

Summary Notes

**High-Level Panel on Migration and Structural Transformation in
Africa**

25 September 2018

12:00 - 14:00, Conference Room IV, UN Headquarters

New York, United States of America

High-level Panel on Migration and Structural Transformation in Africa

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Organized by: Government of Morocco, Government of Rwanda, UNCTAD

Moderator: Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi

Summary of the Panel Discussion¹

1. Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi

Secretary-General, UNCTAD



- Migrants make a clear contribution to the economy.
- They make important contributions to taxes, economic growth and productivity to the countries where they are located. They make a contribution to their source country through remittances and imports.
- Women migrants go through the most difficult, trying moments. Similarly, they pay a very high cost of remittances. A dialogue on how to do more is needed.
- Migration is a historical, inevitable phenomenon. We must do more to correct the dialogue on migration.
- Those of us who work on Africa have an obligation to present the factual case.
- There is a need to focus on enabling migration in an orderly way.

2. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces

President, 73rd UN General Assembly



- Thank you very much for the kind invitation.

¹ This is an informal summary of the discussions held during the High-level Panel on Migration and Structural Transformation in Africa. This document has not been formally edited.

- Migration and refugees are one of the priorities for this GA session. I am looking forward to working with all of you, including Member States, and civil society. It is an honor and a privilege.
- I would like to thank Morocco and Rwanda and UNCTAD for the kind invitation and support.
- Thanks to Mr. Bourita for hosting the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) in Marrakesh.
- Expressed condolences for the thousands of migrants and refugees who have died while crossing deserts and seas, while looking for better lives for themselves and their families.
- Be compassionate, empathetic and cooperative.
- Commended UNCTAD for the Economic Development in Africa Report.
- It is necessary to highlight the benefits of migration.
 - Worldwide 500 billion USD flows in remittances. This dwarfs Official Development Assistance flows.
 - In Africa alone, remittance inflows grew 11 per cent in 2017 to 38 billion dollars. The important influence of adequate capital flows should be recognized as part of the positive narrative of migration.
 - Enhance the benefits of migration.
- Focus equally on the social and economic drivers of migration from the international community.
- Address the lack of data for migration. This hinders effective policy making.
- Target services for migrants.
- Improve safety along dangerous migration corridors.
- Capacity building for sharing data, information, best practices and to develop coherent policies.
- Remittance inflows to Africa have increased. The comparatively high cost of money transfers. This calls for action to reduce these costs. Greater efforts need to be made to harness the power of diasporas. Build on the joint expertise to realize the funding for the GCM.
- The development of milestones to measure progress. This will be necessary for the successful implementation of the GCM.
 - Mali and South Africa have undertaken improved information collection and sharing.
 - African observatory in Morocco is a successful example for sharing information. We need more of this.
- Support from multilateral and other partners is crucial for this end
- Look forward to a wonderful conference in Morocco in December. Encourage everyone to participate and send a bold message.
- Migration is about development. Migration is about economic growth. Migration is about human rights. I believe migration can become a choice and an opportunity with benefits for all stakeholders.

3. Ms. Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy



- Thank you to the organizers. You help us focus on the positive.
- You will hear a different message from me than what you may usually hear from the EU.

- Migration is simply a fact of life.
- A stronger Africa makes a stronger Europe possible.
- There is a mindset we need to change.
- Tools recently set up include Rabat and Khartoum, EU trust fund for Africa, and trilateral cooperation among EU-African Union-UN.
 - Rabat and Khartoum processes - regional dialogues on movement.
 - EU Trust fund for Africa. Manage migration and make it more sustainable.
 - Tri-lateral EU, AU and UN. Has created an unprecedented mechanism for cooperation. To work together for complete, practical and sustainable solutions.
- There is a sense of responsibility and urgency. Give the migrants in Libya the possibility for a safe and dignified return.
- We helped over 30,000 Africans from Libya to go back home safely.
- The GCM is a historic opportunity to move to a more sustainable governance of human mobility.
- The world will recognize the right approach to a global approach.
- Governance should humane, safe and sustainable.
- Need partnership and a full stable partnership with Africa.
- We are determined to work on this together as equal partners.

