

Addressing drivers of migration: remarks by Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie, Director, Up!-Africa Ltd to PANEL 2: Human-made crises as drivers of migration

i) Background context

- (1) **Sub-Saharan Africa silence alarming:** Reflecting on the morning's deliberations, the relative silence of Sub-Saharan African countries on an issue clearly of significant concern for them was surprising and worrying
- (2) **Breakdown in social contract:** While economic considerations may be a factor in driving migration, not least unsafe and irregular migration, young people's sense of frustration, despair, and the mismatch between their aspirations and ambitions and their assessment of their prospects may also account for decisions to migrate. In other words, a breakdown in the social contract between leaders and led is a factor to consider. (Reference: *Temple Run or Stay?* [africasacountry.com/2017/04/temple-run-or-stay/])
- (3) Commercial bike riders and other young informal sector actors are typical among actors seeking to embark upon unsafe and irregular migratory ventures. Real or perceived senses of the absence of justice and a disabling business environment for informal sector actors can be a source of low-level conflict and social tension that can mount over time and spill over to outright conflict. Some people translate these barriers as the signal to leave. However, the fact that members of semi-organized informal sector groupings seem active in these forms of migration potentially offers the basis of a solution to the problem.
- (4) My comments align with earlier comments made by Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, and Switzerland especially around:
 - (a) Need for effective coordination
 - (b) Need for systemic, holistic approach to the challenges under discussion
 - (c) Youth unemployment as a key indicator and driver of the challenge.

ii) Recommendations

(1) Principles

- (a) Systemic approach for complex, systemic problems
- (b) The challenges relating to youth unemployment, etc need to be seen in the context of a need for the transformation of economies, especially in Africa
- (c) Involve would-be migrants at every stage
- (d) Undertake action research, pilot approaches, adapt and scale-up
- (e) Provide more legal avenues for migration
- (f) Incentivize adequate preparation for legal/regular migration options that create win/win outcomes for stayers as well ("win if you go legally, win if you stay")
- (g) Integrate skills and business support into existing ventures so migration is by choice and non-migration is an acceptable positive outcome
- (h) Integrate diaspora support to invest in origin country ventures, provide "soft landing" to migrants
- (i) Ensure strong origin country buy-in and involvement
- (j) Partnership based collaboration involving relevant stakeholders

(2) Suggested actions

- (a) Survey actual and potential migrants to identify characteristics and triggers

- (b) Target informal business sectors where potential migrants are most likely to be active (eg commercial bike riders in Sierra Leone)
- (c) Undertake systemic business and needs assessment
- (d) Formulate multifaceted partnerships:
 - (i) Youth business groups
 - (ii) Origin country government
 - (iii) Potential host country governments
 - (iv) International development partners
 - (v) Domestic and international business partners
 - (vi) Diaspora groupings
- (e) Negotiate range of migration agreements (temporary and permanent) with partner countries (New Zealand example relevant here)
- (f) Design support packages:
 - (i) Business development support
 - (ii) Systemic market development support
 - (iii) Regulatory reforms
 - (iv) Complementary skills development to enable competition for circular migration places
 - (v) Devise investment packages and "investor roadshow/matching" activities involving diasporas
- (g) Devise comprehensive circular migration support package
 - (i) Pre-departure preparation
 1. Skills development
 2. Financial literacy
 - (ii) In situ support (including leveraging diaspora networks)
 - (iii) Reintegration support
- (h) Develop comprehensive media and communications strategy and plan
- (i) Devise robust results framework for monitoring, learning, and evaluation
- (j) Revise Program, scale up in country, replicate in other countries

iii) Concluding remarks reflecting questions and observations from the floor

- (1) Complexity suggests more responsive, context-specific, flexible approaches are required. It is vital to directly involve actors in interventions to address these concerns.
- (2) Data: We need to think beyond data to consider opportunities for learning and results framework; again, important to involve migrants and would-be migrants in gathering, analysing, and processing this data and ensuing insights
- (3) Rising inequality is a threat of concern to all, it is therefore important to address underlying causes, which leads us to consider structural reforms to the economy and social affairs
- (4) Early preventative measures are vital: there's a continuum from early phases (eg low-level communal frustrations and tensions), inclusive growth is key, a toolkit linked to rapid response is promising, study what young people actually do, how they feel, what their perceptions are, their aspirations
- (5) Labor mobility, especially intra-regional (Africa) is a vital part of the solution
- (6) Where is the Sub-Saharan African voice in this discussion? There's considerable interest on the ground and in capitals, so this is a process issue for the organisers to bridge gaps with what is heard in New York

- (7) The social contract is broken. We live in a complex world. We cannot solve all the problems but somehow, we must give people **HOPE**.