



OPENING STATEMENT

for

DR. JAPHET LISHOMWA

Director General

Department of Immigration, Zambia

**and Chair of the Experts of the 4th STC on Migration, Refugees and
IDPs**

at

THE 7th PAN-AFRICAN FORUM ON MIGRATION (PAFOM 7)

18th – 21st October, 2022

Kigali, Rwanda.

- **Assistant Commissioner of Police, Lynder Nkuranga, the Director General of Immigration and Emigration of the Republic of Rwanda;**
- **Ms. Aissata Kane, Senior Regional Advisor to the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM);**
- **Mme. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, ILO Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Africa;**
- **Dr. Irene Isaka, Director of Social Sectors, East African Community (EAC);**
- **Ms. Angela Martins, Ag. Director for the Department of Social Development, Culture and Sports, AU Commission;**
- **Ambassador Christian Assogba, Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of Senegalese Living Abroad of the Republic of Senegal and the 6th Chair of the Pan-African Forum on Migration;**
- **Mme. Clementine Mukeka, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda;**

Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies, and Gentlemen.

1. It is with great honour that I welcome you all to the 7th Pan-African Forum on Migration (PAFOM) which is convening under the topical theme: *‘Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Migration and Human Mobility in Africa: Building Adaptation Strategies and Resilient Communities’.*
2. Let me begin by accentuating migration and human mobility is becoming a particular and growing concern in many parts of the world and especially in Africa. The nexus between migration, environment and climate change is highly complex. Migration can impact the environment and climate change by putting unsustainable pressure on natural resources. Migration

is also affected by environment and climate change. Migration is a response to assorted drivers which can be social, political or economic. Climate change interacts with these drivers by acting as an accelerator or a multiplier to migration.

3. The African Continent is home to more than one-third of global displacements; hosts an estimated 23.6 million internally displaced persons, 7.8 million refugees and 712,000 stateless persons as a result of the underlying cause and challenges of conflicts, disasters, economic and environmental degradation.
4. In recent times, the dynamics of climate change have reshaped our world, and have become more prominent in the migration space due to the influence on human mobility and displacements on the Continent. Climatic changes, coupled with population changes and migration, and their intricate relationships with development, are amongst the most pressing challenges dominating our Continent's socio-economic development discourse.
5. This calls for the need to effectively model the complex interlinkages between socio-economic and environmental drivers of migration, which is essential for informing decisions and pathways towards sustainable migration in Africa.

Excellences; Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

6. On behalf of the Republic of Zambia and in my capacity as the Chair for the Experts of the 4th Specialized Technical Committee on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, I would like to underscore the leadership of the African Union in pushing to the frontlines, the agenda of climate change and human mobility in Africa. Accordingly, the Experts Session of the 4th STC on Migration, Refugees and IDPs which convened virtually from the 19th to 20th and 27th of April, 2022, considered policy documents in the field of Migration, of which the Policy Orientation on **Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI)** and Policy Trajectory was considered by the Experts.
7. The Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) which was launched at a High-Level Event on the Margins of the UN General Assembly in New York on the 28th of September 2021 is a joint undertaking of the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations (UN), and the World Bank (WB) with the aim to support the efforts of the AUC and AU Member States to both harness the potential of mobility in the context of climate change, and address climate-induced displacements and migration.
8. In this regard, the 4th STC on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa recalled the adoption of the Africa Climate

Change Strategy to contribute to the achievement of the vision of the AU's Agenda 2063 by building the resilience of Africa to the impacts of climate change and specifically to contribute to the attainment of SDG 13: adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change in Africa.

9. The 4th STC further mandated the African Union Commission to take up the leadership role of the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) to coordinate the continental agenda on migration and climate change, as well as spearhead programmes and activities to support AU Member States and the RECs on climate change, forced displacements and migration; and requested Member States to provide necessary support and financial resources needed for the operationalization of the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI).

10. Unless ACMI work is anchored on a solid ground, it will take time to realize its goals. It is for this reason that Zambia, as the Chairperson of the STC responsible for migration and mobility policy direction, seizes this opportunity, first to offer unwavering support to the AUC to double efforts to ensure that ACMI takes off to greater heights. Second, under the coordination of the AU, I call on all founding ACMI partners to take cooperative and collaborative steps to strengthen this novel initiative.

11. I recognize that efforts are well jointed but a bigger task lies ahead to seize the opportunities available in the field of climate change and

migration, which are currently niches for sustainable development in Africa.

Excellences; Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

12. In conclusion, I would like to call on all stakeholders to actively work out strategies to effectively predict, prevent and respond to climate change related crises on the Continent. This can be a pathway only when deliberate measures are implemented to strengthen the primary and central role of the African Union and Member States to initiate responses to and manage effectively, migration and climate change needs on the continent. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement set out clear blueprints to reduce existing and future climate-related risks. A key framework on human mobility, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) also recognises among other things, the need to develop adaptation and resilience strategies to sudden-onset and slow onset natural disasters.

It is my utmost pleasure, to welcome you once again and I wish PAFOM-7 every success. I thank you your generous attention.