



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)
Organizația Internațională pentru Migrații (OIM)

Outcome Statement of the Regional Experts' Meeting on International Migration and Development in Africa
In Preparation for the 2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3-4 July 2013

Preamble

1. The Regional Experts' Meeting on International Migration and Development in Africa was held on 3 and 4 July, 2013 at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Africa Hall, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
2. It was organized by UNECA in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the African Union Commission (AUC).
3. The main aim of the meeting was to support regional dialogue on international migration and development in Africa, and to assist member States to maximise their input and contribution to the Second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development organized by the United Nations General Assembly on 3 and 4 October 2013 in New York. The meeting also served as an opportunity to discuss the findings and recommendations of a recent report developed by UNECA and IOM on Mainstreaming International Migration in Development Plans and Strategies.
4. This is the second regional consultation organized in preparation for the 2013 High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. It builds upon the outcome of the first Africa Regional Policy Dialogue on International Migration held on 17 October 2011 in Addis Ababa.
5. Forty experts from different regions of the continent and various entities (research centres, universities, government, etc.) participated in the meeting; regional organisations such as the African Union Commission, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) were represented; UN agencies (including UNECA, ILO, UNICEF and UN Women) and international organizations such as IOM and the European Union (EU) delegation to the African Union also took part in the deliberations.
6. The meeting was enriched through presentations and plenary discussions structured around the four themes of the Second High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development:
 1. Mainstreaming Migration in Development
 2. Labour mobility and development
 3. Partnerships, cooperation and regional integration
 4. Human rights of international migrants

International Migration and Development in Africa

7. International migration is a mega trend in Africa that needs to be harnessed to support development transformation in the continent, which aspires to achieve full employment for all its citizens. Africa fully recognizes and respects the choices that talented African labor across the skills spectrum will have to realize its full potential through migration and intends to make Africa the continent of choice for its valued talent fully respectful of their rights.
8. Migration has the potential of bringing significant contribution to the economic growth and human development in Africa if it is tackled in a holistic manner and mainstreamed appropriately in development planning and strategies. Africa sees a need and imperative to mainstream migration into its development planning for economic transformation and jobs.
9. It is important to recognize that migration dynamics in Africa are complex and multi-fold: the continent is home to millions of refugees and internally displaced persons in need of humanitarian assistance; high percentage of the migrants are women; family separation is detrimental to the social fabric of society, as well as to the care systems; vulnerability to human trafficking and exploitation; pastoralist communities are numerous across the continent; and rural urban migration is increasingly significant. Migration in Africa is also tainted with irregular flows of people whereby migrants are involved in smuggling or become victims of trafficking.
10. As opposed to the common belief, there are more Africans moving within their own region than those who travel long distance to go to other parts of the world. Yet, African countries remain closed off to each other, making travel within Africa difficult. Visa requirements are stringent for Africans and more relaxed for non-Africans to travel to Africa
11. Africa sees a vital role of migration in regional integration, and of cooperation, policy dialogue and partnership with all stakeholders – countries of destination and development partners; private sector, including diaspora entrepreneurs and investors; civil society, including migrants and diasporas – in making migration work for development transformation and regional integration. Multiplicity of stakeholders and actors call for coherence and coordination of policies and actions on migration and development in Africa.
12. Africa welcomes and particularly draws attention to the ambitious Accelerated Program for Economic Integration (APEI) and its Intra-African Mobility of Service Providers and Skills Development Program and calls upon the international community to take a keen interest in the emerging lessons and to support its full implementation.
13. Recognizing this fact, a number of migration policies have been adopted by African leaders under the auspices of the African Union. These include the Migration Policy Framework for Africa, the African Common Position on Migration and Development and the Ouagadougou Action Plan to combat Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children. In addition, free movement of people and labour mobility are recognized as important enablers for the regional integration and economic development of the continent.

