

"Rabat Process" Labelled Webinar

**International Migration and Development:
"Mainstreaming migration into development policies and cooperation"**

Final document

Introduction

Webinar on **mainstreaming migration into development policies and cooperation** – April 19, 2021

- Organised by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, with the support of the Rabat Process Secretariat (which is implemented by ICMPD and funded by the European Union)
- First event with the "Rabat Process" label¹
- Initially to be held in Paris (impact COVID-19)
- Echoing Action 5² of the [Marrakesh Political Declaration and Action Plan](#)

Objective: **identify practices from European and African countries** in terms of **elaboration, implementation, monitoring** and multi-level **governance** of **migration-development policies and strategies** at the local, national or regional level.

Preparatory materials:

- [Two working papers](#) prepared by the Rabat Process Secretariat and the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs **take stock of strategies and policies linking Migration and Development in 6 African and 6 European countries.**
- [A video](#) produced by the Rabat Process Secretariat on the **elaboration and implementation of Migration and Development policies and strategies in Côte d'Ivoire and Switzerland.**

This document provides an overview of **the webinar key findings**, as well as the challenges and best practices identified in the elaboration and implementation of Migration and Development policies.

Cross-cutting themes

- **A comprehensive and coherent approach to migration is essential**

The EU's approach is to develop **comprehensive partnerships** on migration and a **long-term approach** that will be operational by the end of the year through the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – 'Global Europe'.

¹ A "Rabat Process" label is an activity branded as "Rabat Process" takes place in the framework of the Dialogue but has been organised and funded by one of the Dialogue partner countries. The label system is one of the pillars of the engagement mechanism of the Dialogue which allows partner countries to contribute to the implementation of concrete actions in the framework of the current multi-annual cooperation framework.

² Action 5: Promote a more systematic inclusion of issues related to the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement into socio-economic development strategies and programmes at national level, and into development cooperation programmes, whilst also promoting ownership of existing regional normative frameworks.



“The new European Pact on Migration and Asylum, calls for « tailor-made and mutually beneficial partnerships with third countries » to be put in place, taking into account the specific needs of migrants”, Mr. Francesco Luciani, Head of unit G.6, Migration and Forced Displacement, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG-INTPA)

- **It is important to include migration in different sectoral policies**

It is essential to integrate migration into different policy sectors (education, climate change, agriculture, labour market, health, etc.) and to analyse **how migration impacts and is impacted by sectoral policies**. According to OECD analyses, migration is still superficially mentioned in the various sectoral policies.

IOM develops projects and tools to help bilateral cooperation actors integrate migration through a cluster approach. This is notably the case of the EU-funded project "Mainstreaming Migration into International Cooperation and Development (MMICD)", which aims to strengthen the process of mainstreaming migration in development cooperation sectors.

“As a coordinating organisation of the UN Network on Migration, IOM considers migration as a cross-cutting element to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, notably through the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.” Ms. Cecile Riallant, Head of Unit “Migration and Sustainable Development”, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- **It is necessary to have reliable and objective data to underpin Migration and Development policies**

The need to reinforce policies with up-to-date and reliable data as well as objective and scientific research on migration is crucial. For migration policies to be relevant and effective, they must be based on an **evidence-based approach**.

“On April 28, 2021, a joint Africa Migration Data Network initiative, managed by the African Union Commission, IOM, OECD, and Statistics Sweden, was launched to promote a continent-wide exchange of best practices on migration data issues”, Mr. Jason Gagnon, Development Economist, OECD Development Centre

“In Sierra Leone and Cabo Verde, statistics departments have been involved in migration policy-making processes”, Mr. Oleg Chirita, Head of Global Initiatives (MIEUX Initiative), International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

“In France, the Digital Monitoring Platform facilitates the collection and updating of monitoring data for the International Migration and Development Action Plan 2018-2022 and optimises data processing”, Ms. Mélodie Beaujeu, Migration Policy Officer, French Development Agency

Elaboration and implementation of Migration and Development policies and strategies

- **Inter-institutional coordination and an inclusive and participatory approach are key to implementing comprehensive policies/strategies**

Inter-institutional coordination (involving local, national and regional levels) is essential to achieve **coherent and inclusive policies/strategies**. Adopting a **comprehensive approach** throughout the policy-making process ensures an inclusive and transparent process.

