

**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE 3rd REGIONAL MINISTERIAL FORUM ON
HARMONIZING LABOUR MIGRATION POLICIES IN EAST AND HORN OF
AFRICA,**

"A United Approach on Safe, Regular, and Humane Labour Migration"

1 April 2022
Nairobi, Kenya

The States of East and Horn of Africa, acting in line with international legal frameworks on human and labour rights of migrant workers, other international legal frameworks and *inter alia*, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063;

Having adopted a Communique and a Call-to-Action Priorities (2020 – 2023) and Draft Road Map setting priority actions for harmonization of labour migration policies with the objective of strengthening migration governance frameworks for safe, orderly and humane labour migration on 20 January 2020 at the 1st Regional Ministerial Form on Migration (RMFM);

Having further adopted at the 2nd RMFM High Level Ministerial Meeting, held virtually on 25 November 2020 (2nd RMFM Meeting), the Operating Modalities of the RMFM which established the Regional Secretariat of the RMFM comprising of the East African Community (EAC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) with support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)/UN Migration; in close cooperation and coordination with ILO and other relevant UN agencies within the UN Network on migration and other international and regional partners and upon request of the RMFM Member States.

Noting that the 2nd RMFM Meeting called for the establishment of a National Technical Advisory Committee in each Member State chaired by Permanent Secretaries /Principal Secretaries/State



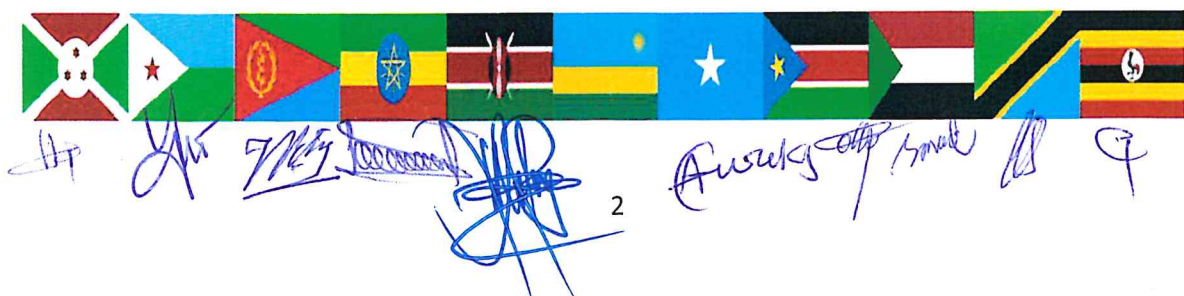
Ministers/Undersecretaries/Directors/Advisors, and/or other delegated officials in the Ministries of Labour and the Regional Technical Advisory Committee chaired by the Permanent Secretary/Principal Secretaries/Directors of the Member State chairing the RMFM;

Welcoming that the 2nd RMFM Meeting also adopted the Draft Roadmap on Implementation of the RMFM on "Harmonizing Labour Migration Policies in East and Horn of Africa — A United Approach on Safe, Regular and Humane Labour Migration (2020 – 2023)" while acknowledging that Member States can propose new areas for consideration and action depending on new developments and noting the need to extend the timeframe as some activities in the roadmap may go beyond 2023 building on international, regional and national development partnerships to address key labour mobility and labour migration concerns;

Mindful of the issue of contribution for funding of the proposed activities in the Draft Road Map in coordination with the Regional Secretariat; and

Having considered the Joint Statement by the Government of the Republic of Kenya, Ministry of Labour and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ministry of Labour and Skills on the handover of the Chairpersonship of the RMFM and additional areas of intervention issued at their meeting in the city of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 28 February 2022;

1. **Solemnly affirm** 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).

