



## REPUBLIC OF KENYA

### MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

#### **MINISTERS FROM EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA MEET IN NAIROBI FOR REGIONAL MINISTERIAL FORUM ON HARMONIZING LABOR MIGRATION POLICIES IN EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA**

#### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Friday, 17 Jan 2020**

The Government of the Republic of Kenya, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM)/UN Migration will convene a two-day Regional Ministerial Forum to dialogue on forging a common approach towards safe, orderly and humane labour migration amongst countries in East and the Horn of Africa from **20-21 January 2020 at the Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi.**

The new Labour and Social Protection CS, Hon. Simon Chelugui will officially open the Conference at 9am on Monday 20th January 2020.

The Regional Ministerial Forum will bring together Ministers in charge of Labour and Social Protection and Senior Government official from Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania and Regional Offices (EAC, AU and IGAD).

The socio-economic benefits of labour migration to both countries of origin and destination are immense. It is a source of employment and livelihoods for migrant workers; addresses skills gaps in destination countries and brings in the much-needed remittances to migrants' countries of origin. In addition, it is one of the main avenues of technology and skills-transfer between countries

Studies have shown that an estimated 80 percent of migration in Africa happens within the continent. A report published by IOM in 2019 revealed that more than 57 percent of the more than 390,000 movements observed in the East and Horn of Africa region in that year, were due to economic reasons.

However, labour migration continue to face numerous challenges. Therefore there is need to harmonize policies to effectively harness the opportunities associated with labour migration governance, address the associated challenges and at the same time develop instruments to operationalize such as Bilateral Labor Migration Agreements.

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