



REV 3.

Concept Note-

4th PAN-AFRICAN FORUM ON MIGRATION (PAFoM IV)

Theme: “Harnessing the benefits of Free Movement of persons regime for sustainable development in Africa.”

19 – 21 November, 2018;

Djibouti City- Djibouti

1.0 Executive Summary:

The fourth Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFoM) will take place in Djibouti Ville, Djibouti from 12 – 14 November 2018 under the theme; ***‘Harnessing the benefits of Free Movement of persons regime for sustainable development for both receiving and sending countries in Africa’***. This is in recognition of the efforts made by the continent to promote internal migration in Africa through enacting necessary legal and policy regulatory frameworks to guide this movement of persons in the continent. The forum is held annually since 2014 and is jointly organized by the African Union Commission (AUC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other relevant partners. This year’s event will be cohosted by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC).

Migration in Africa is mainly characterized by cross border movements mainly through intra African movement of persons from one region of the continent to the other for a variety of reasons. It is estimated that 80 percent of the migration takes place within the continent. Historically, the cross-border movement in the continent has mostly been for economic and social reasons. However, with time, the movement became a livelihood and coping strategy, to cushion migrants from environmental and climatic changes, economic down time and humanitarian crisis. In the modern-day Africa, there has been some concerted efforts by African countries to address the challenges associated with irregular migration in the continent while at the same time tap on the benefits of ensuring that migration in the continent is regular, safe and orderly.

As such, the continent has embarked on building and implementing strong legal and policy frameworks to govern migration in Africa. The Revised Migration Policy Framework for Africa and its 12 Year Action Plan is an example of such efforts where

it is anticipated that it will streamline migration governance and cooperation among Member States. The development of the Common African Position (CAP) on the Global Compact on safe, orderly and regular Migration is a clear indication that Africa has taken migration agenda very seriously. Additionally, the recent endorsement of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Establishment by Member States in Kigali, Rwanda is another key milestone in ensuring that migration is safe, orderly and regular through a phased-approach on visa, residence and establishment of African citizens.

As a flagship project of the Agenda 2063, it is envisaged that if the Protocol is fully implemented, Africans will have an opportunity to move freely within the continent with clear pathways for regularizing their residence and establishment within their countries of destinations. This will promote and ensure protection of migrants in their countries of transit and destinations irrespective of their reasons of movements. It will also enhance reliable data on such movements, promote portability of skills and social protection among labor migrants hence ensuring their effective participation in building the economies of the host community. The Protocol will also enhance intercommunity interaction through cross border movements, facilitation of inter-regional trade and expansion of opportunities such as schools hence promoting an integrated continent as per the Agenda 2063.

It is in this backdrop that this year's PAFoM seeks to provide a platform where participants will have an opportunity to reflect on the progress made so far in the implementation of this Protocol and challenges therein. The meeting will also take stock of the progress taken so far by different Member States to implement and or ascend the Protocol after the Kigali meeting in April 2018. This reflection will also provide an opportunity to strengthen advocacy strategies targeting those Member States that have not ratified and domesticated the Protocol to encourage them to hasten the process with the aim of promoting free movement in the continent. The meeting will also take stock of other Migration management initiatives in the continent including the progress made in the implementation of the revised Migration Policy Framework (MPFA) and provide update and initial discussions on how the continent can implement the Global Compact on Migration once adopted in Marrakesh, Morocco by end of this year. As an overall Continental Migration Dialogue Initiative, this year's PAFoM will also provide an opportunity for RECs and Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) to update participants on progress made on different migration initiatives in their areas to promote information sharing and synergies among RECs and Member States.

2.0. Background of the Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFoM):

The 2018 African Union Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.987 (XXXII) adopted the revised Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA) and its 12 Year Action Plan. The Decision further requested African Union Member States to align their Migration Policy Frameworks with the new continental framework including its Plan of Action. This decision is a follow up of the 2006 Executive Council Decision (EX.CL/276 (IX)) on the Migration Policy Framework for Africa specifically requested the AU Commission to work with IOM and other relevant partners to assist Member States to strengthen migration governance and collaboration among themselves. The Common African Position (CAP) on the Global Compact on safe, orderly and regular Migration; that was endorsed by Executive Council and the AU Assembly in 2018 also provides a Policy directive to AU Member States to speak with one voice on all important issues on migration during the intergovernmental negotiations on migration.

