

## Press Release

### **NCPD and NCM Forge Strategic Partnership to Address Migration and Population Dynamics in Kenya**

**Nairobi, Kenya 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024** – In a significant step towards enhancing national development through collaborative efforts, the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) and the National Commission for Migration (NCM) held a high-level meeting today led by NCPD Director General Dr. Mohamed Sheikh and NCM Director General Dr. Dan Opon.

The discussions centered around partnership opportunities, data and information sharing, and resource mobilization to address the pressing issues of migration and its impact on population dynamics, health, and development in Kenya.

Both delegations emphasized the necessity of collaborating to harness their complementary mandates. Recognizing migration as a critical factor influencing population change at local, regional, national, and global levels, the institutions agreed to explore various avenues for cooperation. “This partnership aims to ensure that migration not only aligns with Kenya’s national development goals but also upholds the rights of migrants” said Dr. Sheikh.

NCPD and NCM outlined several key areas for partnership:

1. **Data and Research Initiatives:** Joint research initiatives focusing on the impacts of migration on population growth, urbanization, and labor markets. Collaborative data collection efforts will provide a comprehensive understanding of migration flows and their effects on demographic indicators.
2. **Policy Development:** Development of policies that integrate migration considerations into national population strategies and the Vision 2030 framework. The institutions will advocate for legislative reforms that support migration-related issues and consider demographic trends impacting internal and international migration.
3. **Health Initiatives:** Collaborative programs targeting the health needs of migrants, particularly maternal and child health and reproductive health services for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The partnership will also address communicable diseases associated with migration, including HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB).

4. **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Establish joint campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the link between migration and population growth, changing family structures, and development. Educational programs will be developed to inform migrant populations about their rights and access to essential services such as family planning and healthcare.
5. **Sustainable Development Planning:** Strategies to integrate migration data and trends into Kenya's long-term development planning, ensuring that population issues are considered in housing, infrastructure, education, and social services. The institutions will also explore how migration can contribute to sustainable development, including leveraging remittances for national growth.

In line with the Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2023 on Kenya National Population Policy for Sustainable Development, which underscores the urgent need for a migration policy, both institutions pledged to collaborate towards its realization. NCPD will leverage its expertise, while NCM will mobilize resources to facilitate the development of a comprehensive migration policy.

Dr. Mohamed Sheikh stated, "Our meeting today marks the beginning of a promising collaboration between NCPD and NCM. By working together, we can create frameworks that ensure migration supports Kenya's development goals while protecting the rights of migrants. This partnership is essential for informed decision-making and policy formulation."

Dr. Dan Opon echoed this sentiment, noting, "Our complementary mandates provide a solid foundation for addressing the multifaceted challenges of migration and population dynamics. Together, we can enhance our understanding and response to these critical issues, ensuring a sustainable future for all Kenyans."

The National Migration Coordination Mechanism (NCM), a government led inter-agency coordination platform, that will be responsible for national migration management.

The body is tasked with facilitating interagency coordination, collaboration and information-sharing on migration issues at the national level. It will provide a common platform for relevant government ministries, departments and non-state actors.

NCM was conceived from the findings and recommendations of a joint assessment by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and IOM in 2014. It also draws on the migration profile for Kenya launched by the government with the support of IOM in 2015.

NCM is based at the Department of Immigration Services in the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government.