4. Mr. Nassar Bourita

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Morocco



- We have to better understand African migration.
- Media has given us a vision of invasion, it is formed by a misunderstanding of the issue at hand. I would like to illustrate this with a few examples.
- It is true that migration networks have fed into irregular migration. But 2 out of 10 migrants are irregular. The rest are regularized.
- Secondly, 3.4% of the global population, less than one international migrant in 5 comes from Africa. Africa only accounts for 14 of international migration flows. It is only 1.5 of international migration. It constitutes 1.3 of migrants that die on the way to host countries.
- Less than 12 of migration toward Europe comes from Africa.
- When Africa migrates, it is usually to neighboring countries. 4 out of 5 African migrants remain in Africa.
- 67% increase in internal migration. We need to look at these prejudices and have quantitative and qualitative data. We can't use fragmented one-off data. We need access to reliable data and access to points of view.
- The GCM has devoted its first aim in gathering precise and accurate data to inform policies.
- King Mohammed VI's proposal to create an observatory will have the mandate to serve the African governance of migration to understand, anticipate and react. We must understand the African migration issue in order to better manage it.
- We need to make migration an impetus rather an impediment to progress. We haven't really tapped into the potential of both host and home countries.

- We need to look at investment rather than just income from migrants. Transfer of technologies, skills. Creating the impetus for skills. This should be a factor that will provide progress for the continent. We need to make migration a choice.
- Demographic growth in Africa is supposed to double by 2050. Migration to Europe will not double in turn.
- There will be more opportunities on our continent and there will be issues to deal with. Look to economic, social and political progress.
- Youth is the future of Africa. Today more than 600 million youth are on our continent. A new governance of migration should create a stable and active environment. This is the starting point for structural transformation. Develop attract and maintain this young talent.
- The structural reform of Africa requires new and effective policies and better governance in the region. Part of a continental perspective and an international partnership. Migration is much too serious to leave at the mercy of political whims. We must make sure that extremists do not take hold of this important topic.

5. Louise Mushikiwabo

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda



- The good of migration needs to be highlighted.
- We must tackle the bad of migration and do so urgently.
- We have an obligation to work more closely together for managed migration. All stakeholders must work more closely together to manage migration.
- I urge all of us to get ready for a meaningful conversation for the good and bad of migration in Marrakesh this year.
- Let me start by what is undoubtedly obvious, but not necessarily common knowledge. Those of us that have information must share it.
- Migrants move for various reasons, for running away from conflict, economic concerns, environmental concerns.
- Thank UNCTAD for brining the science and eventually the solutions to understand what is problematic about migration.
- I come from one of the countries that is probably the most liberal for migration.
- The good that comes from mobility. The reality that people have been moving ever since we have been on this earth. Ultimately what we can get as positive inputs into our economy coming from migrants.
- The entry into Rwanda is visa on arrival and we are now open to the rest of the world. This has been fantastic both economically but also on the human and social level. There are imperatives of security, sharing information, particularly with our neighbors.
- My country understands very well and has benefitted from good migration.
- This should not diminish the plight of thousands of Africans travelling for opportunities beyond their borders. Too many fall victims to treacherous seas and ruthless smugglers. That is a

situation that we must together deal with urgency so that we can bring the good face of migration.

