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AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

ON

MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND EMPLOYMENT

RATIONALE

The Africa-EU Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment will provide holistic responses to these various issues in the interest of both partners, with the particular objectives to create more and better jobs for Africa and to better manage migration flows.

This partnership will ensure that better-managed migration and employment issues become an essential part of poverty reduction strategies or other national development and co-development strategies of African countries. The partnership will ensure that migration and employment works for sustainable development and that all relevant international agreements and declarations are implemented.

The partnership will in particular build on the Tripoli Declaration on Migration and Development and the Ouagadougou Declaration and Action Plan on Employment and Poverty Alleviation.

At the Tripoli EU-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development in November 2006, Africa and the EU adopted for the first time a joint strategy, in the form of the Tripoli Declaration, to respond to the challenges and maximise the benefits of international migration. The EU-Africa Action Plan on trafficking in human beings, which was formally endorsed on the same occasion, is part and parcel of the comprehensive strategy adopted in Tripoli, even though, for practical reasons, it is addressed separately in this document.

Priority action 1: Implement the declaration of the Tripoli Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development

Objectives

- To facilitate mobility and free movement of people in Africa and the EU and to better manage legal migration between the two continents;
- To address the root causes of migration and refugee flows;
- To find concrete solutions to problems posed by illegal or irregular migratory flows;
- Address the problems of migrants residing in EU and African countries.

Expected outcomes

Migration

- Better utilisation of potential synergies between migration and development;
- Concrete progress towards tackling the critical human resource situation in the health sector and other sectors of concern;
- Enhanced cooperation on migration management in Africa and the EU;
- Improved co-operation in all domains in the fight against illegal or irregular migration, including reaching agreements on the issues of return and readmission of illegal migrants to their country of origin, as foreseen by the Tripoli Declaration;
- Enhanced capacity to ensure international protection for persons in need of it;
- Better integration of African migrants in their respective EU and African countries of residence.

Mobility

- Further reduction of obstacles to free movement of people within Africa and within the EU;
- Enhanced mechanisms to facilitate circular migration between Africa and the EU.

Activities

Migration

- Further integrate relevant issues concerning migration, mobility and employment into poverty reduction strategies and country strategy papers, in particular through support to continued improvement and updating of individual countries' migration profiles, with a particular focus on skills gaps and mismatches in labour markets;
- Advance progress towards the implementation of the AU Migration Policy Framework, in particular in the field of capacity building;
- Promote regional schemes to enhance cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination on migration and development along migratory routes;
- Further improve cooperation on international protection;
- Create a network of migration observatories to collect, analyse and disseminate data on migration flows;
- Make further steps towards the facilitation of safer, faster, and cheaper remittances, including for investments; ensure that sufficient data, research and know-how is made available to governments; promote innovative solutions for transferring money;
- Take action to combat exploitation, discrimination and social exclusion of migrant workers;
- Further improve joint action on fighting illegal immigration, human smuggling and human trafficking;
- Mobilize adequate financial resources, from within the framework of existing funds and programming mechanisms, for the effective implementation of the measures outlined in the Tripoli Declaration;

- Urge the two Commissions to speed up the examination of the feasibility of setting up a Fund as provided for in the Tripoli Declaration;
- Establish regular dialogue on African migrants residing in EU and African countries with a view to addressing their problems.

Mobility

- Promote dialogue and cooperation on visa issues with a view to facilitating mobility between Europe and Africa, giving a priority to officials involved on a regular basis in the Africa-EU partnership; Identify mechanisms and projects that facilitate circular migration between Africa and the EU;
- Promote 'ethical recruitment' policies in the EU and in Africa to minimise brain drain pull factors in critical sectors; support the implementation of retention strategies to address push factors;
- Scale up education and vocational training in critical sectors, in particular through the creation of schools/workshops to provide adequate training to young professionals and workers, in direct response to local, national and external labour market needs;
- Set up and maintain appropriate incentive mechanisms which will encourage the retention and return of key qualified personnel;
- Assist African governments to set up Migration Information and Management Centres, as an instrument to better manage labour mobility in Africa and between Africa and the EU;
- Facilitate the mobility of members of the diasporas and/or migrant communities, to allow them to act as agents of development; launch an inventory of diaspora organizations to enhance cooperation; promote co-development schemes;
- Support partnerships and twinning initiatives between institutions in Africa and the EU, such as hospitals and universities.

