



Amplifying the Voices of Migrants in Africa: Unpacking the SDGs Principle of Leave No One Behind

Side Event at the 8th of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development: 3 March 2022 at 16:30 -Kigali, Rwanda

1. Background and rationale

Migration flows have been and continue to be important vectors of social, economic and culture change. There are few, if any, countries in the world that are not affected by migration; Migration is an essential, inevitable, and beneficial component of the economic and social life of every state and every region. However, in many African countries, migration is not managed effectively nor do countries adhere to migrants' rights as per international law.

Refugees often live in socioeconomically depressed areas, making poverty part of daily life for them and their host communities. The Global Compact on Refugees that was approved in 2018 seeks to improve socioeconomic outcomes for refugees and their hosts, including through the provision of timely, predictable, adequate and sustainable international support to build among others the resilience of refugees and their hosts, including relation to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters; expand and strengthen social protection systems; and facilitate socioeconomic reintegration when refugees are able to return home, and ensure that housing, land and property issues are addressed.

In relation to this year theme of the 8th session of the Regional Forum which is ***"Building forward better: a green, inclusive and resilient Africa poised to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063"*** the side event will focus on Goals 4 (quality education) and 5 (gender equality), as well as 17 (partnerships for the Goals), and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063.

The side event will seek to review, share experience on how the quality and inclusiveness of national education systems can facilitate access by refugees (both boys and girls), it will also assess how we can meet the specific education needs of refugees such as refugees living with disabilities especially during the covid 19.

The side event will also assess gender equality in relation to refugees women as well share experience on how we can address gender discrimination, promote women's leadership and 'end all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation and abuse, and harmful practices'.

This event will help to connect, build alliances and the capacity of migrant organisations and those advocating for them to influence policies and practices of the African Governments, SADC Community, the African Union and other development actors on the African continent. It will also formulate recommendations pertaining to migration - related matters in Africa including issues of poor governance, poverty and instability that causes forced migration.

Panellist and organisations for this side event include:

- Dr Janet Munakamwe, University of the Witwatersrand/ Johannesburg
- Mr Joseph Eliabson Maniragena, Southern Africa Migration Network, SADC
- Dr Cresencia Nyati, Africa Unite (Organiser), South Africa
- Father Elvis C.C Ng'andwe, Justice, Peace, Inter-religious Dialogue and Integrity of Creation & National Child Justice Forum, Tanzania
- Edward Chileka-Banda, Citizen Alliance, Malawi

Moderator:

Miss Olerato Keegope, Africa Youth Assembly (AYA), Botswana