- The nature of African migration is first and foremost an African matter. It must be dealt with by African leaders and African stakeholders at the political and economic level. This can contribute to downplaying the discourse that fuels unnecessary divisiveness and nationalistic movements. We must confront that part that affects good migration. We must spread the right kind of information.
- On the road to the GCM, to be discussed in December in Marrakesh. Africa's common position, adopted in Jan 2018, I was the chair of the executive council. It is a position from the African Union. Human mobility is one of the pillars of an integrated Africa. It is a driving force for the continent's socioeconomic transformation. As laid out in the AfCFTA and the free movement of people adopted in March of this year. These are continuously gaining traction among African member states.
- We believe that forging constructive partnerships. We need to scale these up at the international level with a view to tackling irregular migration from an economic standpoint. Meaning through jobs and employment while setting up effective continental frameworks to set up safe and regular flows. These are our people our family or friends and our neighbors. This can be an invaluable asset for the socio-economic structural transformation for Africa.

6. Dr. Kituyi

Secretary-General, UNCTAD

- Some positive steps have been taken.
 - The single African air transport market.
 - The protocol on the free movement of persons. The first countries were Rwanda and Kenya that allowed African travelers to apply for visas upon entry.
 - Common wallet (Safaricom).
- Are there possibilities for the creation of state driven common wallets to facilitate small remittances?

Questions and Comments

7. Leslie Norton

Assistant Deputy Minister for Sub-Saharan Africa, Canada



- We believe this event is timely. Migration can benefit migrants and their countries. Canada recognizes the efforts.
- The challenges for the economies and their societies. If properly governed, the migration of people can be a source of strength.
- We must work together to ensure that migration is people centered, humane and gender sensitive. Migrants advance multiculturalism and diversity.

- They make important contributions from their hard work and entrepreneurship. Take their skills back to the home countries.
- Diaspora communities. Diasporas play a key role as innovators and investors. Canada sees greater opportunities to leverage diasporas that can contribute to
- Better link remittances to
- Welcome that the GCM clearly emphasizes the positive contributions of migrants.
- The Canadian delegation looks forward to participating in the HLP in Marrakesh and to working to benefit global migration governance more broadly.

8. Fernando Marzo

Vice President of Foreign Affairs, Spain



- Commend UNCTAD for the report and commend the job that was provided. It points out a positive light on the issue that is otherwise too often presented under threatening terms
- Africa's demographic evolution can be a real opportunity for the continent.
- The best policy is the one that makes the best way for migrants to stay in their home countries.
- We must create a future for Africans in Africa.
- Remittances are more than half of the private capital flows received by Africa.
- Spain and its EU partners consider that the migration is a shared responsibility between countries of origin destination and transit. It must include safe and order and regular migration between Europe and Africa and within the continent.
- AfCFTA has the potential to transform Africa.
- Development assistance must be completed with private investment it is the only way to generate the number of jobs required.
- We need reliable census data for elections
- We must invest in education especially for young women.
- European countries are ready to do their part. The European external investment plan. However, Africa must continue to make progress in a safe and stable business atmosphere.

9. Carmelo Abela

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, Malta



- Wanted to give the Maltese perspective on the issue of migration.
- Talk about the narrative that needs to exist between Africa and the European union.
- I have been saying this at meetings at EU level. We need to see the potential that Africa is providing. There is a transformation taking place in Africa and it is positively impacting social and economic development in African countries. We hope that this transformation in the political level goes further in terms of the economy. There are a number of positive examples on the continent that are experiencing a positive political and economic transformation.
- We need to understand also the issues that are happening inside of Africa. We don't talk about the number of African migrants that are moving from one African country to the next. We don't hear enough about this and hear about the challenges that the
- The narrative between the EU and the African countries needs to change.
- I attended a number of meetings in my new capacity. We remember as Europeans that Africa exists because we have a problem with migration. I don't think this kind of narrative is good. It seems that there are a number of politicians who think we need to pay attention to our borders. We do need to enhance our borders to have controlled access to our borders to fight human traffickers and smugglers.
- We are partners in investing in Africa which is a young continent. We need to work together on a number of issues to enhance the economic transformation of Africa and to achieve together the 2030 goals. It is a common goal not just for African countries but also for European countries. It is important that we work together as partners.
- Thank the hosts. It is important that we continue this conversation. And that we deepen our conversation. And we need to deepen the people to people relationship. To work together on all pillars to exploit positively the potential that exists.

