

**DECLARATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD) REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE  
PROCESS (IGAD-RCP) ON MIGRATION**

**WE, representatives from ministries with mandates on migration and related issues in the IGAD Member States Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda, meeting at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2008:**

1. **RECALLING** the AU Decisions adopted in Banjul in 2006: *EX.CL/Dec.304 (IX)* which **ADOPTED** the Migration Policy Framework for Africa as a basic guideline and reference document for all Member States and Regional Economic Communities to utilize as a basis for developing their National and Regional Policy Frameworks; and *Assembly/AU/Dec.125(VII)* which endorsed the African Common Position on Migration and Development as a broad African consensus on issues of migration and development;
2. **MINDFUL** of Decisions *EX.CL/Dec.323 (X)* and *EX.CL/Dec.324 (X)* adopted in Addis Ababa in January 2007 **CALLING UPON** the African Union Commission in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other partners to advocate for the implementation of the Africa-EU Joint Declaration on Migration and Development, Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and the Ouagadougou Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings Especially Women and Children;
3. **RECOGNIZING** the challenges brought about by migration of various types for the IGAD Member States and other States in Africa constituting countries of origin, transit and destination or all simultaneously, and therefore the need to cooperate in addressing these challenges;
4. **AWARE** of the specific development challenges posed by migration as well as its benefits to Member States;
5. **RECOGNIZING** that migration within and from the IGAD Region is linked to poverty and underdevelopment, demographic and economic disparities, inequitable terms of global trade, conflicts, humanitarian disasters, environmental factors, and weak governance structures;
6. **UNDERSCORING** the importance of the Joint EU-Africa Strategic Partnership on selected priority actions in areas of common interest, which includes migration, mobility and employment and the various African development initiatives such as AU's NEPAD programmes which contribute to addressing many of the underlying dynamics of migration and promoting socio-economic development (human resource development including managing the brain drain), good governance and the Ouagadougou Extra-ordinary Summit Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation;

**HEREBY:**

**Recommend that IGAD establish a Regional Consultative Process (IGAD-RCP) on migration**, in accordance with relevant AU Decisions, with a core function of promoting the common position of the IGAD Member States and African Union as provided in the Migration Policy Framework and to facilitate regional dialogue and cooperation on migration policy issues amongst the IGAD Member States. The **overall objective** of the IGAD-RCP is to facilitate dialogue and regional co-operation in migration management amongst IGAD Member States by fostering greater understanding and policy coherence in migration as well as strengthening regional institutional and technical capacities to implement the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and other AU and IGAD policies on migration. The IGAD-RCP aims to achieve the following specific goals:

- ❖ To establish a mechanism for continuous dialogue and co-operation among IGAD Member States on migration and related issues, enhancing their capacity to manage migration within a regional context, consistent with the Migration Policy Framework for Africa.
- ❖ To enhance knowledge and foster a common understanding by policy-makers, other officials and stakeholders of the causes, dimensions, patterns, future trends and impacts of migration in the IGAD Region.
- ❖ To help develop and strengthen regional institutional and governmental capacities to address the challenges of migration management in a cooperative and knowledge-based manner.
- ❖ To focus on the priority areas identified by the IGAD Member States, namely technical cooperation and capacity building, information collection, dissemination and sharing, and progress toward formulation and harmonization at the national and IGAD level of legislation, policies and practices in (1) legal/labour migration management so as to better plan and prepare for a productive migration experience, (2) irregular migration, trafficking and smuggling and border management, consistent with humanitarian obligations to refugees and others eligible for protection; and (3) migration and development matters, including diaspora outreach and investment, facilitation of remittance flows, reduction of brain drain particularly in the health and education sectors, and integrating migration in national development plans and poverty reduction strategies.
- ❖ To provide technical assistance and training programmes to help build capacity in the multifaceted aspects of migration management.
- ❖ To develop and enhance dialogue and cooperation between the IGAD Member States and countries members of other regions as regards the different dimensions of migration and migrants in to and out of IGAD countries.

**The IGAD Secretariat, in collaboration with the AU Commission and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and other partners to address the needs identified by States for greater inter-state dialogue and cooperation on migration issues. The IGAD-RCP will be responsible for:**

- 🌍 Promoting a continuous migration dialogue for the East Africa Region which brings together representatives of IGAD Member States and other stakeholders including countries of transit and destination and information

exchange on migration and related issues of common interest and concern such as:

- migration and development,
- labour migration,
- social integration of migrants,
- protection of migrants' rights,
- smuggling and trafficking in persons,
- migration data and research,
- migration and health,
- migration and trade,
- migration and environment,
- migration and security,
- voluntary return of migrants,
- mixed migratory flows and protection of refugees,
- movement of pastoralist communities,
- brain drain and unethical recruitment

as well as other issues identified by the IGAD Member States;

- ✚ Building capacity and facilitating implementation of the Migration Policy Framework for Africa, the African Common Position on Migration and Development; the Joint EU – Africa Declaration on Migration and Development and the Ouagadougou Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings Especially Women and Children and Africa-EU Strategic Partnership;
- ✚ Encouraging and assisting Member States to integrate migration issues into their national development plans including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) in order to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs.);
- ✚ Encouraging potential donors including the AU, IGAD Partners Forum as well as relevant international organizations and institutions to provide the necessary financial support and technical assistance to IGAD and its Member States for the development and implementation of national and regional migration policies and mechanisms in line with the Migration Policy Framework for Africa;
- ✚ Developing strategies and programmes for implementation of relevant AU and regional recommendations on migration, including those emanating from the IGAD-RCP, and
- ✚ Establishing a follow-up mechanism as well as ensuring regular reporting on implementation of the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and related activities, in collaboration with IGAD Member States and partners.

We, representatives from ministries with mandates on migration and related issues in the IGAD Member States, request the Executive Secretary of IGAD to present the outcomes and specific recommendations of this declaration to the IGAD Council of Ministers for consideration endorsement and implementation.