



Remarks by Prakash Hurry

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**During the Intra-Africa Talent Mobility Partnership (TMP) Program's
Regional Working Group Meeting of the East African Community Component
At the Sheraton Kampala Hotel, Kampala, Uganda, July 4, 2016**

The Rt. Hon. Dr. A. M. Kirunda Kivejinja, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of East African Community Affairs of the Government of Uganda;

Honorable Jesca Eriyo, Deputy Secretary General (Productive & Social Sectors) of the EAC;

Madam Permanent Secretary of MEACA, Edith Mwanje;

Distinguished Guests;

Members of the TMP Regional Working Group who are representing the 3 National Working Groups of the EAC Component's Pilot Countries (namely Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda);

Representatives of Tanzania and Burundi, who are joining us for the 1st time;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I bring you greetings from the Board and Management of the Regional Multidisciplinary Center of Excellence (RMCE), which is the World Bank Development Grant Facility Grant Recipient for Implementing the TMP Program.

It gives me great pride and honor to be with you at this important forum.

As background, briefly, the TMP is being piloted in 12 countries of three regional blocs. The details are available in the Program Brief that accompanied the invitation we sent to you and I shall not repeat those contents here.

We have been meeting since 2014 as members of the TMP Regional Working Group. We have met a few times with counterparts from West Africa and the Accelerated Program for Economic Integration initiative. We have also met at the high-level forum on the margins of the AfDB Annual Meeting in 2015 in Abidjan. We also interact intensively on virtual platforms, mainly e-mail.

Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen.

What is different today is that we are holding this event of the EAC Component here in Kampala, Uganda, in presence of senior officials of the Government of Uganda and also the EAC. It should give us the joy and honor as representatives of our countries to show our elected officials and senior management what we have been doing since 2014 and the results of all those foreign trips we have taken as well as what it is that they can do to make our products benefit society.

Another uniqueness of the meeting here in Kampala is that for the first time, the EAC, Burundi and Tanzania have joined us. This marks a giant step toward making the initiative an EAC-wide Program, as has been the fervent demand by the EAC pilot countries, especially the Government of Uganda.

The EAC Secretariat did host us in Arusha, Tanzania in 2015, when we prepared one of the major products we will be discussing here in Kampala, as well as grant audiences to RMCE to discuss this Program. However, this is the first time we are sitting together in a working session.

Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen.

RMCE is deeply indebted to the Government of Uganda for hosting this event; for its representation at such a high level; for the exceptional model demonstrated in institutionalizing the TMP Program – from the National Working Group through the Permanent Secretary and senior management to the Minister of MEACA, and indeed across Ministries and Departments and into the private sector. The ideals and outputs of the TMP in Uganda are shared actions across sectors and serve as connective tissue among various stakeholders concerned with the important issue of talent mobility, competitiveness and productivity of enterprises especially dealing with trade in services, economic growth and regional economic integration.

RMCE also acknowledges the tireless efforts of Hon. Jesca Eriyo, who has been helping us to more closely align the TMP to the EAC ideals, structures and mechanisms. Tanzania and Burundi are here with us because of her efforts.

Another value added and uniqueness of our meeting here in Kampala is the theme of our workshop. As it is the final year of the three-year pilot initiative funded by the World Bank Group's Development Grant Facility (DGF), we want to prepare to ensure that this Program leaves a lasting impact.

That impact would be felt by the steps we take this year toward sustaining the pilot, scaling up the good practices, deepening the TMP reach both geographically and in depth of issues and actions.

Indeed, from inception, the actions we have been pursuing are providing the bedrock for scaling up the initiative.

At this Kampala meeting, we want to finalize two of the major outputs of the TMP, namely, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and the accompanying Matrix of Priority Policy Reforms to enhance mobility of professionals under the trade In services provisions of the EAC Common Market Protocol (CMP).

These two outputs, along with others already produced and those to be achieved in 2016 will form the basic, core documents that will be used in dialogue between our countries and the World Bank and other development partners for the substantial funding that countries will need to carry through with the proposed policy reforms and to build the institutions, organizations and human capacity for implementing some of the principal features of the CMP provisions on talent mobility.

As some may be aware, some of the countries in the APEI region have already received World Bank budget support to carry out their reforms – Mauritius and Seychelles have received USD 10 million and 5 million, respectively.

I also have the pleasure to inform you that as a result of the strong political buy-in into this Program by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire and facilitation by RMCE, senior officials of the Ivorian Government have begun dialogue with the World Bank – through the Country Director in Abidjan and the Coordinating Director of Regional Programs in West Africa (based in Abuja, Nigeria).

It is the objective of RMCE to help initiate similar effort for the EAC Component.

Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen. May I beg your indulgence to seek the continuing support of the Rt. Hon. Deputy Minister of Uganda and the Hon. DSG EAC to help us convene a Ministerial Summit on the TMP during which our elected officials will sign the MOU and affirm their commitment to the action matrix prepared by the technical teams. This agreement will help convince the development partners that our Governments mean business. By the way, the Ministers of the APEI countries did sign such a framework in 2013, leading to the substantial World Bank support to implement the APEI Action Framework.

Let us therefore use the occasion of our meeting in Kampala to prepare the background documents and strategy to fully brief our elected officials so that they can be committed to the cause of the Program and so play the vital role of dialogue with development partners to mobilize the resources and partnerships that are necessary to implement the action matrix, which can help accomplish some of the features of the EAC CMP provisions on talent mobility.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to pause here and hope that we can come up with ingenious products and approaches that we can brand as the **Kampala Roadmap for the TMP in the EAC.**

You may consider the points below as well – optional

1. For decades now, the major RECs of the continent - ECOWAS, EAC, SADC, the Arab Maghreb Union, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) - have thought deeply, looked far, put down key protocols and frameworks to enable our professionals, skilled workers, business people to move in/out, establish and reside in member states.
2. And, many of our countries have agreed, ratified and signed on to these frameworks and mechanisms. Progress can be seen and felt in many ways.

3. But much more remains to be done, for trade in services to be freely conducted across borders, for labor to be truly mobile in the region, for business people to dash in out as dictated by the spirit of entrepreneurship, all to make sure that our businesses and economies are as productive as anywhere else in the world, so that Africa can become that growth pole, making it easier for a global investor to be assured that putting their resources on this land can return profit margins as anywhere else in the world if not more. Then we would be able to power that job creation machinery, deliver services more effectively and efficiently and lift significant proportions of our peoples out of poverty as China and others have amazingly done.
4. Therefore, considering the state of affairs on productivity, services, competitiveness, priority growth sectors, internal capacity to develop skills, taking advantage of existing REC protocols such as the EAC's Common Market Protocol and the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration, focusing on mobility of professionals, skilled labor and business persons;
5. Given the good background work done by experts (advisors or consultants) assigned to each country under this Program; the deliberations of National Working Groups and Regional Working Groups over the period that the TMP has been implemented;
6. The TMP has provided ways for countries and sub-regions to learn from each other; to harmonize our approaches; provided roadmaps on how to support each other on the necessary reforms by learning from one another. The Program has helped to shed light on some of the good practices in the EAC, ECOWAS and APEI, as well as what steps should be avoided and how to overcome key challenges.
7. All these efforts should help ensure that enterprises have the qualified people they need when and where they need them in order to be as productive and competitive as any region of the world, facilitate trade in services among our economies, and take that giant step toward deeper integration for the benefit of all our peoples, really delivering inclusive growth and development?
8. Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to pause here and hope that we come up with ingenious products and approaches that we can brand as the **Kampala Roadmap for the TMP in the EAC**.