



Remarks at the third Pan African Forum on Migration

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Your Excellency the President,

Your Excellency the Vice President,

Hon. Ministers from Member States,

The Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM),

Your Excellency Head of European Union Delegation in Uganda,

Your Excellencies The Ambassadors,

All protocol observed,

Distinguished Guests.

On behalf of the UN Country Team in Uganda, it is my pleasure to speak to you today at this important meeting to develop an African common position on the global compact on migration as part of the New York Declaration adopted by Member States last September during the General Assembly.

The wide range of participants present here today reflects the fact that a comprehensive and dignified approach to migration requires a partnerships that involves the whole of society as we know it. Leaders from Government, business,

civil society, religion, culture need to work together if we are to address migration in this continent and the world.

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team in Uganda allow me to share a few thoughts of three aspects, the link to the 2030 Agenda, to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and last but not least the opportunities that the PanaAfrican Forum on Migration offer us.

SDGs and Migration

In 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which they joined citizens to envision a world free of poverty, hunger and disease-where no one is left behind. The 2030 Agenda commits to a holistic and inclusive approach to development.

Migration is key for the SDGs. Allow me to share a few examples, in SDG 10, world leaders committed to reduce inequalities within and among countries with target 10.7 on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration; by contributing to creating conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all (in SDG 8) and by contributing to the elimination of violence against women including trafficking in persons (through SDG 5).

These SDGs enables us to recognize the contribution of migrants to sustainable economic development. It clarifies our collective need to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration and mobility of people as part of our economic transformation and humanitarian action.

New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted by Member States at the Summit for Refugees and Migrants in September last year, also reinforces the principles of the SDGs.

The New York Declaration outlines member states' commitment to;

- Protect the safety, dignity and human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status;
- Support countries receiving and hosting large numbers of refugees and migrants;
- Strengthen global governance of migration, including through the development of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.
- Integrate migrants – addressing their needs and capacities as well as those of receiving communities – in humanitarian and development assistance frameworks and planning.

Ladies and Gentlemen:, welcome to Uganda where the Government’s commitment to a dignified approach to refugee management predates the New York Declaration and has transformed Uganda into a model country for the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. Uganda’s progressive refugee integration policy is clearly outlined in the National Development Plan II through the Settlement Transformative Agenda and supported by the UN and World Bank through the Refugee and Host Communities Empowerment approach known as ReHOPE.

The United Nations Country Team in Uganda is successfully using its partnership framework with the Government, known as UN Development Assistance Framework or UNDAF, to provide emergency relief and also strengthen the resilience of refugees and host communities. The Government’s clear leadership and determination to have the UN Deliver As One has given us the space to innovate as we coordinate, program and deliver our services to the people in Uganda. We have created a new mechanism for financing our humanitarian, development and peace activities, we have reinforced our strategic coordination and have used the SDGs to encourage partners to support this integrated approach, an inspiration for countries looking into adopting a new way of working.

Ladies and gentlemen, Uganda’s long history of opening her doors to migrants and refugees from the region and other countries goes back to World War II when Poles were given asylum. As we speak there are currently about 1.2 million refugees and

asylum seekers in Uganda. In order to increase understanding of Uganda's approach and mobilize support to sustain it, His Excellency the President of Uganda and the UN Secretary-General will co-host the Uganda Solidarity Summit for Refugees in late June.

This Solidarity Summit will showcase the Uganda model and provide participants an opportunity to witness how it meets the commitments outlined in the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. Delegations will have a chance to witness first-hand how refugees are integrated in settlements within host communities and have access to services on par with Ugandan nationals. In Uganda, refugees have the right to work, establish business, go to school, freedom of movement, and access to documentation; they are also allocated land for agricultural use. These principles ensure the dignity of the individual and provide pathways for refugees to become self-reliant. It also enables refugees to become active participants in the development of the 12 districts hosting refugees.

The Solidarity Summit aims to mobilize international support to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of refugees and also address the longer-term needs of refugees and the communities that host them. I invite you to become advocates for this Summit.

Ladies and Gentlemen:, Allow me to highlight that the United Nations Country team through IOM and other UN agencies is supporting the Government of Uganda to address various aspects of migration including strengthening coordination and cooperation through the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration, strengthening border management; supporting the refugee emergency response; health promotion among mobile and at risk populations; community stabilization through livelihood support; combating trafficking in persons and strengthening labour migration. We are confident that Uganda will serve as a role model on good practices for sustainable migration on the African continent. Through investments by Japan and IOM we have supported efforts by the Government to use technology to manage security and ensure the dignified and safe movement of migrants in the country.

The Pan African Forum on Migration

This brings me to my final points. This Pan African Forum on migration provides a platform for all of us to make meaningful contributions to the development of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

I believe African States have a lot of experiences to share amongst each other and with the world, not only on the issues and concerns of refugees and migrants, but also on durable solutions to transform migration into an opportunity for peace and sustainable development.

As we discuss and agree on a common position for input to the global compact, let us draw our attention to the following issues; protection of migrants rights; facilitating orderly and regular migration, policy coherence and most of all, addressing the factors that compel people to move. The factors relevant to Africa include conflict, unemployment, climate change among others. Uganda, like several African States has a significantly large youth population. With Africa hosting several of the World's emerging economies, successfully managing migration on the African continent and beyond will provide an opportunity to better engage our youth in the global efforts to leave no one behind.

The United Nations is committed to provide coherent support in order to strengthen capacities for better migration governance, for inclusive sustainable development for the benefit of all. We look forward to being part of a more robust knowledge management system that will enable States to more rapidly adopt policies, strategies and initiatives that support inclusive migration that will enable us to help create the world we want.

Thank you for your attention and enjoy the Pearl of Africa!.