

**5th Global Regional Consultative Processes Meeting in Cairo  
21th – 22nd October 2015**

- The Rabat Process, which includes 57 countries: 27 African countries, 28 member States of the European Union, Norway, Switzerland, with Algeria as an Observer, as well as the European Commission and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), aims to establish a migratory dialogue, which has been consolidated over time as one of the most solid dialogues in the Euro-African area.
- At the time of its creation, the members agreed to establish and develop a strong partnership between our respective countries to jointly manage the migration phenomenon, with due respect to the interests of our peoples.
- Starting from the Rabat Conference in 2006, the dialogue has advanced to become increasingly structured, and achieving tangible results.
- The Rome Conference, which took place on 27th of November 2014, meant to the Rabat Process, the consolidation of this dialogue, considered as the oldest and the most recognized among other dialogues that form part of the Global Approach. As a result of the Conference the Rome Declaration was approved, setting the principles and priorities to be followed, as well as the so-called Rome Agenda for 2015-2017, which spells out the areas of action in each of the four pillars that conform the Rabat Process: the promotion of legal migration, combating illegal immigration, strengthening the links between migration and development, and the promotion of international protection.
- Spain considers of great importance to advance in the progressive operationalization of the Declaration adopted there, which determines the future of the Process.
- In order for a Migration dialogue to run, it should combine both a political approach as well as a practical approach oriented to bear to tangible results. Moreover, the migration policy, in order to be effective, it must be global. To our knowledge, it is precisely the confluence of these elements in the Rabat Process, and the fact that it forms one more piece of an overall strategy, which explain its success.
- No doubt, the greatest achievement of the Rabat Process is to have built a framework for political dialogue between European and African countries with a large degree of consensus unknown in other Euro-African fora. Nevertheless, it is precisely this dialogue which has led to a very rich practical and long-lasting cooperation, and constitutes a solid basis on which will continue to deepen this cooperation in the future.
- Spain is strongly committed to the Rabat Process from the very first Rabat Conference and actively participates in all meetings, as a member of the Steering Committee, as well as in the activities that have taken place since its creation.

We also wish to highlight the very prominent position of Morocco within the Steering Committee, as a member that has driven the Process since its beginning.

- Spain has a vision of migration, not as a problem, but as an enriching phenomenon, with, although not exempted from challenges, if orderly managed, can be mutually beneficial to all parties. Therefore, Spain promotes an approach to manage migration between West Africa and Europe, that departs from a partnership, first to fight poverty and promote development and secondly to manage properly the migration. It is important to further deepen legal migration policies. Third, it is important to fight human trafficking and smuggling networks, who profit from human suffering. We must work to preserve the lives of migrants in the hands of trafficking networks. Not to mention finally the rights of migrants.
- In order to advance in this global approach, management of migratory flows can only be conducted within a spirit of shared responsibility between countries of origin, transit and destination.
- For Spain the value of Rabat Process is clear and remains fully valid. Therefore, Spain claims the need to be aware of the added value of the Rabat Dialogue, as the more effective instrument of cooperation within the Euro-African framework. A Process that it is incardinated within the upcoming Valletta Summit on Migration with the aspiration to be a key instrument to follow up on the conclusions resulting from this Summit.