10. Harriet Matthews

Africa Director of Foreign Office, UK



- Welcome and recognize the importance of these conversations. It is really important to tackle the preconceptions that we have tackled today, rather than just focusing on security and the unmanaged migration problems.
- Support the theme of African leadership and partnership. That element of partnership really came through.
- Invest in data and research
- We are really keen to support a stable and prosperous Africa. Investing in programs that will deliver us sustainable and profitable economic growth.
- Ensure alignment under the GCM and the work that other agencies are
- We need good data and research.

11. Elizabeth Schreber

Representative from Norway



- The Norwegian government remains committed.
- Human rights are a cornerstone.
- Bringing the evidence of the positive impact of migration to the table.
- The only solutions are found through partnerships. These must be the foundation for sustainable
- Plan to provide an additional six million euros in 2018 to trust fund.
- Access to markets.
- Technology may allow certain countries to leapfrog infrastructure needs.
- There are many reasons to be optimistic and many ways to move forward.

12. Sidiki Kaba

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, Senegal



- Need to dovetail the multidimensional issues of Africa and migration.
- We must have a holistic and beneficial approach in the home, host and transit countries. We must adopt policies that encourage the promotion of jobs, mobility. And have quality education available to all. These strategies could be drawn up with aim of strengthening development to

have more resilience and social protection and better access to the labor market and above all access to education.

- The contribution of the diaspora allows us to link into the benefits of migration. This is something that should be taken into consideration. This requires a better understanding of the situation of migrants in the host and destination countries. We need to understand the reasons for return.
- In ECOWAS we are aiming for an integrated and consistent approach to migration in Africa. This is a situation that we must have to come to grips with. We need to intensify regional and inter-regional cooperation. We are very pleased to see the inter-governmental meeting to take place to adopt the GCM to come to grips with the migration issue at the very highest level.

13. Egypt

Representative from Egypt



- Migration perspective should be broadened and dealt with in a holistic approach
- We should give priority to the principle of joint management and look into the root causes of migration.
- Egypt and Morocco are transit countries.
- We should fully utilize the potential of the multilateral track at regional or international level. They help in cooperation schemes and they help in identifying the root migration causes. They help create partnerships.
- The EU Horn of Africa issue initiative on migration which Egypt participates in. In cooperation with Italy we have built a police training centre. To build the capacity and share experiences.
- Congratulations to Morocco for hosting the GCM. We hope that we can operationalize the outcome of the GCM to fully use its potential.

14. Ambassador of Angola



- We need to work together to manage migration.
- We would like to see some practical examples.
- We have no FDI, no ODA, so how are we going to do that.

15. Mr Elhadj As Sy

Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)



- The ways of responding to a phenomenon. Migration is simply a human phenomenon that needs to be managed.
- So many people are making a big business (35 billion) per year out of illegal migration.
- Africa is also the destination of millions of migrants. We respectfully call them expats. Unless this is being looked at in a holistic manner, we are missing something.
- Thousands of African are dying in the sea and in the Sahara. Getting stranded in Libya. Honestly in this last year we have recovered more bodies than people alive. This has been met with silence and indifference. This is about time to show compassion about the humanitarian situation that is unfolding in front of our eyes.
- The ICRC will be on your side.