Theme 1: *Mainstreaming Migration in Development Planning*

14. While African countries have made significant progress and intensified their international relations on migration and development, these relations are focused on particular aspects of international migration, such as remittances, border management, and smuggling and trafficking of human-beings. Progress on migration and development need to be supported through a comprehensive

and coherent approach that gives priority to mainstreaming migration in development transformation in the continent.

15. African countries see a need and imperative to mainstream migration into development planning at all stages. They see the need to address paucity in data and research; shortages in knowledge and skills; and the need to translate political commitments into actions. Countries realize the need to bring more coherence to the management of migration at the national level, and to intensify, partnerships, cooperation and dialogue bilaterally and multilaterally, and in the framework of the regional economic communities (RECs).
16. Significant progress has been made in the formulation of migration policy frameworks, protocols and agreements at regional and sub regional levels. Some African countries have developed national migration policies and successfully mainstreamed migration into national development plans and strategies. Though migration policies and legislation have been introduced, their implementation needs to be strengthened through capacity development. Gender sensitive, child sensitive and rights -based perspectives are crucial for mainstreaming migration into development.

Recommendations

17. Adopt a comprehensive and coherent approach that gives priority to mainstreaming migration in development plans and strategies in the continent
18. Formulate, implement and frequently update migration policies in participation and consultation with all stakeholders, and with the engagement of the private sector and civil society organizations;
19. Strengthen efforts to collect robust disaggregated data on migration to inform policy and planning. Promote analysis and sharing of timely and comprehensive data, including through support to relevant organizations and inclusion of migration data in development surveys;
20. Harmonise and ensure coherence of legislation, policy and practice on the management of migration;
21. Set clear indicators and targets on international migration to inform the development agenda post 2015;
22. Develop the capacity of government and the RECs, and public policy institutions to ensure effective management of international migration for maximisation of its resource potential for development; and
23. Create the conditions, incentives and fiscal space to stimulate remittances and diaspora investments back home, including accessible financial instruments through banks, micro-finance institutions, among others.

Theme 2: Labour mobility and development

24. Migration in Africa is driven by a search for productive employment and decent life. Each year between 10 million to 12 million persons in Africa join the labour force, and almost 80 per cent of job seekers end up working in the informal sector. Less than 20 per cent of youth find waged employment. Therefore, labour market conditions in Africa play a major role in the migration and development nexus. Migrant workers livelihood and conditions of work are directly linked to policies and practices in employment, equitable treatment and social protection.

25. Noting that international labour mobility is driven by the interaction between economic differentials and demographic trends, labour mobility is likely to become more significant in the coming years. In Africa labour mobility, which is an important factor in regional integration, is driven by unemployment and underemployment on the one hand, and structural labour market needs on the other.
26. Recognizing the importance of effective labor mobility regimes that generate increased investment, productivity, and competitiveness and better long-term prospects for employment, African states have undertaken new pilot initiatives¹ to enhance intra-African collaboration around labor mobility and skills development.
27. South-South Migration and regional labour mobility more specifically, remains an important feature of migration in the African continent. Regional frameworks on the free movement of people with dispositions on the right of residence and establishment have enhanced labour mobility in some regions of Africa (e.g: ECOWAS). However, the potential of intra-African labour mobility remains limited because of the lack of synergy between labour migration and employment policies and institutions.
28. The limited implementation and monitoring of labour mobility frameworks exposes African migrant workers to the risk of exploitation, poor and hazardous working conditions and denial of labour rights, especially with regards to vulnerable groups such as women, youth, child migrants and children born to migrants, persons with disabilities among others.

Recommendations

29. Facilitate African talent mobility, by easing visa restrictions in line with the efforts of countries such as Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Seychelles;
30. Enhance collaborative approach among *sending and receiving countries* through labour mobility agreements and exchange of labour market information;
31. Widen the scope of intra-African labour mobility as part of the regional integration agenda engaging regional bodies (African Union, RECs), private sector (employers, migrant-owned enterprises, service providers), African migrants, civil society and international organizations ; and
32. Recognize the employment and labour market sides of migration and development, and that labor mobility should include measures for social dialogue on issues such as mutual recognition of skills and portability of social security rights.

