



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

866 U.N. Plaza, Rm 304, New York, NY 10017

FOURTH INFORMAL THEMATIC SESSION:

CONTRIBUTIONS OF MIGRANTS AND DIASPORA TO ALL DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING REMITTANCES AND PORTABILITY OF EARNED PROFITS.

Panel 1 Intervention on Contributions of migrants to all dimensions of sustainable development: the linkages between migration and development.

Thank you, Mr. Facilitator for giving me the floor and for inviting the distinguished panelists. We also thank the panelists for taking time to come and share with us their knowledge and to discuss potential solutions to this pertinent issue of migration and development.

Africa Heads of State and Government in 2003, declared the African Diaspora as the sixth development region of the continent, in recognition that the African Diaspora was an important part of the continent whose potential needs to be fully exploited to develop the continent.

The Declaration of the Global Africa Diaspora Summit underscored the need to build sustainable partnerships between the African continent and the African Diaspora through sustainable dialogue and effective collaboration with governments and peoples of different regions of the world in which the Diaspora populations are located.

For Kenya Diaspora contribution is a major enabler to the growth of our economy. In 2015, remittances from the Kenya Diaspora stood at US \$1.6 billion.

We also consider the contribution of the Diaspora in terms of skills, expertise and transfer of knowledge to Kenya as being invaluable. Kenya developed a Diaspora Policy whose objective is to harness and maximize the potential of Kenyans Abroad to enable them contribute to Kenya's development agenda, the vision 2030 which is aligned to the 2030 Development Agenda.

1. Despite the huge potential of the Kenyan Diaspora, there are challenges that hinder effective contribution by the diaspora to national development including:
 - a. the high cost of remitting money,
 - b. Leveraging on the use of Information and Communication Technology (I.C.T) enabled Services to enhance efficiency in engagement with the Kenyans Abroad;
 - c. Absence of bilateral agreements or formal framework to facilitate transferability and portability of Social Security Benefits to Kenya that Kenyans abroad contribute to various social security services in their countries of residence and which they are unable to transfer on termination of their services,

2. Our expectations are that the Global Compact will include the following;
 - a. A firm commitment to work towards achieving target 10.7 of the SDGs to reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and to eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%.
 - b. A commitment to work towards the inclusion of migrants in national social protection floors where they are guaranteed the basic level of social security;
 - c. Assistance to Member States to develop frameworks for the transferability and portability of social security benefits;
 - d. Call for collaboration of all stake-holders to develop a joint understanding of what portability of social benefits entails;
 - e. Encouragement for countries to negotiate bilateral social security agreements along key migration corridors and support with strengthening of capacities of social security administration;