16. Michel Xavier Biang

Ambassador to UN, Gabon



- This is a phenomenon of major scope and requires a global approach. The scope of the issue is major. A partial and segmented approach is not viable.
- I would like to thank Morocco for hosting the Marrakesh event.
- Migration is and should be viewed as an economic development factor. This is a real opportunity to promote dialogue around the world.
- In my country migrants have the right to have their human rights respected.
- A global vision looking at the international approach to migration

17. General Bience Gawanas

UN Office of the Special Advisor on Africa



- Here to give my full support. To recognize the important partnership between the African union and the un.
- I am really happy to know that that common position has found its place within the global compact. You cannot divorce the security concerns from the development concerns when you are dealing with migration.
- When you address the development aspects I am sure you will also reduce the push factors. We want to change that image of Africa. I hope that once the GCM is adopted we will move from where we were in 2006, to a situation where we recognize migration as a natural human phenomenon.
- Yes, we need to deal with the negative aspects. Human trafficking.
- But I am here to give my fullest support to this meeting and my fullest support as we move toward Marrakesh.

18. Bishar Hussein

Director General for Universal Postal Union (UPU)



- Why is it more expensive to send money to Africa than anywhere else in the world?
- We have a responsibility to address the economic and social conditions. I want to associate myself and the UPU to solve this.
- We do understand that migrants leave their countries and they need to get back to their community. We come in with logistical and services. Remittances are an issue. We have been talking about how to reduce the cost of money transfer services.
- We provide support for SMEs for the creation of export and import through an imitative called Ecom at Africa. Which is a program that we hope to launch with many countries. South Africa, Cote d'Ivoire etc. if this happens this will create many opportunities.

- We want to work together. Want to thank IOM and other development agencies that will work together.

19. Michelle Solomon

Director, Director Global Compact for Migration, International Organization for Migration (IOM)



- Getting the narrative right is absolutely essential. We have been missing the facts. That negatively impacts our ability to have real dialogue.
- Thanks to UNCTAD. And thanks to the King of Morocco for the African leadership and for hosting the conference. This is the realization of a many decades long dream.
- We need to get the balance right and understand that migration is overall a natural phenomenon. Migration requires investment in management. The positive benefits that come from migration don't happen on their own. Investing in border management and visa processes. It is also necessary to work on combatting smuggling and break the business model that does exploit human beings in a very fundamental way.
- Facilitate labor migration with honest labour market information.
- Actually, investing in mobility. That takes investment and systems of management from identity documents, to actual physical documents.
- My plea is for the international community to come tougher in Marrakesh to actually invest in making migration safe, regular and orderly.
- It is not just governments that matter here. We need to mobilize all of society. Its governments it is the UN system, it's the private sectors (recruiters, employers, trade unions, technology investments, so much of civil society). This is where we need the whole of government and whole of society approach to address this phenomenon.
- With the Marrakesh conference this is really a new beginning. Thank you very much and you will have our continued support.

20. Mario Pezzini

Director of the OECD Development Centre



- 4 areas of action that we share:
- We have to highlight with evidence-based analysis the impact on countries.

- The impact of migration on financing for development. We know less about what needs to be done on remittances.
- A lot can be done to share best practices on what can be done to raise the benefits for origin countries. More efforts need to be done on this respect.
- UNCTAD, UNIDO, OECD Development Centre needs to be commended for the joint work on productive capacities and efforts to keep building this is crucial.

21. Minata Samate Cessouma

Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union



- Thank you for the cooperation of UNCTAD.
- We have pinpointed some of the difficulties and I want to stress what the AU can do to help face the challenges of migration.
- 36 million African migrants are on the African continent. The press gives us a different message.
- The AU is putting a focus on awareness through our member states. A large part of each state's budget will be.
- AU protocol on the free movement of goods, people and services.

22. Civil society Representative

- Will submit a written statement.

23. Theodore Dialo

Mercy Corps



- The importance of data.
- Understanding the push factors makes us better equipped to make decisions.
- Urge donors not to tie aid to reduction only.

24. Dr. Kituyi

- Express appreciation of behalf of UNCTAD, Morocco and Rwanda.
- Heighted attention to the development component of the migration situation.

- After Marrakesh we will need to start looking at concrete areas of deliverables and give attention to the data question. We need to know a lot more about what is happening.
- Let us tackle institutional bottlenecks and tackle results.