

# **Technical workshop on labour migration statistics for the Africa region**

## **1. Background and justification**

The AUC/ILO/IOM/ECA Labour Migration Governance for Development and Integration in Africa, known as the Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP) was adopted by the African Heads of State and Government during the 24th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly (January 2015). It is a four-year programme within a ten-year vision whose overall objective is to strengthen the effective governance and regulation of labour migration and mobility in Africa, under the rule of law with the involvement of all key stakeholders.

As international migration moves to the forefront of policy agendas, there is a corresponding interest in accurate and up-to date data and statistics. However, accurate and up-to date information on migration levels and trends is largely incomplete, notably on a special category of migrants such as migrant workers which is a focus of the JLMP.

In order to better implement the JLMP, accurate data and statistics on labour migration are needed to describe, reflect and support a better understanding of what is happening and to make more policy informed decisions on all facets of labour migration. For this reason, the international labour migration data collection was launched in June 2015 by the AUC for the Africa region.

This data collection procedure has taken full advantage of the recent experiences of the ILO in this area in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and in Arab Countries in MENA Region. In fact, the age for youth in the ILO's International Labour Migration Questionnaire (ILMQ) has been adjusted to the African context and converted to 15-35 years of age, and used as a template to be filled in by participating countries. However, in the very near future, in addition to the age group 15-35 it is highly advisable to collect data for the age group 15-24 as well, in order to achieve comparability of the African data with the other regions of the world. The questionnaire collects information on the stocks and flows of international migrants; both at home and abroad; including relevant disaggregation by labour force participation, educational attainment, occupation, industry and several other variables relevant for policy and research on the international labour market. It covers the period 2005-2014, as corresponding to the 2010 round of population on housing censuses in Africa, one of the main sources of migration data in Africa.

In this process, formal letters from the AUC were sent in June 2015 to national statistical offices (NSO) inviting them to nominate a relevant individual as a focal point and fill in the ILMQ with a deadline of five weeks for the data collection. The International Labour Migration Questionnaire has been sent to all the 54 countries in the Africa region.

The resulting Database will need to be validated by: (a) clarifying any missing sources or unclear definitions provided; (b) clarifying possible inconsistencies; and (c) seeking any additional sources or individual tables known to exist but missing from the responses. Approval and endorsement of the final set of indicators will be obtained from the planned technical Meeting in mid-September 2015 in Addis Ababa. Then the data collected will provide the necessary information for the 2015 Labour Migration Statistics in Africa Report and to the AUC and Department of Statistics of the ILO for dissemination in AUC website and ILOSTAT.

## **2. Objectives**

The main objectives of this technical workshop are to (a) validate the national data on labour migration and (b) build national capacity in key labour migration statistics.

More specifically the technical workshop will be aimed to:

- (i) Validate existing data on labour migration received from the NSO
- (ii) Inform participants about the ILO's global activities on the development of standards on migrant workers, and the set of meta-data questionnaires sent to the all ILO member states.
- (iii) Discuss and identify better strategies and mechanisms for improving data collection of labour migration statistics in Africa
- (iv) Improve national capacity to analyse and publish labour migration statistics from various sources, including administrative records, and
- (v) Discuss and advise possible support on the above from different partners (AUC/ILO/IOM/ECA), including recommendations from participants on the way forward.

## **3. Summary agenda and format of the workshop**

The workshop will be structured in two parts: (i) capacity building in labour migration statistics and (ii) review and validation of data received on labour migration for the 2015 labour migration statistics in Africa report. An output-oriented and participatory approach will combine presentations, and group/country-specific practical work, including on-going country-level work on data collection, as well as possible work on national data that participants may be asked to bring to the technical workshop.

## **4. Official languages and documentation**

The official language of this workshop will be English and French. Key documents and presentations will be provided during the workshop.

## **5. Date and Venue**

This regional technical workshop on labour migration statistics for the African countries is scheduled to take place from 28 to 30 September 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

## **6. Participants**

About 70 participants will be invited, based on the nominated focal points from National Statistical Offices and labour statisticians, and Regional Economic Communities. Facilitators will come from: AUC, ILO, IOM and UNECA.