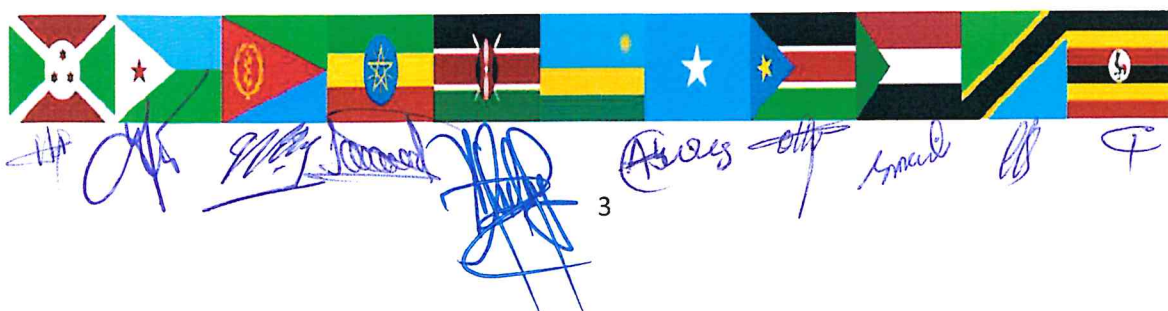


2. **Call on** Member States to ratify relevant human rights, labour and other international and regional instruments related to labour migration, including ratification and implementation of ILO Conventions in relevant technical areas such as migration from overseas employment, social protection, fair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

3. **Further affirm** to remain committed to institutionalize and strengthen the three-tier structure established by consensus of Member States under the RMFM, with the High-Level Ministerial Meetings at the helm, the Regional and National Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) at the Permanent Secretary-Level and the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) at the technical level for harmonizing and strengthening migration governance frameworks, policies and programmes in the EHOA region.

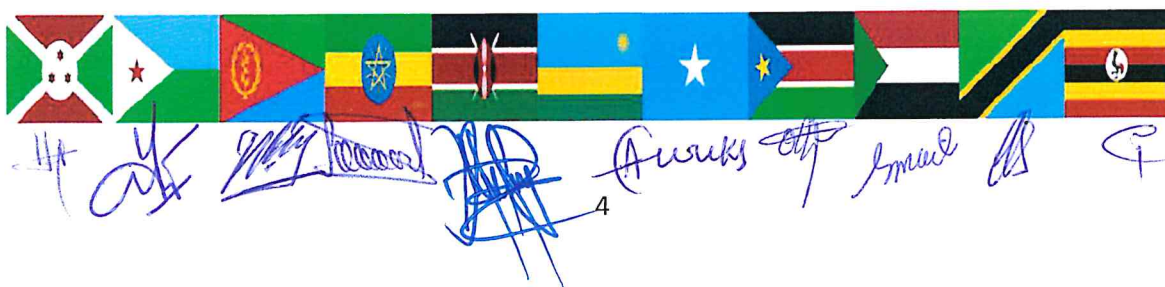
4. **Resolve** to continue working on the identified gaps in harmonization and strengthening of labour migration governance policies and frameworks in the region in a gender responsive manner, through the RMFM Communique, its objectives and Call to Action Priorities (2020-2023), and the RMFM Draft Road Map along with setting up and institutionalizing an evaluation and monitoring system to measure progress made, in order to adapt future interventions, on a whole of government/whole of society approach, to the ground realities of the dynamic mobility and migratory context intra and inter-regionally.

5. **Further resolve** to strengthen the Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) and identify 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.

6. **Agree to** establish mechanisms for enforcement of fair and ethical recruitment standards and continue implementation of trainings for private recruitment agencies (PRAs), through tools such as IOM's IRIS and platforms such as the Global Policy Network (GPN), its various TWGs, and ILO General Principles and Guidelines for fair recruitment and definition of Recruitment Related Costs, and relevant ILO Conventions.
7. **Agree to** establish mechanisms to identify common gaps/challenges faced by the migrant workers during the whole migration cycle (from recruitment, pre-departure, exit from host country, post arrival in the CoDs, employment and return to country of origin) and address them.
8. **Call for** elevating migrants' voices and empowering migrant workers by enhancing access to justice through, *inter alia*, raising awareness on existing legal remedies available to migrants through pre-departure orientations and strengthening access to and effectiveness of grievance redressal mechanisms.
9. **Concur** on the need to coordinate more closely with IGAD, EAC and the AU as guardians of the Free Movement Protocol (FMP), Common Market Protocol (CMP) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), respectively, as well as existing Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) on Migration at the continental and regional levels to enhance ownership of the RMFM agenda and objectives in promoting labour migration issues of common interest and concern through established regional platforms; as well as with the Djibouti Declaration on Labour, Employment and Labour Migration, IGAD



guidelines on rights based bilateral labour migration agreements as well as the IGAD Ministerial Committee on labour, employment and labour migration.

