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Our Ref. No. SC/VA/78/157/01

Your Ref. No.....



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Ministry of the Interior
P.O. Box M.42
Accra

8th December, 2016

**THE ACTING HEAD OF MISSION
PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA
56, RUE DE MOILLEBEAU
1209 GENEVA**

**HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF
MIGRANTS**

Reference to your letter No.SC/GE/UN.7 SF.2 with its attachments dated 31st October, 2016 on the above subject matter which requested for views and comments on Resolution 32/14 adopted by the Human Rights Council on 1st July, 2016.

We are forwarding the attached views and comments as requested for the attention of the Office of the High Commissioner of the Human Rights Council.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

**WALTER KWAO-ANATI
DIRECTOR/ MIGRATION
FOR: MINISTER FOR THE INTERIOR**

cc: Hon. Minister, MINTER
Hon. Dep. Minister, MINTER
Chief Director, MINTER

RE: HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

Ghana is a constitutional multi-party democracy underpinned by a strong culture of respect for human rights of all the population, citizens and foreigners, including migrants, without discrimination. Ghana has formulated and launched a National Migration Policy on 5th July, 2016 which is aimed at harmonizing and integrating migration policies in Ghana in order to address existing gaps in the management of migration. In that regard, Ghana stands ready to support initiatives to promote universal participation in protecting and promoting the rights of migrants.

Some relevant provisions in the National Migration Policy:

Right to Vote

Every Ghanaian above the age of 18 has the right to vote in elections. A law, Representation of the People Amendment Law (ROPAL) 2016, (Act, 699) has been passed to authorize voting by all Ghanaians living abroad. However, due to logistical constraints, there were currently no conditions in place to make voting of Ghanaians abroad credible. The credibility of each ballot box had to be ensured, especially given that elections are often very close. For the time being, Ghanaians living abroad could vote by proxy in the country.

Dual Nationality

Ghana recognizes dual nationality, and any Ghanaian can take a nationality of another country. The Supreme Court had come out strongly in favour of dual citizenship. However, high-level state functions could be held only by Ghanaian nationals with only one nationality.

Human Trafficking

The Human Trafficking Act had been passed in 2005. Since then it is envisaged that a Trafficking Fund would be established with the view of helping victims. The Ghana Police Service, the Ghana Immigration Service and the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection have anti-human trafficking units which are seen as protecting human rights of migrants. Rehabilitation of victims of migration is done mostly by civil society organizations.

Right of family

Any migrant worker in Ghana has the right to bring in their family members to Ghana

Joint Border Patrols

Joint border patrols between Ghana and Burkina Faso, and Ghana and the Ivory Coast are encouraged. There are Joint border posts established. Border security meetings with neighbouring countries periodically take place. Border residents have free right of movement across borders.

Ghana's approach to the management of migration is to treat migrant and any other foreigners the same way it wishes that other countries should treat Ghanaians abroad.

Conclusion:

Ghana therefore stands ready to support initiatives which seek to promote universal participation in the protection of the right of migrants. Ghana shares in the goal of the Resolution adopted by the human rights Council on 1 July, 2016 on the protection of the human rights of migrants.

Ghana reaffirms the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights of migrants.

Ghana reaffirms the fundamental importance of respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights of all migrants

Ghana reaffirms to ensure that the country's immigration policies are consistent with the obligations under international human rights law.