Furthermore, underscoring that African inter-state cooperation and dialogue can strengthen the capacity of States in migration management including the development of common approaches towards harmonization of policies, laws and strategies on migration; the Executive Council also adopted Decision (EX.CL/Dec.305 (IX) (Banjul, 2006) as a broad African consensus on issues of migration and development; requesting the Chairperson of the Commission, in collaboration with International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other partners, to coordinate and advocate for the implementation of the African Common Position on Migration and Development. In line with this Decision, the African Union Commission, together with IOM and other partners, instituted the Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFoM), an annual forum of AU member states and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), as a platform for an all-inclusive, open, and comprehensive dialogue on migration issues among Member States, RECs, partners and relevant stakeholders with the aim of having a common understanding on critical migration agenda in the continent.

The Forum aims to provide a more focused engagement with all relevant Migration stakeholders including RECs, AU Member States, private sector, academia, parliamentarians, diaspora community and civil society in Africa. Others will include African trade unions, National Human Rights institutions, Local Authorities, the Media and relevant UN and International Non-Governmental Organizations with Migration mandate. As a continental framework, this year PAFoM will also provide RCPs and RECs to update participants on their migration agenda with the aim providing synergies among RECs and Member States on Migration and human mobility issues and interventions in the continent. This provide them with a platform to share experiences and get connected with the best practices at the national, regional and continental level.

3.1 The 2018 Fourth Pan African Forum (PAFoM IV):

The Fourth Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFoM IV) will be hosted by the Government of Djibouti in collaboration with the African Union Commission, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and IOM; from 19- 21 November, 2018, in Djibouti City, Djibouti. The three-day Conference will be held under the theme: ***'Harnessing the benefits of Free Movement of persons regime for sustainable development in Africa'***

The methodology of conducting the meeting will be through Panel Discussions, presentations and Focus Group discussions based on specific thematic areas as per the theme of the meeting. It is hoped that the meeting will provide a common understanding on the thematic areas that will inform future follow up and migration agenda for the year 2018 for the continent.

3.2 Specific Objectives:

- a) Provide an opportunity for participants to assess the progress made towards sensitization of the Protocol on Free Movement identify benefits so far and challenges faced by Member States in the ratification of the Protocol on Free Movement in Africa and develop solutions on the same.
- b) Identify specific concerns including those of country of destinations and host communities in implementation of the Protocol with the view of developing relevant strategies to address them.

- c) Provide a platform for the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) to brief and updates participants on their migration initiatives and share experiences and best practices accordingly.
- d) Update participants on Africa's Union Migration agenda and processes at both continental and international levels in order to promote a common understanding migration issues in the continent.

4.0 Expected Outputs / Outcomes:

It is expected that the Forum will inter-alia result in the following outcomes;

- a) A progress report on the implementation status of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons with clear recommendations on how the AU and other stakeholders can fast track the ratification and implementation process by Member States within the continent.
- b) A Status update of different migration related activities undertaken by RECs and RCPs with a view of identifying potential areas of collaboration, benchmarking and sharing best practices among RECs within the framework of Protocol on Free Movement of persons in Africa and other continental migration agenda.
- c) A common understanding of African Union Migration Agenda and position on various migration issues in the continent.

5.0 Participants:

It is anticipated that an approximate of one hundred and fifty (150) will attend the meeting. This will include at least 2 Senior Officials and Experts drawn from ministries and institutions responsible for migration from Member States to attend the Forum. Specifically, the officials will be drawn from Ministries and Departments responsible in Justice, Law Enforcement and National Security, Prosecution, Internal Affairs, Trade and Industry, Labor and Social Protection, Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration, National Planning & Development, Gender and Youth and Disaster management.

Additionally, participants will also be drawn from resource persons and experts from the academia, civil society, private sector, Diaspora organizations and networks, Media, National Human Rights Commissions, Local Authorities, workers and employers' Organizations, Faith based organizations, among other stakeholders.

Others will include senior officials of the AUC, AU Specialized Bodies and Technical Organs including Committee on Human Rights, Pan African Parliament, African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Children (ACERWC), African Institute of Remittances, among others. AU RECs such as CEN-SAD, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC and UMA will also participate. Participants will also be drawn from partner organizations that will include senior Officials and Experts from UN Agencies and International Organizations including; UNECA, UNHCR, UNDP, AfDB, World Bank, ILO, OHCHR; among others. Participants from partner organizations and countries will also be invited as observers.