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STATEMENT BY DR. MUSTAPHA SIDIKI KALOKO (AU COMMISSIONER
FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS) AT THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND

DEVELOPMENT

21-22 NOVEMBER 2012,

PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS

Honorable Chairman, Mr. Ali Mansoor

Your Excellency, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas (Secretary General, ACP Group of States)

Your Excellency, Sir Peter Sutherland (UNSG Special Representative for Migration and Development)

Your Excellency, Dr. Arvind Boolell (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Rep of Mauritius)

Your Excellencies from AU Member States

Other Ambassadors present here this morning,

Distinguished Government Functionaries

Dear colleagues, friends and media representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is my pleasure to take part in this important meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, **Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma**. Please allow me to convey her respectful salutations to the Prime Minister and Government of the Republic of Mauritius as well as her heartfelt congratulations for bringing the GMFD to Mauritius and for the first time in Africa.

2. In recent years, migration has been making its way steadily towards the top of the continental and international affairs agenda and now calls insistently and urgently for the attention of all governments. At the global level, various initiatives have underscored the need for a comprehensive and balanced

approach to migration management taking into account realities and trends as well as linkages between migration and other key economic, social, political, humanitarian and development issues.

3. Indeed, the overarching theme of the Forum “**Enhancing the Human Development of Migrants and their Contribution to the Development of Communities and States**” talks extensively to the various African Union policy instruments on migration and development. At this juncture, I wish to refer to the AU Migration Policy Framework and the African Common Position on Migration and Development.

Ladies and Gentlemen

4. The **Migration Policy Framework for Africa** is a wide-ranging document covering nine key issues: (i) labour migration (ii) border management (iii) irregular migration (iv) forced displacement (v) the human rights of migrants (vi) internal migration (vii) migration data (viii) migration and development, and (ix) inter-state cooperation and partnerships.

5. The document recommends strategies aimed at contributing to addressing the challenges posed by migration and ensure the integration of migration and related issues into national and regional agendas for security, stability, development and cooperation.

6. **The African Common Position on Migration and Development** makes a number of recommendations for action at national, continental and international levels, as well as the need for **common regional policies** for the management of migration within RECs, and to strengthen cooperation on labour migration.

7. Beyond the 'exclusive' African migration policy frameworks, the AU has also signed a number of joint frameworks with the European Union (EU). These include the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings; and the Joint AU-EU Declaration on Migration and Development. The Joint Declaration on Migration and Development commits both the African Union and European Union to a partnership to better manage migration in a spirit of shared responsibility and cooperation.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

8. As we can clearly observe, the AU Policies on Migration open a large array of interventions for human development. This leads to the need to continuously work together in the spirit of mutual partnership for better management of migration in a comprehensive, integrated and holistic manner. It is widely recognised that a well-managed migration can promote closer ties between countries, help meet existing and future labour needs, contribute to the development of countries and help with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

10. Within the framework of the AU-EU Migration, Mobility and Employment (MME) Partnership and with the Financial Assistance of the European Union, the African Union Commission is in the process of establishing the African Institute for Remittances (AIR). The institute aims to strengthen the capacity of member states of the African Union, beneficiaries, the private sector and other stakeholders to develop and implement strategies and operational instruments for using remittances as a tool for poverty reduction. Given that the creation of the African Institute for Remittances is in many ways linked to the African Diaspora, the African Diaspora Program of the World Bank has been leading the technical aspect of the preparatory phase. The AIR has been endorsed by the Heads of State, and we have just completed a fact-finding mission to Member States that have opted to host it. The institute will soon be operational and further foster **“Human Development of Communities and States”** in Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen

11. An important area which should form part of the policy framework on migration and development is strategy for information management. Migration can only be managed properly if there is accurate information about labour markets. Both labour and migration authorities need to be equipped with the machinery and technical skills to be able to provide accurate figures, when required for planning and evaluation.

12. An area often talked about but least implemented is the human rights of migrants. Countries have an obligation, under the UN instruments and

subsequent international protocols, to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, both regular and irregular.

13. To this effect, the AU and EU have undertaken series of activities under the MME Partnership, including a "Technical Meeting on Human Rights of Migrants with a focus on Domestic Workers" in May 2012, and a Technical Meeting on "International Protection of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Internally Displaced Persons" in October 2012.

14. This was preceded by the African Union endorsement of the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings. Additionally, the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention provides for coordination of activities to fight human trafficking, to protect victims and prosecute offenders. Against this background, the Department of Social Affairs of the African Union Commission in partnership with the UN/AU Social and Human Development Cluster launched the 'AU Commission Initiative against Trafficking (AU.COMMIT) in June 2009. The AU.COMMIT reaches out to Member States, RECs and Civil Society Organisations in taking serious measures against combating trafficking in human beings. The AU.COMMIT has been launched in ECOWAS, IGAD, EAC and SADC. The final phase of the launch will take place in Gabon from 3-5 December 2012 for Central and North African Member States.

Ladies and Gentlemen

15. Let me conclude by saying that effective development is promoted, not just by aid and trade in goods and services, but by expanding the exchange of experience and skills. Migration reflects the interdependence of countries of the world as one of the most effective ways of promoting respect and understanding amongst communities.

16. Hence, the AU has adopted two very comprehensive migration frameworks with many constructive ideas for implementation, demonstrating that it recognises the threats and opportunities facing Africa on account of migration. The documents contain useful recommendations that, if fully adopted, could improve the lives of those forced to migrate and help those who choose to migrate.

Honorable Chair

17. As the Chairperson of the Commission looks forward to the recommendations of this meeting, I want to emphasize the willingness of the AUC to continue working with the GFMD on advancing the **“Human Development of Migrants and their Contribution to the Development of Communities and States”**. It is my hope that this meeting will contribute to achieve what we are gathered here for. I wish you successful deliberations.

Thank You.