

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



Statement

by

H.E Ambassador Claver Gatete

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the UN

At the International Migration Review Forum

New York, 17-20 May 2022

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen

Rwanda is honored to participate in this important inaugural meeting of the International Migration Review Forum to review the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) on national and migration efforts and share our practices.

Rwanda was among the 164 Member States that supported the adoption of the GCM on 19th December 2018; we did so because it elaborates a comprehensive international cooperation framework on migrants and human mobility, grounded in the existing normative framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development(SDGs).

Mr. President,

Rwanda's history shapes the basis for our commitment to abide by national and international principles related to the plight of migrants, and we firmly believe that migration challenges are a shared responsibility. This is why we continue to cooperate with other stakeholders to address numerous challenges facing migrants.

Mr. President,

In line with the objectives of GCM, the Government of Rwanda is committed to ensuring that migrants enjoy their fundamental human rights and to leveraging diaspora remittances and investments.

In addition, Rwanda's migration policy promotes efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking and smuggling through appropriate border management. This includes stakeholders such as international and regional organizations and civil society. In this context, the Government has enacted a law against human and child trafficking and ratified the Protocol against the smuggling of migrants by land, sea, and air.

Mr. President,

The Government of Rwanda has entered into agreements with regional and international partners, states, and organizations, including UNHCR and IOM, to ensure a safe, orderly, and regular migration process.

We have also put in place systems that facilitate the collection of accurate data related to migration and migrants in particular that are used at national level and shared with stakeholders and other countries upon request.

Mr. President,

Considering the growing criminalization of irregular migration, which presents high risks and often results in the death of migrants in transit centers, Rwanda has taken a bold and deliberate decision, in line with principles and norms set by international law, to welcome vulnerable migrants.

One example is the Emergency Transit Mechanism established in Rwanda in 2018 in partnership with the African Union and UNHCR and with the support of partners in Europe. The Emergency Transit Mechanism was established to receive migrants needing evacuation from Libya. Rwanda has since then welcomed 945 migrants in this facility, 625 of whom have been already resettled in various countries.

Rwanda understands that migrants have been through unfavorable conditions; therefore, the need to go beyond meeting their safety and physical health needs by ensuring that they also have access to mental health.

Mr. President,

I want to conclude by reiterating Rwanda's dedication to alleviating the plight of vulnerable migrants and easing their return process and pathways to stay in Rwanda. The best long-term approach is to work together to rectify the human capital gap that underlies the current crisis while reaffirming our obligation to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to those who need it.

I thank you for your kind attention.