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FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

ADOPTED AT THE THIRD EDITION OF THE KOFI ANNAN PEACE AND SECURITY FORUM ON THE THEME:
“MIGRATION AND SOCIETAL RESILIENCE IN A MULTIPOLAR WORLD ORDER: ADDRESSING CONFLICTS AND
BUILDING PEACE IN AFRICA”, HELD IN ACCRA, ON 28TH AND 29TH FEBRUARY 2024

1. Preamble

Under the distinguished patronage of Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Ghana Armed Forces; and Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the African Union High Representative for Silencing the Guns; the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), in collaboration with the Government of Ghana, and with support from the Government of Norway and the Federal Government of Germany, held the Third Edition of the Kofi Annan Peace and Security Forum (hereafter, KAPS Forum) on the theme: *Migration and Societal Resilience in a Multipolar World Order: Addressing Conflicts and Building Peace in Africa*, on 28th and 29th February, 2024.

The KAPS Forum was also honoured to host H.E. Boni Yayi, Former President of the Republic of Benin; H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn Boshe, Former Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; H.E. Mrs. Fatoumata C.M. Jallow Tambajang, Former Vice President of the Republic of The Gambia; and H.E. Chief Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor, Former Vice President of the Republic of Liberia.

Distinguished dignitaries also included H.E. Leonardo Santos Simão, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel and Chairman of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC); Amb. Dr. Abdel-Fatau Musah, Commissioner, Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission; H.E. Kyrre Holm, Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Cooperation, Norwegian Embassy, Accra; H.E. Ms. Sivine Jansen, Deputy Head of Mission, German Embassy, Accra; H.E. Ms. Hanna Serwaah Tetteh, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa; H.E. Charles Abani, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ghana; H.E. Dr. Angela Lusigi, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative; H.E. Mme. Fatou Diallo Ndiaye, Chief of Mission, Ghana, Togo, and Benin, International Organization for Migration (IOM); Commissioner Silver Ojakol, the Chief of Staff, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat; H.E. Mme. Josephine Nkrumah, Resident Representative of the President of ECOWAS Commission in Liberia; H.E. Irchad Razaaly, Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Ghana; and Mr. Emmanuel Habuka Bombande, Senior Mediation Adviser, Department of Political Affairs, United Nations.

Furthermore, other distinguished dignitaries present included, Hon. Dominic Nitiwul (MP), Minister for Defence of the Republic of Ghana, Hon. Henry Quartey (MP), Minister for the Interior of the Republic of Ghana; Hon. Albert Kan-Dapaah, Minister of National Security of the Republic of Ghana; Hon. Dr. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings, Member of Parliament for the Korle Klottey Constituency, Greater Accra Region, Republic of Ghana; the Kofi Annan Foundation; and other members of the diplomatic community; development partners; Heads of Immigration Institutions from The Gambia, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria; security chiefs; policy and research think tanks; academia; peacekeeping training institutions; corporate leaders; and other civil society groups; participating both in person and virtually.

2. Development of the Communiqué

The final communiqué is based on deliberations and conclusions at the KAPS Forum relating to migration, climate change and demography. The following sub-themes were discussed either at plenary or syndicate sessions; namely: Migration, Climate Change and Conflicts in Africa: African Leadership and Coping Mechanisms; Building Regional Capacities to Mitigate Migration and Conflicts in Africa; Addressing Irregular Migration and Transnational Organised Crime in a Multipolar World; Gender, Youth and Migration: Issues and Debates; Building Community Resilience against Climate Change and Conflicts; Climate Change and Migration in West Africa: Assessing Opportunities and Pitfalls; and Demography and Migration in a Multipolar World Order?

3. The Communiqué

Delegates made the following observations and recommendations during the KAPS Forum:

3.1 Context

1. Migration is becoming increasingly necessary for all countries in the ongoing context of globalisation, multipolarity, rapid demographic changes, and climate-induced insecurities;
2. Although African states are the least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, they currently bear the brunt of the impact of climate-induced insecurities that are forcing human populations on the continent to move;
3. Although migration remains a catalyst for economic development and shared prosperity for both origin and destination countries, it has become a highly emotional and sensitive subject that is sometimes misrepresented and instrumentalised to incite fear and outrage;

4. This is posing a veritable threat to the security and rights of migrants, while deflecting attention away from the enormous benefits of migration;
5. The ECOWAS sub-region is grappling with multiple sources of insecurity that include violent extremism, democratic reversals, and transnational organised crimes that include human smuggling and trafficking;
6. While ECOWAS Member States have adopted specific protocols relating to migration, trade, security and good governance, their implementation is bedevilled by multiple challenges that include the lack of political will, capacity deficits and poor coordination; and
7. Although the 1979 ECOWAS Protocol relating to the Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and Establishment has been vital in improving the free movement of people within the sub-region, its implementation has been characterised by multiple challenges that undermine effective intra-regional trade, regional economic integration and development.

3.2 Recommendations

The following recommendations were offered for consideration:

1. National stakeholders in Africa should address the leadership and governance deficits on the continent by promoting democracy, the rule of law and accountable government, which are vital for preventing or addressing the situations that force people to migrate;
2. African states should mainstream climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies into their national development plans, as an approach to addressing climate-induced migration within and across the continent;
3. African states should leverage the climate security and migration-related protocols they are party to, by identifying and removing the barriers to their implementation;
4. National and regional stakeholders should prioritise African independence in the articulation, ownership, funding and implementation of policies related to climate security, migration and peacebuilding;
5. International cooperation should be strengthened to address the lopsided impact of climate change on African states, which have been least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions;
6. States in Sub-Saharan Africa, and their counterparts in the Maghreb, Middle East, Europe and North America, should strengthen multilateral cooperation to protect the rights of refugees and other migrants in their countries;
7. African states and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) should facilitate the transformation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement into a catalyst for structural change and economic transformation through genuine open borders, deeper integration, and enhanced regional value chains that retain talents on the continent;
8. To effectively implement the ECOWAS Protocol relating to the Free Movement of Persons, as well as the AfCFTA Agreement, ECOWAS should facilitate improved border security management through capacity building, and information sharing among the relevant agencies;
9. African states and the RECs should mainstream indigenous mechanisms of peace, justice, and security that are based on a whole-of-society and person-to-person approaches to conflict transformation in order to generate widely inclusive solutions that can bolster state and societal resilience against armed violence;
10. ECOWAS and its Member States should prioritise the transformation of farmer-herder conflicts, which are threatening the security of many communities in the region;
11. African states should provide broader opportunities for the youth and centre youth participation in governance processes;
12. Given that women bear the brunt of climate insecurities, their needs and priorities should be integrated into mitigation and adaptation measures;
13. Women's leadership in governance should be mainstreamed in all local, national and regional polities and programmes, as well as their implementation;
14. Scholars and policymakers should decriminalise and decolonise migration to reflect the fact that states at all income levels are now origin, transit and destination countries; and
15. Institutions of thought leadership, such as KAIPTC, should continue to prioritise research, and policy dialogue on migration, climate security and societal resilience, and KAIPTC, in particular, should be supported by partners to discharge this mandate effectively.

WHEREUPON, We the under listed, Commandant of KAIPTC, and Chairman of the KAPS Forum append our signatures to this Communiqué:

Adopted in Accra on 29th February, 2024

Signature.....
MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD ADDO GYANE
Commandant, Kofi Annan International
Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC)

Signature.....
H.E. DR. MOHAMED IBN CHAMBAS
African Union High Representative for Silencing the Guns; and
Chairman, Kofi Annan Peace and Security Forum (KAPS Forum)