Consultations with different stakeholders (e.g., non-governmental organisations, members of the diaspora, universities, research centres, trade unions, the private sector, etc.) help building **consensus** and gaining the necessary support from different parts of the society.

In France, the 2013 "Mobility, Migration and Development" strategy and the 2018-2022 International Migration and Development Action Plan involved a **collegial and participatory approach** with all relevant stakeholders.

The development of the Diaspora Engagement Policy (DEP) in Ghana involved a systematic **process of collaboration and consultation** through stakeholder consultation meetings and workshops across the country. Diaspora consultative meetings were also held in Nigeria, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Germany to gather the views of the Ghanaian diaspora. The consultations highlighted the need for a comprehensive policy document and showed that diaspora engagement is relevant in areas beyond investment and remittances, including education, the arts and politics.

"In Côte d'Ivoire, the Migration and Development strategy developed in accordance with the ICMPD's MIEUX program and the policy for the management of Ivorians living abroad have made it possible to carry out national consultations involving all the actors who have an impact on the life of the diaspora and to coordinate government action on migration", Mr. Issiaka Konate, Director-General of Ivorians Abroad in Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of African Integration and Ivorians Abroad

"In order to pursue this multisectoral and holistic approach, it is important to include all relevant entities that may have a link to migration during the elaboration of the Migration and Development strategy", Ms. Émilie Ballestraz, Program Manager, Global Programme Migration & Development, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)

"The Migration and Development Association, created by Moroccan migrants living and working in France in 1986, participated in the elaboration of France's International Migration and Development Action Plan by participating in the National Framework for Follow-up and Concertation (CNS), and particularly in the Working Group on Responsible and Informed Discourse on Migration" Mr. Jacques Ould Aoudia, Researcher in political economy of development, vice-president of the association "Migrations et Développement"

- **The key role of diasporas in shaping Migration and Development policies/strategies**

The role played by diasporas in the institutionalisation process of the Migration and Development theme is key. For a number of African countries, the **diaspora is a full-fledged actor in their diplomacy**. In order to get to know the members of their diaspora better, several African countries have chosen to strengthen their political and institutional dialogue with them, through several initiatives.

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the Diaspora Forum is organised every two years. In **Ghana**, the 2019 Year of Return and the Pan-African Festival of Arts and Culture (PANAFEST) are a continuation of efforts by the various governments in Ghana to strengthen relations between the country of origin and its diaspora since 1998.

"Following the Year of Return, the Beyond Return initiative was launched in late 2019 for a period of 10 years. This initiative aims at developing Ghana's tourism industry, promoting its investment potential and reinforcing its diaspora engagement programmes", Mr. Eddison Agbenyegah, Director of Diaspora Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana

- **Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Migration and Development policies/strategies**

The implementation process is a critical step, as policies lose their relevance when they are not properly translated into action and thus fail to achieve the desired results. **Political will** is of critical importance and should not only involve the right decisions at the right time, but also

the allocation of sufficient resources to implement the actions in policy and strategy documents. **Monitoring and evaluation** is also a key step in measuring the extent to which policy objectives are achieved, as well as their impact and costs. In most cases, policies and strategies are implemented through Action Plans. This is the case, for instance, in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and France.

"In France, the National Monitoring and Consultation Framework (CNS, in French) is the main body for monitoring the Action Plan, bringing together the organisations and actors involved in its development. Other tools have been put in place, such as monitoring reports, annual meetings, thematic working groups and a digital platform for monitoring the Action Plan", Ms Mélodie Beaujeu, Migration Officer, Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

Strengthening Euro-African and South-South cooperation and partnerships

Capacity building actions enable comprehensive and sustainable policy-making

Capacity building and development are important elements of international migration governance: they focus on improving the capacities of individuals, organisations and institutions to find sustainable solutions to existing challenges.

