

Africa – Arab States Interregional Tripartite Meeting on Labour Migration

Virtual event, November 15-16, 2021

Agenda

INTERREGIONAL MEETING DAY 1 – November 15th

SESSION	Moderator and Speakers
Opening remarks	<p>Moderator: Ms. Nozipho Tshabalala, Professional moderator</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, ILO Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Africa • Ms. Jacqueline Mugo, Vice-President, International Organization of Employers • Mr. Shaher Saed, Deputy President of the Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC) (President of the Palestine Trade Union Federation) • Mr. Christian Frutiger, Ambassador, Assistant Director General, Head of Global Cooperation, Swiss Development Cooperation • Mme Cisse Mariama Mohamed, Director for Social Affairs, African Union Commission
<p>Evolving labour migration trends in Africa and the Arab States: Tripartite action in rethinking current policies and strategies in light of COVID-19</p>	<p>Session Objective: This session will set the scene for subsequent expert panels to be held throughout the Interregional Meeting by outlining recent trends, challenges and opportunities that will enable discussion on tailored solutions adapted to the needs and expectations of both regions.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Alexio Musindo, Director, ILO Office for Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, and Special Representative to AU</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ryszard Cholewinski, Senior Labour Migration Specialist, ILO Arab States • Ms. Adaeze Molukwu, African Union Commission • Mr. Khalil Bouhazza, GCC Executive Bureau • Mr. Murtaza Khan, Fragomen • Dr Hind Benammar, Office Coordinator, ATUC
<p>Expert Panel 1: Prospects for the mobility of a more skilled African workforce in the Arab States - unfolding the</p>	<p>Session Objective: This session will explore opportunities for mobility of workers with adequate and proper skills, the challenges in relation to skilling or up-skilling of workers and their recruitment, issues around recognition of the skills obtained by migrant workers and potential career growth based on the occupational skills migrant workers have acquired.</p>

<p>reality of the supply and demand sides</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Oumar Diop, Joint Labour Migration Programme Coordinator, African Union Commission</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HE Mr. Assegid Getachew, Labour Affairs State Minister, Ministry of Labour and Skills, Government of Ethiopia • Mr. Srinivas B. Reddy, Branch Chief, Skills and Employability, ILO • Mr. Ali Alhossayan, Deputy Director, Kuwait Chambers of Commerce and Industries (KCCI), Kuwait • Ms. Teresa K. Wabuko, Central Organization of Trade Unions-Kenya (COTU-K) • Mr. Nader Kabbani, PhD, Senior Fellow at Brookings Institution
<p>Expert Panel 2: Extending social protection to migrant workers: strengthening existing frameworks and building new approaches</p>	<p>Session Objective:</p> <p>The session will seek to unpack the barriers migrant workers face when attempting to access social protection in destination countries but also upon return to their home country. Participants will learn about different approaches in extending social protection to migrant workers and their families based on ILO standards and international good practices. Legal and practical solutions to support migrant workers' access to social protection benefits will be discussed.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Luca Pellerano, Senior Social Protection Specialist, ILO Regional Office for the Arab States</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Naima Hrouch, Head of the Department for Bilateral Social Protection Agreements, Ministry of Employment (Morocco) • Mr. Shaman Majali, Legal Affairs and Official Spokesperson from the Social Security Corporation (Jordan) • Ms. Fambaye N'doye UNSAS Senegal • Ms. Sonya Janahi, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry • Ms. Amohelang Mamatebele Vivian Ntsobo, African Union Commission
<p>Side Event: Documentary screening “Thank you Soma” and discussion on domestic work</p> <p>The side-event will begin with the screening of the 30 minutes documentary followed by a panel discussion of African women who worked as domestic workers in the Arab States, to share their reflections on the themes raised in the documentary and their own experiences</p>	

INTERREGIONAL MEETING DAY 2 – November 16th

SESSION	Moderator and Speakers
<p>Expert Panel 3: Making bilateral labour agreements more effective for workers, employers, and governments</p>	<p>Session objective: The session will explore recent trends and practices in relation to BLAs and MOUs along the Africa-Arab States labour migration corridor and will discuss areas for progress to achieve more effective rights-based agreements that promote the welfare of workers as well as the interests of employers and governments of both countries of origin and destination.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Coumba Diop, Regional migration and mobility specialist, ILO Regional Office for Africa</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Oumar Diop, Joint Labour Migration Programme Coordinator, African Union • Ms. Marina Manke, Head, Labour Mobility and Human Development Division, International Organization for Migration • Ms. Lucy Kibiru, Principal Economist, Ministry of Labour, Government of Kenya • Ms. Phoebe Kume, Labour Officer, Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of Nigeria • Mr. Ali Serhani, CGEM Morocco • Mr. Castro Abdulla, FENASOL, Lebanon
<p>Expert Panel 4: Improving laws, policies and their enforcement to promote fair recruitment</p>	<p>Session objective: This session will discuss measures implemented by governments, trade unions and employers that ensure that recruitment practices across borders are transparent and effectively regulated, protect workers' rights and improve labour market functioning</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Michelle Leighton, Chief, ILO Labour Migration Branch</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hillary Talemwa Mwesigwa, Principal Labour Officer, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Government of Uganda • Mr. Mohammed Ali Al-Meer, Labour Expert at the Office of the Assistant, Undersecretary of Labour, Ministry of Labour, Government of Qatar • Ms. Enid Nambuya, Uganda Association of External Recruitment Agencies • Mr. Achakoma Kennedy, Trade Union Congress Ghana • Ms. Sophia Kagan, FAIRWAY Programme Chief Technical Advisor, ILO Regional Office for Arab States
<p>Expert Panel 5: Promoting internal labour market mobility</p>	<p>Session Objectives: This session will discuss progress towards promoting internal labour market mobility of workers in the Arab States and redressing employer-worker relationships that impede workers' freedom of movement, their right to terminate employment or change employers. Decreasing the</p>

	<p>dependence of migrant workers on their employers for both their immigration and employment status – which in some cases may result in migrant workers becoming more vulnerable to labour exploitation, including forced labour – is important not only to improve worker protections but also to promote greater productivity and efficiency in the labour market.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Tariq Haq, Senior Employment Policy Specialist, ILO</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Shaikha Al Khater, Director of the International Labour Relations Department, Government of Qatar • Mr. Hafez bin Ali Al-Faifi Advisor to the Deputy Minister for the Monitoring and Development of the Labour Environment, Government of Saudi Arabia • Ms. Shereen Mohamed, Chief of Client Services, Labour Market Regulatory Authority, Government of Bahrain • Dr. Steffen Hertog, Associate Professor in Comparative Politics in the Department of Government, London School of Economics • Mr. Abdel Qader Shehabi, General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions
<p>Closing plenary</p>	<p>Moderator: Ms. Nozipho Tshabalala, Professional moderator</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Thomas Helfen, Head of Division Coordination of Operations in Africa; African Union, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany • Ms. Suad Ali, Second Secretary/Programme Manager Specialist, Migration and Development • Mr. Joel Odigie, Deputy General Secretary, ITUC Africa • Ms. Lindiwe Septhomolo, International Organization of Employers • Dr. Ruba Jaradat, Assistant Director General and Regional Director for Arab States • Mr. Sabelo Mbokazi, Head of Division, Labour Employment and Migration