



African consultations on Migration

FACTORING IN OUTCOMES OF THE VALLETTA SUMMIT

14-15 December 2015

Nairobi, KENYA

1 BACKGROUND

Mixed migration flows from and within Africa have become a growing phenomenon occupying policy makers in and outside the continent. These flows triggered by various socio-political factors have various destinations and are characterized by their complex nature. However, it is important to note that the vast majority of African migrants still move within Africa and this dynamics has expanded significantly over the last decades with even more impressive rates within the AU RECs.

For more than a decade, the African Union Commission has been engaged in providing policy guidance on Migration and working closely with its Member States to address critical migration issues. The various AU policy frameworks and instruments¹ on the issue contain recommendations on how to promote the benefits of migration, improve capacity for migration management and enhance mobility on the continent as well as address the challenges of irregular migration. As recently as the 25th AU Summit in Johannesburg, AU leaders deliberated extensively on how to effectively manage migration by committing to achieve a comprehensive range of issues by 2018, including to: speed up the implementation of

¹ These include the Migration Policy Framework for Africa. The framework provides a well-informed policy guideline on nine (9) key thematic migration issues to assist member states and the RECs in formulating migration policies. In other words, the MPFA is a negotiated articulation of the aspirations of Africans for the program they seek; a step in the right direction. Further to the MPFA, the Commission works with other migration instruments, namely: the African Common Position on Migration and Development; Joint Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development; the AU Framework on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (Kampala Convention); the Joint Africa-EU Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings especially Women and Children, AU Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation, Social Policy Framework for Africa, and the AU Plan of Action on Boosting Intra-African Trade Initiatives with the framework of the continental policies include the promotion of Labour Market Information System (LMIS), Social Protection for the Informal Economy and Rural Workers (SPIREWORK) and the Labour Migration Governance for Development and Integration in Africa

continent wide visa free regimes including issuance of visas at ports of entry for Africans; expedite the operationalization of the African Passport that would as a start facilitate free movement of persons that will be issued by Member States; improve labour mobility by establishing harmonized mechanism thereby ensuring that higher education in Africa is compatible, comparable to enable recognition of credentials that will facilitate transferability of knowledge, skills and expertise; and operationalize existing action plans to combat Human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

Key flagship programs have been introduced by the African Union to address various migration related issues in the most comprehensive way. These include:

- The '**AU Commission Initiative against Trafficking (AU.COMMIT) Campaign**' launched in 2009: with the Ouagadougou Action Plan at the centre of its objective the campaign reached out to Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Civil Society Organisations in taking serious measures against combating trafficking in human beings, while encouraging all actors to use the Ouagadougou Action Plan as a reference to develop and reform their policies, laws and interventions on trafficking in human beings, especially women and children.
- Building on the AU COMMIT, the Commission established the **African Union Horn of Africa Initiative (AU-HOAI) on Human trafficking and smuggling of migrants** in 2014 in response to the irregular Migration flows within and from the Horn of Africa to different destinations. The initiative aims to enhance cooperation among concerned Member States and other entities in addressing the challenges of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants within and from the Horn of Africa region to destinations including the Middle East, Europe and Southern Africa. The initiative also creates a forum for cooperation among Member States in the Horn of Africa as well as other transit and destination countries
- Within the framework of migration and development, the Commission has established the **African Institute for Remittances (AIR)**. Launched in November 2014, the AIR will work towards reducing the transaction cost of remittances while encouraging member states and migrants to leverage remittances for socio-economic development of the continent.
- Similarly, the 24th Assembly adopted the **Labour Migration Governance for Integration and Development in Africa (also known as the Joint Labour Migration Programme-JLMP)**. Developed with the support of ILO, IOM and UNECA, the JLMP builds on conclusions and key recommendations by Member States and RECs to facilitate implementation of relevant policy frameworks on Labour Migration and the transformational Agenda 2063 towards continental integration. The objectives and actions set out in the JLMP are designed to address the challenges of labour migration and mobility on the continent by enhancing the capacity of Member States and RECs to, among others: achieve wider elaboration, adoption and implementation of harmonized free movement regimes and coherent national labour migration policy in the RECs, and

extend social security to migrants with access to portability regimes compatible, resolve skills shortages and skills–education mismatches while increasing recognition of harmonized qualifications across Africa. Enhancing mobility and free movement regimes would provide alternative legal channels of migration and help to reduce irregular migration.

The political events in some North African countries in the recent past has had an impact on the patterns of irregular migration through the Mediterranean. The resulting influx of migrants into Europe in the past months has created a heightened security oriented approach to migration in destination countries. It has also resulted in humanitarian tragedy of significant proportion with the death of thousands of young people who are trying to seek better lives. The EU Valletta Summit on Migration that took place from 11-12 November brought together 28 EU Member States and 35 African countries and 2 RECs (ECOWAS & IGAD) plus Norway and Switzerland to discuss ways of addressing the current irregular migration flows into Europe.

The Valetta Declaration and Action plan adopted during the summit came up with key priority areas that requires immediate action. The 5 identified priority areas are: (i) Migration and Development (ii) Legal migration and mobility (iii) International Protection and Asylum (iv) Irregular Migration, Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (v) Returns and Readmission. The Action Plan also identified 16 priority projects to be implemented in 2016.

2 OBJECTIVES

The AU recognizes that a comprehensive approach with a long term vision is required to address the root causes of irregular migration and promote regular channels of migration.

The Commission supported by International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Office (UNDP) and International Labour Organization (ILO) is organizing this meeting to discuss the African Union Migration agenda in a comprehensive manner.

More specifically, taking cognizance of the fact that 20 AU Member States and 6 RECs were not invited to Valletta, the Nairobi consultations are designed to provide a forum for all 54 AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to discuss the Migration Agenda and identify key priority areas that require immediate action in the short and medium term within the framework of AU policies and programs and Assembly Declaration (Assembly/AU/Decl.6(XXV)) on Migration at the 25th African Union Summit in Johannesburg in June 2015, as well as other relevant instruments such as the Valletta Action Plan.

3 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Agree on a set of actions at national, regional and continental levels that would give effect to or operationalize the key AU instruments, programs and decisions.

- Identify high impact projects that could be realistically implemented in 2016 in the management of migration
- Enhance a common understanding of all available funding instruments - including the EU Trust Fund for Migration - that can be used to advance the AU migration agenda.

4 PARTICIPATION

- Senior policy officials directly connected with or responsible for migration issues in AU Member States
- Officials of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) working on labour, employment and migration issues.
- Relevant civil society organisations, social partners and diaspora organisations
- Partner organizations including UNDP, IOM, ILO, UNHCR, AfDB, ACBC, League of Arab States, ICMP, EU, UNODC, UNECA, NEPAD, INTERPOL and relevant international entities

5 LOGISTICS AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

The regional meeting will take place in **Nairobi, Kenya, from 14 to 15 December 2015** with pre-consultations among partners on 13 December 2015. The Venue is the UN Conference Center.

The meeting will take place under the leadership of African Union Commission with the support of UNDP, ILO and IOM. Interpretation services and secretarial support will be available during the Meeting.

Contact persons for any further information on the meeting:

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6 ATTACHMENTS

- The 25th African Union (AU) Assembly Declaration (Assembly/AU/Decl.6(XXV)) on Migration
- Common African Perspective for the Valletta Summit on Migration
- Horn of African Initiative Strategy and Action Plan
- Sharm El-Sheikh Statement
- Valletta Declaration inference
- Valletta Action Plan