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PRESENTATION

**IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUTH POLICIES AS A TOOL TO COMBAT
MIGRATION**

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IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUTH POLICIES AS A TOOL TO COMBAT MIGRATION

Africa is experiencing an important development in migratory flows. These movements occur essentially within the continent. They are also occurring towards Europe, North America and some Middle East countries and could be voluntary (as a result of pull factors in destination countries) or involuntary/ forced (due to push factors in countries of origin). These movements could be legal or undocumented and encompass all social categories, including refugees, internally displaced persons, nomads migrating in search of pasturelands, young and women setting off from the country side in search of job opportunities in the city, employment seekers, and increasingly, qualified persons, women and children under the age of 18.

Migratory flows are occurring, however, in an African context still marked by the inadequacy of institutional capacities of some African Countries to address the problems individually and collectively.

Of the 150 million migrants in the world, more than 50 million are estimated to be Africans. Given that the number of migrants is rising and that this trend is likely to persist in the foreseeable future, the management of migration has necessarily become one of the critical challenges for the states in the new millennium.

In recent years, migration has been making its way steadily towards the top of the continental and international affairs agenda and now calls for urgent attention of the governments, whatever the nature of their involvement or interest in the management of migratory processes. There is a need for a comprehensive and balanced approach to migration taking into account migration realities and trends

as well as linkages between migration and other key economic, social, political and humanitarian issues.

Another contemporary aspect of migration in Africa is the growing number of women who have also started to migrate in search for greater employment/economic opportunities.

The root causes of migration are numerous and complex. The push-pull framework gives insight into the different forces at work to explain migration. In Africa, poor socio-economic conditions, such as low wages, high levels of unemployment, rural underdevelopment, poverty and lack of opportunity fuel out-migration. These factors are usually brought about by a mismatch between the rapid population growth and the available resources, low level of requisite technology to exploit the available natural resources and capacity to create employment and jobs at the countries of origin.

In addition, various political and social factors include migration. Among these, are poor governance, nepotism and corruption, human rights violations, political instability, environmental factors, conflict and civil strife, the real or perceived opportunity for a better life, high income, greater security, better quality of education and health care at the destinations influence decision to migrate. Lower costs of migration, improved communication, greater information availability and the need to join relatives, families and friends are among the factors, which amplify push-pull factors.

Whereas well-managed migration may have substantial positive impact for the development of countries of origin and yield significant benefits to destinations states, mismanaged or unmanaged migration can have serious negative

consequences for states' and migrants' welfare, including potential destabilizing effect on national and regional security.

RWANDA'S POLICY TOWARDS COMBATING YOUTH MIGRATION

According to the 4th Rwanda Population and Household Census of 2012, based on today's situation, young Rwandans aged between 0-35 years account for 78.7% of the country's population which is currently over 12 million of which 4.16 million are aged between 14-35 years. Almost 60% of them are employed while 4.1% are unemployed and 37% inactive, of which 75% of the economically are students and 16% look after families.

Rwanda's Youth are a major asset of the Country and key drivers for Sustainable Development, if empowered and well-motivated. The Country has implemented a series of programmes derived from National youth Policy since 2006. Most of the programmes mainly focused on Youth participation, mobilization and social welfare due to the challenges of the time.

In brief, the major causes of youth migration that need our policy initiators to arrest are the following:

1. Limited access to information and opportunities;
2. Low level of employable skills;
3. Inadequate access to resources like land and capital;
4. Negative attitude towards blue color jobs;
5. Insufficient support services such as internship, apprenticeship and industrial attachment schemes, coaching , role modeling and mentorship and
6. Increased number of Youth joining the labour market and yet low corresponding levels of job creation

Youth access and utilization of information and Communications Technology:

ICT is regarded as a key driver for development most especially for Rwanda. There is no doubt that it has played a great role towards increment of the Country's GDP in the recent past especially when the investment was rationalized. This sector has been at the fore of creating employment for our youths hence a deterrence to unnecessary migrations looking for greener pastures elsewhere.