10. **Appreciate** the leadership and efforts of the government of Kenya as the inaugural Chair of the RMFM and approve 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.

11. **Reiterate** that the Chairpersonship of the RMFM must be 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.

12. **Reaffirm** their intention to deliberate upon the name of the RMFM Inter-State Coordination Mechanism on Migration (ISCM) , recognizing with appreciation the contribution of the Government of Kenya in the establishment of the ISCM as its inaugural chairperson, and inclusiveness of other EHOA Member States.

13. **Appreciate** the contribution of IOM/UN Migration and invite IOM to continue supporting the RMFM and RMFM Chairs, as part of the Regional Secretariat of RMFM, with quarterly updates, the financing modalities and the implementation of the RMFM Communique and Call to Action Priorities (2020-2023), the Draft Road Map (beyond



2023) and the TACs and the Technical Working Groups (TWGs); as well as continue to work in close cooperation and coordination with ILO and other relevant UN Agencies within the UN Network on Migration and other international and regional partners.

14. **Adopt the Joint Statement** of the **TWG on Consular/Labor Attaché/Diaspora Collaboration for the Protection of Rights of Migrant Workers in Countries of Destination** validated on 28 March 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya which identified that, *inter alia*, that the capacities of and resources available to consular staff on issues pertaining to labour mobility, migrants' workers' assistance and protection as consulates and embassies are understaffed and not resourced to handle the volume of requests from migrant workers seeking support within both EHOA and GCC destination countries and recommending that cooperation between Member States is critically needed for information sharing and exchange of good practices for enhancing consular services for migrant worker protection.

15. **Adopt the Joint Statement** of the **TWG on Gender and Diaspora/Private Sector Engagement** validated on 29 March 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya recommending, *inter alia*, the development, adoption, and implementation of gender-sensitive and gender responsive labour migration policies and laws that address the needs and vulnerabilities of all migrant workers by integrating a gender perspective in EHOA region.

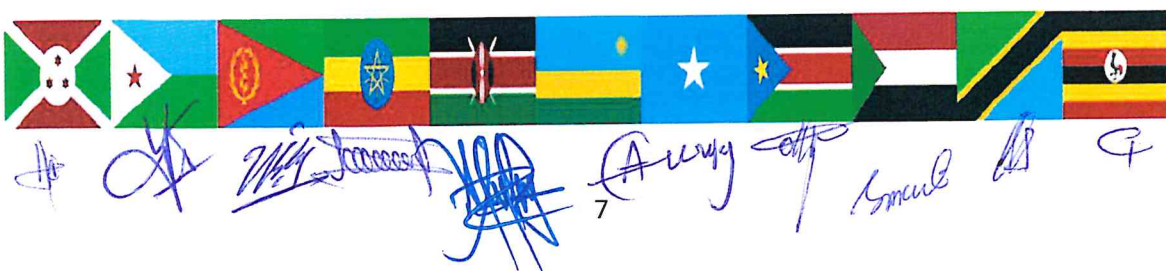
16. **Adopt the Joint Statement** of the **TWG on Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements (BLMAs), Ethical Recruitment, International Migration Law (IML) and Migrant Workers' Rights** validated on 30 March 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya recommending, *inter alia*, the activation of BLMAs oversight mechanisms (Joint Technical Committees) and



collaboration between countries with more advanced BLMAs implementation to support countries newer to process through mentorship, lessons and good practices sharing; and providing guidance using, but not solely, the UN system IOM/ILO Guidance on Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements, the AU Guidelines Manual on Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements and the Guidelines for a Common IGAD approach on Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements.