Germany is guided by a comprehensive and integrated approach that includes labour migration, return and reintegration, remittances and cooperation with diasporas. Within this framework, BMZ and GIZ support partner governments in developing their own migration policies.

"We support partner governments in the development and implementation of their own migration policies, such as the project – Support to the African Union on Migration and Development – , which aims to strengthen the steering capacity of the African Union and improve migration governance on the African continent", Ms. Stefanie Scharf, Head of Division Policy issues of displacement and migration, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany

"One of the objectives of IOM's Migration and Sustainable Development strategy is to strengthen the capacities of governments, institutions and systems to achieve good migration governance", Ms. Cecile Riallant, Head of Unit "Migration and Sustainable Development", International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Support to diasporas in the framework of Euro-African partnerships

The Programme "Migration & Diaspora" (PMD), funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ, is present in 23 countries, including 6 Rabat Process partner countries. This programme gives a prominent place to the **diasporas by considering them as a vector of Euro-African cooperation**. This project is articulated around three fields of intervention: 1) development-oriented return: the PMD supports the connection between people wishing to return to their country of origin and employers on the spot, notably through training; 2) social engagement by diasporas: the PMD supports migrants who wish to engage in the development of their country of origin; 3) the project supports exchanges and forums between diasporas aiming to strengthen networking and the exchange of knowledge between communities.

"The Programme "Migration & Diaspora" (PMD) aims to build the capacity of key actors to better use migration and diaspora engagement to stimulate social and economic development in partner countries" Ms. Astrid Kohl, Programme Director, Programme Migration & Diaspora, German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ)

Strengthening South-South cooperation offers concrete solutions to common development problems

Migratory flows often affect neighbouring countries, which means that border management can only be optimal if it is part of an integrated approach, involving the authorities of all the countries concerned.

Morocco has engaged in numerous initiatives to promote South-South Cooperation. Its role as focal point on migration within the AU has consolidated its common African vision on migration.

Morocco has signed bilateral memoranda of understanding with several African countries, including Côte d'Ivoire (in January 2015), Mali (to be signed soon), and Senegal (in June 2013). Morocco and these three countries share the same migration routes, and are linked by the migration of their nationals and host diasporas. Despite the particularities of the migration context of these countries, they share many challenges related to the development and implementation of their migration policies. They also share similar issues, notably on matters related to the diaspora, reintegration of return migrants, integration, protection of migrants, and facilitation of regular migration. The overall objective of the **South-South Cooperation program**³, implemented by Expertise France, is to support the establishment of a migration governance system by strengthening South-South cooperation on migration and the implementation of the respective memoranda of understanding between Morocco and Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali.

The Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) promotes South-South cooperation by encouraging ECOWAS member states to discuss common migration issues and concerns in a regional context.

“In Morocco, South-South Cooperation is enshrined in the Preamble of the 2011 Constitution, and the country is engaged in numerous initiatives to promote this form of collaboration on political, economic, technical and humanitarian levels. This cooperation is at the heart of Moroccan foreign policy and Morocco is strongly committed to it.” Mr. Ahmed Nouri Salimi, Head of Division, Directorate of Consular and Social Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Cooperation and Moroccans Living Abroad

³ This financed by the European Union (EU) via the Trust Fund for Africa and by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is implementing the measure in cooperation with the French public international cooperation agency, Expertise France.

Webinar Feedback⁴

- The event attracted a diverse audience of over 80 participants, including not only partner countries and organisations, but also researchers and representatives of international organisations and civil society.
- This event was well identified by the participants as an initiative led by France and labelled as Rabat Process activity.
- The webinar met the participants' expectations, such as better understanding the contribution of migration in development policies and getting an overview of some good practices of African and European countries regarding the elaboration and monitoring of Migration and Development policies.
- However, participants would have liked more time for questions, exchanges and discussions. For example, some participants would have liked the event to last longer (e.g., 1.5 hours for each panel discussion).
- The discussions and presentations in the two panels were considered satisfactory, or even very satisfactory. However, participants would have liked the presentations to be more concise and to have a more balanced mix of institutional and operational presentations.
- All participants found the video screened very useful.

⁴ This analysis is based on participants' responses to the evaluation forms.