



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations*

866 U.N. Plaza, Rm 304, New York, NY 10017

**Panel 2: on Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development: enabling frameworks for contributions:**

The Executive Council of the Africa Union through its decision of January 2013 accepted Kenya's offer to host the African Institute for Remittances. The Institute is expected to assist in capacity building of member states of the AU, remittance senders and recipients, and other stakeholders, to manage remittances.

The Kenya Diaspora Policy recognizes the important role played by Kenyans Abroad in the socioeconomic development of the country and the need to synergise the efforts of all stakeholders in the Diaspora issues to ensure that there is enabling frameworks for contributions.

We are in the process of developing an incentive framework to enhance Diaspora participation in national development, tap into Diaspora skills, knowledge and expertise, and encourage diaspora participation Kenya's democratic and governance processes.

Some of the objectives of the policy are as follows

1. The development and implementation of strategies to engage, empower and mainstream Kenyans Abroad into the national development process;
2. Empower Kenyans Abroad to invest in Kenya, leverage remittances and deepen knowledge and technology transfer;

Kenya has embraced the mobile based payment and money transfer systems such as M-Pesa and the recently launched M-Visa among others. The systems are used by migrants in some selected countries to send money back home.

The use of mobile money transfer is one of the many alternatives to remit money back home, if expanded to other countries, it can lower the cost of money transfer resulting to increased remittances.

Our Challenges are

1. High cost of remittances;
2. Enhancing the Development of effective mechanisms for dialogue and partnership;
3. Establishing the necessary institutional mechanism for co-ordination and administration of issues affecting all Kenyans Abroad.
4. Development and maintenance of reliable, accurate, disaggregated and internationally comparable statistical data and indicators on international migration,

Our expectations of the Global Compact on Migration are:

1. That it will encourage all remittance stakeholders including Money Transfer Organizations, global financial institutions and international regulatory authorities to work together to facilitate and ensure that effective cost reduction tools and techniques that are currently in use, are made available for immediate adoption and implementation in countries that have high remittance costs.
2. Calls for the establishment of a financing facility for Migration to channel funding and offer technical assistance to Member States to fulfil their migration related commitments;
3. Encourages Member States to re-affirm their commitments to implement the remittance provisions of the Valleta Action Plan in addition to the 3% SDG target, identify corridors for remittance transfers and commit to substantially reduce the costs by 2020, such as from Europe to Africa and within Africa as well as the commitments of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action;

4. Acknowledges regional initiatives such as the Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT) and commitments outlined in the Nairobi Action Plan on remittances;
5. Urges financial regulators to stop equating remittances with money laundering and to adopt a risk -based approached that focuses on payments above a certain threshold;