Actors

AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, Pan-African Parliament, RECs, African Development Bank (AfDB), African local authorities;

- European Commission, EU Member States, European Parliament, European Investment Bank (EIB);
- Civil society actors, migrant associations, research institutions;
- UN organisations and specialised international organisations.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), and appropriate thematic programmes for the cooperation with third countries in the area of migration and asylum;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states.

Priority action 2: Implement the EU-Africa Plan of Action on Trafficking of human beings

Objectives

- To effectively combat trafficking in human beings through a victim-centred approach, in particular of women and children;
- To address the root causes of trafficking in human beings in countries of origin, as well as in countries of destination;
- To contribute to the empowerment of women and children.

Expected outcomes

- Measurable reduction in trafficking of human beings, in particular of women and children;
- Enhanced awareness on trafficking in human beings among all stakeholders and especially high risk groups;
- Protection of victims of trafficking;
- Legislative frameworks and effective instruments in place to arrest and prosecute the organizers of trafficking.

Activities

- Sign and ratify relevant international conventions, in particular the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols;
- Establish or reinforce the necessary legal framework, prepare national and regional strategies and action plans, and ensure effective implementation and enforcement;
- Establish multi-disciplinary task forces within existing regional mechanisms;
- Raise awareness of officials and potential victims;
- Strengthen preventive measures in countries of origin, transit and destination;
- Strengthen capacities for law enforcement;
- Provide legal, medical and social protection and assistance to victims;
- Enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation and coordination between European and African countries of origin, transit and destination, and establish trans-national referral mechanisms among them.

Actors

- AU Commission, African States, Pan-African Parliament, RECs, African local authorities;
- European Commission, EU Member States, European Parliament;
- Civil society actors, migrant associations, research institutions;

- UN organisations and specialised international organisations.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, and appropriate thematic programmes for the cooperation with third countries in the area of migration and asylum;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states.

Priority action 3: Implement and follow up the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Action Plan on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa

Objective

- To create more, more productive and better jobs in Africa, in particular for youth and women in line with the UN "Decent Work for all" Agenda.

Expected outcomes

- Progress towards creating an enabling non-discriminatory business environment for private sector development; investments in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders; encouragement of entrepreneurship and self-employment;
- Improved employability and productivity of workers and a better match between supply and demand of labour;
- Improved understanding of the informal economy with a view to a progressive formalisation of the informal sector;
- Enhanced understanding and implementation of the internationally adopted Decent Work principles;
- Implementation of the EU's commitments on Policy Coherence for Development, particularly in the areas of trade, fisheries and agriculture.

Activities

- Integrate full and productive employment and decent work for all into national development strategies including poverty reduction strategies and country strategy papers;
- Strengthen the capacity of employment agencies and of other labour market actors and institutions, such as organisations of employers and workers, labour administrations, in Africa and encourage links and networks among them;
- Create a more direct link between skills training and the needs of local labour markets as well as possible investment opportunities, including through the provision of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET);
- Encourage the elaboration of Decent Work Country Programmes and participation in joint awareness raising activities on Decent Work, with a specific focus on the informal sector, in particular for women and young people;
- Strengthen the quality of local tertiary-level education, revitalise African universities

and promote the training of high-level technical and professional manpower, including through the Nyerere and Erasmus Mundus programmes;

- Promote investment in private sector and microfinance schemes.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, Pan-African Parliament, RECs, African local authorities;
- European Commission, EU Member States, European Parliament;
- EU and African civil society actors including the social partners;
- Research institutions;
- UN organisations and specialised international organisations.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, and the thematic programme 'Investing in People';
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states.