairs, labour and skills development;

(d) The issue of harmonization of migration statistics was also prominent at the regional level;

(e) There was expanded scope for regulated mobility, especially through the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, the free movement protocol, and through negotiated bilateral labour agreements and memorandums of understanding with countries of destination;

(f) Efforts had been intensified to return and re-integrate migrants, especially given the loss of jobs in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some migrants had been stranded, while others had been placed in detention camps;

(g) There was evidence of forced return of migrants, especially those who had been reluctant to voluntarily return;

(h) There was a need to upgrade skills among migrants from Africa, which would help them to move from unskilled and low-skilled employment to high-skilled employment;

(i) Some challenges at the regional level included the intensification of migration drivers such as environmental factors, transnational crime, the high cost of remittances, the need for protection, and challenges in receiving assistance (especially where there was no consular representation), the exclusion of migrants and the non-regularization of their status, and lack of disaggregated data despite the high demand for such data.

### **D. Session 5: Key findings from the multi-stakeholder consultations**

60. Although there were solidified starting points among African States through the regional economic communities, it was necessary to create an “African joint process” to promote labour rights and protection.

61. The ratification of the protocol on free movement should be a priority among African States to enable freedom of movement across the continent.

62. Although social protection of migrants was a human right, social protection coverage in Africa remained limited, with only 18 per cent of the population covered by social protection benefits.

63. Whereas global discourse has tended to criminalize migration and mobility, evidence demonstrated that liberal borders tended to lead to more return journeys and more safe journeys.

64. Migrants did not take but rather gave to both their host countries and countries of origin. For example, in the United States of America alone, in 2020 the African diaspora contributed \$36 billion in taxes, while remittances to Africa amounted to \$78.4 billion, an amount three times higher than foreign aid to the continent in that year.

65. Migration data on the continent were becoming increasingly available. African States should ensure that migration data were collected as part of national censuses collect. With the data that is currently available, levels of migration, trends and differentials could be measured as an initial step in policy formulation. Most of migration on the continent was for economic reasons and Africa had the capability to generate such information.

## **E. Session 6: Key findings from the continental report**

66. The regional Global Compact review report used secondary data and literature and analysis of national reports submitted by African States through IOM. The key lesson learned is that African States should ensure that migration is mainstreamed into national development plans and strategies.

67. African States also should ensure the protection of migrants through rights-based border governance, joint border monitoring and joint management committees. Some States such as Ethiopia had also worked with international partners to assist their nationals in returning and resettling successfully.

68. Africa had established itself as a leader in innovative mobile money transfer applications, which were also helping to drastically reduce the costs of sending remittances for migrants. The provision of such services to migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic constituted good practices that should be retained as part of future migration processes.

69. In respect of efforts to improve evidence-based policymaking and enhance cooperation on migration, the establishment of the Migration Observatory Centre in Morocco and the commencement of trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area from 1 January 2021 provided a good foundation for improving migration data availability and quality and for better intra-Africa cooperation in migration governance.

70. African States should remove restrictive visa rules, ratify free movement protocols, including on the right to establishment, and invest in communication infrastructure to improve physical connectivity.

71. African States should also invest in the harmonization of qualification frameworks and systems for verification of skills, qualifications and competencies. They also need to put in place skill-improvement programmes that guarantee that their migrant nationals can gain access to decent work and good wages.

72. African States should effectively protect migrants through rights-based border governance, improve access to valid travel documents and enhance their capacity to save migrant lives through well trained and equipped border patrol personnel, and increase capacity to conduct rescue and recovery missions, including skills in forensic procedures.

73. African States should also support the integration of migrants and their contribution to the development of Africa through innovative mobile applications for remittance transfers. They should provide incentives for diaspora involvement in development.

74. African States should improve evidence-based policymaking mechanisms, enhance cooperation on migration, and increase the availability of migration data that are appropriately disaggregated.

75. African States should also provide pre-departure training to raise awareness among migrants of the risks of both regular and irregular migration, alongside dedicated campaigns to counter discrimination, racism and xenophobia.

## **F. Session 7: Closing session**

76. In her closing remarks, the Director a.i. of the Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division of ECA, Edlam Yemeru, expressed confidence that the objectives of

the review meeting had been fully met. The proceedings of the meeting had highlighted that good progress had been made in the implementation of the Global Compact in Africa, while making clear that there was a need to increase capacity for implementation. African States and all stakeholders should draw on the proceedings to move forward with implementation of the Global Compact priorities that had been identified. ECA was committed to playing an active role in strengthening partnerships for implementation of the Global Compact.

77. The Head of the Labour, Employment and Migration Division in the Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development of the African Union Commission, Sabelo Mbokazi, promised that the African Union Commission would continue work with all partners and stakeholders to identify gaps to ensure that no one was left behind and that the continent achieved the Africa that it wanted. He pledged the continued support of the African Union Commission towards strengthening the continent's Global Compact implementation architecture.

78. The Chief of Mission to Ethiopia and Representative to the African Union and ECA at IOM, Maureen Achieng, noted that the meeting had been preceded by eight side events and a multi-stakeholder consultation meeting that drew participation from numerous agencies, in line with the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach of the Global Compact. IOM would continue to work with the African Union Commission, ECA, the United Nations Network on Migration and all other partners and stakeholders to prepare for the International Migration Review Forum to be held in 2022, with a view to ensuring that the interests of African migrants were correctly reflected.

79. Ambassador Laassel closed the meeting by thanking the interpreters and information technology teams and others in roles behind the scenes who had worked hard to ensure that the meeting would be a success. He bid all farewell and reminded participants that the focus should not be on the meeting itself but rather on the work that needed to be done to implement the Global Compact. He expressed his hope that participants would be able to meet again soon in an in-person setting.

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