As with other population groups in Rwanda, young people (72%) are primarily working in the agriculture, this indicates that majority of Rwandan Youth are "employed" in the rural areas. Modernization of agriculture sector should continue to be a priority area especially by linking and improving farm value chains related to investment opportunities.

The following are the current employment promotion policies for the youths in Rwanda:

- ✓ **'Hanga Umurimo'**: this includes three subcomponent;
Business plan competition and monitoring by service providers
Apprenticeship- job creation: to foster the growth of an entrepreneurial culture among Rwandans and inspire potential entrepreneurs to convert their business ideas into profitable enterprises
- ✓ Business Development Services: created to facilitate the youths business community, in particular SMEs to perform better in terms of business expansion, profitability, market scope and qualities of business' services/ products
- ✓ Business Development Centres: to offer business advice to the youth and information on access to finance, IT services and tax advisory services

- ✓ ‘Agaciro Kanjye’ : encourage youth to be innovative and tap into existing opportunities in the country and the region, discourage laziness among youth and encourage productivity and encourage youth to form joint profit making cooperatives and instill culture of saving among them
- ✓ Women and youth access to finance; capacity building and training with specific emphasis to financial literacy(to address the non-financial barriers); and financial access and credit enhancement programmes (to address the financial barriers)
- ✓ Integrated Craft Production Centres: to provide facilities for producers at the community level, to engage in value-added processing of raw material without bearing the total cost of the machinery and technology required for the processing.
- ✓ Business Incubation Centres: Facilitate fresh TVET graduates to have easy and cheap access to physical facilities, machines and equipment in order to start their own small businesses and be able to create their own jobs

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

To ensure that the challenges posed by the issue of migration of African and developed countries are effectively addressed, it is necessary to establish a common strategy for the management of migration which associates countries of origin, transit and destination, in order to find balanced solutions that take into account the interests of the countries concerned.

It would be indeed illusory to try to treat the problems of migration by recourse only to security measures; hence the need for a comprehensive, integrated, concerted and balanced solution, whole objectives, policies and measures will be long-lasting.

This approach should involve the treatment of problems of the movement of persons (legal, illegal and irregular migration), the protection of the rights of communities that are legally established, as well as the linkage between migration and development.

It should also be based on actions to be taken at national, continental and international levels.

- (a) significantly they promote good governance, especially by the active involvement of all segments of the society in the management of public affairs;
- (b) adopt a policy on migration;
- (c) carry out preventive awareness and sensitization campaigns, on all aspects of migration;
- (d) collect all relevant information on the extent of the migration problem;
- (e) strengthen the mechanisms to combat smuggling and trafficking in human beings including the elaboration of legal instruments;
- (f) improve border management and control;
- (g) Effective implementation of the Ouagadougou Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation and the MDGs and mainstream migration in development plans;
- (h) Improve conditions for youth employment as well as by paying greater attention to cultural and sporting activities as well as associations;
- (i) Strengthen national educational institutions and adapt them to the needs of respective African countries;
- (j) Create a favourable climate to facilitate and encourage the return or at least significant participation of African migrants in development including their contributing to some strategies sectors in their respective countries;

- (k) Create mechanisms for the strengthening of links between the countries of origin and African communities in the Diaspora;
- (l) Improve inter-sectoral or inter-ministerial coordination and dialogue on migration by establishing a central body to manage migration;
- (m) Create data banks on nature, scope and techniques of illegal migration;
- (n) Develop mechanisms, service and effective financial products to facilitate the transfer of the funds of emigrants and reduce the costs of these transfers;
- (o) Establish a data bank on the scope of the brain drain phenomenon and qualified human resources;
- (p) Work towards the elaboration and implementation of policies that facilitate the Diaspora participation in the development of African countries;

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