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NEA

Weekly e-SHOT

28th March-1st April 2022

Commitment to a **United Approach** on **Safe, Regular, and Humane Labour Migration** at the 3rd Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration (RMFM)



Kenya hosted the **3rd Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration (RMFM) for East and Horn of Africa (EHOA) under the theme *"Harmonizing Labour Migration Policies in East and Horn of Africa – A United Approach on Safe, Regular and Humane Labour Migration"*** at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nairobi from 28th March to 1st April 2022. The meeting brought together participants from EHOA heads of ministries in-charge of labour migration portfolio of members states of EAC as well as the high-level representatives of IGAD namely; the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Djibouti, the State of Eritrea, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Sudan, the Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The meeting was convined to consider the draft concept paper and operalizational moderlities for the establishment of an EAC -Regional Consultative Process (RCP)

In his opening remarks, the Cabinet secretary Ministry of Labour Hon. Simon Chelugui who was the chair of the meeting, underscored the achievement of East Africa Community to admit the Democratic Republic of Congo and welcomed them into the community. He further **underscored the achievements made so far under the Common market protocol which include among others; free movement of labour, goods and services, removal of visa fees and the use of EA e-Passport.** He highlighted the social economic benefits and contributions of the migrant workers to the development of the region. He informed the meeting of Kenya's commitment and progress in putting in place policies and legal frameworks to promote and safeguard labour migration.



At the end of the meeting, the participating states through a joint statement agreed to collaborate to strengthen labour migration governance in the East and Horn of Africa region by establishing a platform for experience sharing, consultation on issues, dialogue, and the review and implementation of recommendations.

Members solemnly affirmed to unite as a block to realize the potential of labour migration and to address the related challenges within East and Horn of Africa as origin, transit and destination countries and establish a better negotiating position in their engagement with Countries of Destination (CoD).

They called upon Member States to ratify relevant human rights, labour and other international and regional instruments related to labour migration, including ratification and implementation of ILO Conventions in relevant technical areas such as migration from overseas employment, social protection, fair recruitment and domestic worker including conventions No. 19, 97, 102, 118, 143, 157, 181, 189 and 190.

They further resolved to continue working on the identified gaps in harmonization and strengthening of labour migration governance policies and frameworks in the region in a gender responsive manner and strengthen the Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) while identifying additional Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to support additional areas of intervention including skills development, remittances and financial inclusion, migrant workers' health, as well as other areas as those could be proposed by EHOA Member States.

Member states agreed to establish mechanisms for enforcement of fair and ethical recruitment standards and establish mechanisms to identify common gaps/challenges faced by the migrant workers during the whole migration cycle .

Member states further lauded the leadership and efforts of the government of Kenya as the



inaugural Chair of the RMFM and **approved the handover of Chairpersonship of the RMFM from the Government of the Republic of Kenya, Ministry of Labour to the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ministry of Labour and Skills Development** while welcoming the willingness of Government of Kenya to support the incoming Chair and for organizing and hosting the 3rd Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration. **The Chairpersonship of the RMFM is open to all participating states on a voluntary basis, in alphabetical order (English) and following the first Chair, on a one-year rotational basis as stipulated in Clause 3.3 of the Operating Modalities of the RMFM adopted on 25 November 2020.**

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