



With:	Script for Video recording for HE President William Ruto
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IOM Participants:	
Prepared by:	

I. Key messages:

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies, and Gentlemen. Greetings from the Great Republic of Kenya.

I am delighted to speak to you today at the opening of the 115th Session of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Council that brings us together from across the globe to discuss issues and share insights on migration.

Your presence here speaks volumes about our shared commitment towards jointly addressing safe, orderly, and regular migration as a global strategic asset that can drive human development around the world. This also reaffirms that migration remains among the defining issues of our times and needs to be driven collaboratively for harnessing its full potential.

I am delighted to share that the Government of Kenya is making significant strides in this regard. We as a government have also given priority to addressing the adverse drivers, concerns, and challenges that come with accessing migration opportunities. However, these challenges are dynamic, keep on evolving, and require a concerted effort by all of us for making migration work for all. It calls for enhanced partnerships, shared responsibilities, and international cooperation to jointly address these challenges.

Expanding regular migration pathways is a top priority for my government, and I note with satisfaction, that it is one of the three global strategic objectives of IOM. Kenya is currently negotiating over 20 bilateral labour mobility agreements to facilitate safe and regular pathways for skilled migrant workers. Among these agreements is the recent signing of the Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership with Germany. Expanding regular migration pathways and strengthening partnerships with countries that can provide opportunities for migrants and people-on-the-move to meet their labour market supply gaps is a win-win-win solution for Kenya and the entire African continent that is enjoying a youth bulge and thus can help address the supply shortage of skilled workers that many of the western countries are increasingly facing. I want to emphasize a note of caution in this regard that implementation of these agreements with a people-centred and rights-based approach is key to mitigate potential exploitation and exposing migrants to violation of their basic rights. We look forward to partnering with IOM in implementing these agreements.

Climate mobility is another pressing reality affecting millions worldwide. Kenya has increasingly been impacted by the effects of climate change, with six failed rainy seasons and a prolonged and severe drought until 2023 – the worst drought in nearly half a century – followed by heavy flooding in late



Video Script

2023 and again in mid-2024, leading to hundreds of thousands of people getting displaced, often multiple times. To address these challenges, the first ever Africa Climate Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya in September 2023 contributed significantly to expand the Kampala Declaration on Migration Environment and Climate Change (KDMECC) from 11 original signatory African countries to a continental framework now with 33 signatories. This historic expansion of this Declaration supported by IOM is galvanizing strategic partners and practitioners, addressing climate-induced human mobility, and supporting actions that can unlock sustainable opportunities in humanitarian and development settings. Kenya has further taken a continental leadership role as the Chair of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), supporting the development of African common positions on Climate change and in COP 29. Climate change impacts continue to affect peace and security in Africa, resulting in massive displacement and migration of vulnerable populations. There is need for policies that protect and empower those affected by climate-induced displacement, and to integrate human mobility into national climate adaptation plans, enhancing cross-border cooperation, and ensuring the rights and dignity of all displaced persons.

Kenya, as a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) Champion, was the first country in the world to launch in 2023 – in the presence of IOM Director General Amy Pope – a national GCM implementation plan with the support of the GCM capacity building mechanism. The Global Compact for Migration provides governments and partners with a roadmap and a vehicle to make migration work for sustainable development. Kenya played a crucial role in the adoption of this Compact. The GCM stresses the centrality of partnerships. Cooperation and consultation – both across and within countries and regions – form the foundation from which we must take it forward. In this regard, am delighted to see that Kenya has become a reference point for countries in the East, Horn, and Southern Africa region for implementation of the GCM and operationalization of the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) on Migration, which demonstrates our strong commitment to ensure migration matters are dealt with the guiding principles of whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches. I would like to also highlight that Kenya is the first sub-Saharan African country to pledge a contribution to the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) and is in the process to fulfil that obligation. These are but only a handful of evidence of the strides Kenya made towards the promotion of safe, orderly, and regular migration.

Kenya commits to supporting and collaborating with IOM and its partners in maximizing the benefits of migration, while addressing migration challenges to ensure migration contributes significantly to human development, shared prosperity, and poverty alleviation. We believe in a wholistic approach, one that seeks to leave no one behind.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your presence and unwavering commitment to the crucial issue of migration. Your dedication to addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities of migration is invaluable. I am confident that through our collective efforts and strong partnerships, we can create a future where migration is safe, orderly, and beneficial for all. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to our productive discussions and the impactful actions that will emerge from the 115th Session of the IOM Council.

Asanteni Sana.