Theme 3: Partnerships, cooperation and regional integration

33. Cooperation and dialogue are important for improving the management and creation of mutual space for migration in national and regional development policies. Through partnerships between governments, stakeholders, and the private sector, the positive impacts of migration should be utilized and enhanced.

¹ Such as the initiative spearheaded by Mauritius that includes Malawi, Mozambique, Seychelles, and Zambia (the Accelerated Program for Economic Integration, APEI). This initiative aims to deepen cooperation to extend the free movement of business persons and services.

34. Regional integration in Africa is gaining recognition as a framework for cooperation and dialogue on migration and development. Interregional migration is being driven by the volume of trade, regional differences in wages, income and employment opportunities, development of transportation and infrastructure, reduction of transportation costs, and agreements on free movement of persons.
35. At the continental level, a number of policy frameworks have been put in place by the African Union and RECs to structure and institutionalise partnership and cooperation in the area of international migration.
36. Inter-regional and intra-regional partnerships, such as the Africa – EU Strategic Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment (MME), are making positive contributions.
37. Poorly defined roles and coordination mechanisms for the various government departments involved in international migration continue to hinder inter-agency collaboration.

Recommendations

38. Take into consideration migration issues in development policy and planning in Africa. This requires governments to move beyond the security concerns to consider migration as an important factor for development at the national and regional levels; and
39. Improve communication and coordination among all stakeholders, including central and local governments, businesses and financial institutions, chambers of commerce and diaspora organizations.

Theme 4: *Human rights of international migrants*

40. In recent years, the rights-based approach has positively influenced the development agenda. Like other areas of policy making, migration issues are also expected to be addressed in a way that is respectful of internationally accepted human rights principles. Nevertheless, African migrants continue to be disproportionately affected by human rights violations because of their status as non-nationals in the country in which they reside or during their often dangerous journeys through the networks of human traffickers and smugglers.
41. A number of international legal frameworks for the protection of the rights of migrants, international labour standards and policy tools have been adopted both at the global and African level. Yet migrants remain least protected primarily because of lack of enforcement of the legal frameworks and labor standards.
42. Labor migrants usually are at risk of exploitation in recruitment process, and as non-citizens they rarely benefit from full equal treatment. They are more at risk and discrimination if their status is irregular and if they are engaged in low-skilled “precarious” employment, such as agriculture, domestic work and construction
43. Different groups of Africa’s international migrants are susceptible to serious violations of their rights because of their vulnerable situation and therefore require special attention and protection. These vulnerable groups include children, adolescent and youth migrants, women, people with disability, victims of trafficking, refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, irregular migrants, persons living with HIV/AIDS, migrants caught in crisis and also migrant workers in the informal sector.

44. International migrants have specific health needs, and health is one of the critical enabling factors for positive migration outcomes. Migrants are often disproportionately vulnerable to contracting disease and developing mental health problems resulting from poor living environments, exploitative working conditions and lack of access to health, education and other basic social services.
45. The African Common Position on post 2015 development agenda is guided by inclusive social and economic development. It also considers human rights as development enablers.

Recommendations

46. Ensure a rights-based approach in addressing the migration and development nexus by taking into consideration the specific needs of migrants, with a focus on vulnerable groups such as domestic workers, women, children and adolescents;
47. Enact law and policy reforms to ensure access to civil, economic, social and cultural rights and basic services for all vulnerable groups especially children in the context of migration regardless of their own or their parental migration status;
48. Address misperceptions of migration through factual information on positive contribution of migrants using means such as media, diaspora group, etc; and
49. Narrow the gap between the obligation of African States under international instruments and the actual implementation at the national level, ensuring the effective protection of migrants' rights.