17. **Adopt the Joint Statement** of the **TWG on Return and Reintegration, Skills, and Youth Employment** validated on 31 March 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya *recommending, inter alia*, the inclusion of returning migrant workers and their families in national and regional policy and strategy frameworks as a vehicle for enhancing access to migrant workers' rights and inclusion of labour migration statistics in Labour Market Information System (LMIS) data collection and integration plans, take into consideration , but not solely, on the Guidelines concerning statistics on International Labour Migration adopted at the 20th International Conference of Labour Statistics (ICLS).

18. **Renew their highest commitment** to protecting the rights of migrant workers and their families in East and Horn of Africa and beyond by building on current efforts and continuing sustained and concerted endeavors to harmonize their labour migration governance policies, in line with global, continental and regional legal frameworks on human, social, economic and labour rights and international migration law for safe, regular, and humane labour migration.



Hereby sign as follows:

**Hon. Simon Chelugui E.G.H, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Labour,
The Republic of Kenya**


**H.E. Muferihat Kamil, Minister of Labour and Skills, The Federal
Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

**Madame Marie Rosette Nizigiyimana, Permanent Secretary and
Representative of the Minister of Public Service, Labour and
Employment, Republic of Burundi**

**H.E. Mr. Omar Abdi Said, Minister of Labour in charge of
Formalization and Social Protection, Republic of Djibouti**

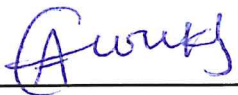


Mr. Woldeyesus Elisa Gulay, Director-General of the Labour Department and Representative of the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of the State of Eritrea

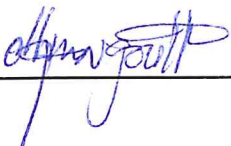

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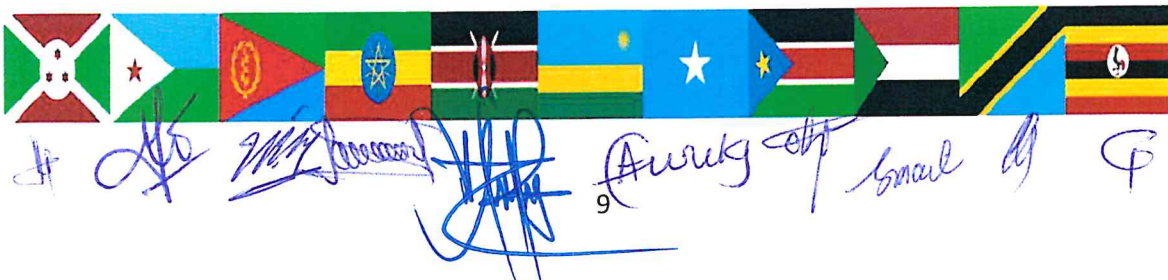
Hon. Rwanyindo Kayirangwa Fanfan, Minister of Public Service and Labour, Republic of Rwanda

Hon. Abdiwahab Ugas Hussein, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Federal Republic of Somalia

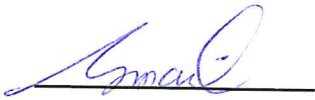


Hon. Gen. James Hoth Mai, Minister of Labour, Republic of South Sudan

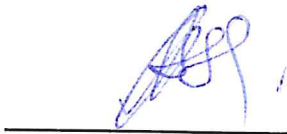




Dr. Esmail Alazhary Alsheik Bari, Secretary General, General Secretariat of Vocational Training and Apprenticeship and Representative of the Minister of Labour and Administrative Reform, Republic of Sudan



**Mr. Joseph Sitta Nganga
Director of Employment Services, and Representative of the
Minister of State -Prime Minister's Office - Labour, Youth,
Employment and Persons with Disability, The United Republic of
Tanzania**



**Hon. Col. (Rtd.) Charles Patrick Okello Engola Macodwogo,
Minister of State for Labour, Employment and Industrial Relations,
Republic of Uganda**

