

African Union Commission

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**Adjusting Partnerships to Challenges of
Emerging Migration Patterns: Role of the
African Union Commission**

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Background

- **The Constitutive Act of the AU has as its main objectives the achievement of greater unity and solidarity between African countries and peoples and the fostering of political and socio-economic integration, stability, democracy, peace and security, sustainable development, and protection of human rights. These objectives confer upon the AU the duty and legitimacy to address the varying challenges that are present within Africa – challenges that include the better management of migration for the benefit of the Continent.**
- **It is estimated that some 30 million Africans live in the diaspora. South-South movement is a substantial component of this movement, especially those who are unable to move farther away. While much attention is focused on African migration to the North, the highest level of African migration is taking place within the South.**

Background: cont

- **In view of the opportunities as well as challenges posed by migration, AU Member States established the African Economic Community in 1991 to enhance the free movement of persons and promote rights of residence and establishment. This was predicated on the formation of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to promote economic integration for collective self-sufficiency.**

AU Migration Policies/Frameworks/Strategies

- **Migration Policy Framework (2006)**
- **The African Common Position on Migration and Development (2006)**
- **The Joint Africa-EU Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking (2007)**
- **AU Frameworks on refugees, returnees and IDPs** (*the Organization of African Union Refugee Convention adopted in 1969 and the 2009 Kampala Convention*)
- **AU Commission Initiative Against Trafficking (AU.COMMIT- 2009)**
- **Specialized Technical Committee on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons**



Partnerships and Cooperation on International Migration

- **Africa-EU Partnership**
- **Africa-Arab Partnership**
- **Africa-South America Partnership**
- **Regional Consultative Processes**
- **Global Forum on Migration and Development**

Partnerships and Cooperation on International Migration

- **UN High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development.**
- **AU. COMMIT: (IOM, UNODC, UNHCR and RECs)**
- **UN Regional Consultative Mechanism: Social Welfare and Human Trafficking Sub Cluster (AUC, ECA, IOM, UNHCR, UNODC, UNICEF, EC, UN Women and OHCHR)**
- **Migration Working Group: AUC (DSA, DPA, CIDO, PSD), EC, IOM, UNHCR, UNODC , LAS and ILO.**

Engagement with Diaspora

- **Diaspora – Sixth Region of Africa**
- **Estimated number of African Diaspora by region is: North America 39.16 million; Latin America 112.65 million; Caribbean 13.56 million; and Europe 3.51 million.**
- **Legacy projects: (i) African Diaspora Professional Skills Database (ii) African Diaspora Volunteer Corps (iii) African Diaspora Development Marketplace as a framework for promoting entrepreneurship and innovation (iv) African Diaspora Investment Fund; (v) African Institute for Remittances (AIR).**
- **Establishment of Global Diaspora Networks**
- **Engagement with Member States and RECs to mainstream Diaspora into development policies.**

Opportunities for Partnership

Enhanced multi-disciplinary co-ordination and co-operation at the national, regional and extra regional levels:

- **Wider domestication of migration policy frameworks**
- **Enhanced Diaspora participation in development of countries of origin and destination**
- **Increase in official remittances transfer (African Institute for Remittances)**
- **Migration and Development.**
- **Regional Economic Integration**

Challenges for Partnership

- **Lack of ownership and political and financial commitment of AU and Partner Member States**
- **Emerging and Protracted conflicts**
- **Lack of effective policies and initiatives to mainstream migration into development strategies.**
- **Lack of policy and institutional coherence amongst AU Member States and Partners**
- **Corruption**
- **Irregular migration**
- **Mixed migration**
- **Rural-urban migration**
- **Environmental changes**
- **Human rights of migrants**
- **Lack of mobility opportunities for the lowly skilled**

Challenges for Partnership

- **Global economic crisis and impact of funding on mobility initiatives.**
- **Low capacity of migration management officials**
- **Inadequate involvement of Civil Society and Private Sector**
- **Restrictive visa re**

Measures to Improve Partnerships

Multilayered forms of cooperation:

- **Strengthening regional cooperation on South-South migration by involving effectively Regional Economic Communities.**
- **Ensuring ownership and commitment of sending and receiving countries.**

Areas in need of New Approach for Greater Cooperation?

- **The 2nd High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in 2013 recommended investigating more on “migration patterns across and within regions”, which suggests greater focus on maximizing benefits of South-South movement whilst minimizing its negative effects.**
- **Promoting an effective multilateral governance of migration and a greater linkage of migration to inclusive growth and sustainable development.**
- **Ratification, domestication and enforcement of regional and international instruments related to migration and forced displacement.**
- **Enhancing the capacity building for greater management of migration at national and regional level including for greater policy and institutional coherence.**

Areas in need of New Approach for Greater Cooperation?

- **Addressing the challenges of governance of skilled migration (brain drain and brain waste) and low-skilled migration (decent work deficits, lack of social protection and violation of rights) by maximizing benefits for inclusive development, minimizing losses and ensuring human rights and social protection.**
- **Addressing the security and humanitarian related challenges that migration and forced displacement pose to origin, transit and destination countries.**
- **Addressing the demographic (including women and children migration) and environmental challenges of migration and forced displacement.**

Areas in need of New Approach for Greater Cooperation?

- **Addressing the hindering factors that hamper diasporas contribution into development and strengthening diaspora bounds and transnational linkages and identities.**
- **Going beyond financial remittances transfer by stressing social remittances, human capital formation and enhancement, and the effects of migration on human development.**
- **Addressing the root causes of migration as a coping strategy for individuals, families, households and communities.**
- **Reviewing visa delivery mechanisms for students, business people and professionals.**
- **Mainstreaming migration into the 2015 Post-Development Agenda.**

Conclusion

AU's enhancement of multi-disciplinary co-ordination and co-operation at the national, regional and extra regional levels is to:

- **Work towards the free movement of people and strengthen inter-regional cooperation in matters concerning migration, on the basis of the established processes of migration at regional and sub-regional levels.**
- **Create an environment conducive to facilitating participation of migrants, in particular those in the Diaspora, in the development of their own countries.**
- **Ensuring data availability and data reliability, policy and institutional coherence and holistic and balanced approach in these Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs).**
- **Effectively address the challenges posed by migration and ensure the integration of migration and related issues into national and regional agendas for security, stability, development and cooperation.**

Conclusion

- **Strengthen the role of regional economic communities and regional consultative processes for a greater governance of South-South migration, whilst taking into consideration the importance of non-State actors (IOs, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, migrants and diasporas' associations, academia and experts, private sector) for an inclusive partnership that gears toward greater governance of South-South migration.**
- **Mainstreaming migrants and Global and South-South migration into the post – 2015 development agenda.**



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