



6th Ministerial Conference of the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development

13-14 December 2022
Cadiz, Spain

Discussion paper

Round table 2: "Perspectives for addressing new drivers of migration in the Rabat Process region"

Introduction

Since 2006, the Rabat Process has offered a framework for consultation, bringing together countries of origin, transit and destination of the migration routes linking Central, West and Northern Africa with Europe. This Dialogue aims to foster solidarity, cooperation and shared responsibility in the joint management of migration issues in full respect of human rights.

During the year of the Presidency of the Kingdom of Spain, the partner countries of the Rabat Process have, on the basis of several meetings and discussions, jointly formulated the draft Political Declaration and Action Plan for the period 2023-2027, that should be agreed during the 6th Ministerial Conference in Cadiz. Their consultations have confirmed the validity of the five domains of the Valletta Action Plan and the Marrakech Action Plan 2018-2022, as well as their commitment to maintain and further deepen the established partnership.

In their draft Political Declaration, the partner countries recognise that only a comprehensive, integrated and multidimensional approach can ensure the success of countries' collective actions in the face of the complexity of the phenomenon of international migration and asylum. They also recall their concern about the consequences of protracted crises, conflicts and wars on the scale of irregular migratory movements and their impact on increasing the vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees. Indeed, the threats and risks arising from armed conflicts, political and democratic instability, climate change or the COVID-19 pandemic call for building a comprehensive and coordinated response from partner countries. Such a coordinated approach may also provide opportunities offered by digital transformation for African economies, regional trade and economic development.

Towards a renewed and strengthened Partnership for the period 2023-2027

The partner countries reiterate their individual and collective commitment to the Rabat Process, its principles and objectives in order to find appropriate and coordinated approaches to better address all aspects of migration and mobility in countries of origin, transit and destination, while taking full account of national competences and specificities.

Reflecting the main migration trends and recent policy developments, the newly formulated Action Plan shall guide the cooperation among the partner countries in the coming five-year period (2023-2027). Based on the cooperation needs put forward by the partner countries, the five thematic domains now include 10 objectives, 29 actions and a final clause aiming at establishing mechanisms and tools to periodically monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Cadiz Action Plan.

In order to respond more effectively to emerging challenges, partner countries recognise the potential of migrants to contribute to the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination and the importance of addressing the root causes of migration. They also wish to place the issue of job creation and future prospects at the heart of their priorities and to further develop legal channels of migration in a triple win partnership approach. Furthermore, they commit to deepen their cooperation to find durable solutions for refugees and persons in need of protection, but also with the aim of preventing and combating more effectively irregular migration, criminal networks of migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings. Finally, they agree to strengthen their cooperation with a view to achieving more tangible progress in the areas of return, readmission and reintegration of irregular migrants.

In a crosscutting manner, partner countries are committed to addressing the drivers of environmental degradation and climate change and mitigating their impact in the most affected regions, and wish to adopt a multi-stakeholder approach to migration, including States, diaspora, civil society, international organisations, the research community and the private sector.

The draft Political Declaration recalls that countries commit themselves to strengthening the ownership, visibility and institutional governance of the Rabat Process.

The operational implementation of the Political Declaration and the Cadiz Action Plan will foremost depend on the partner countries' proactive engagement and willingness to implementing the set objectives and the resources allocated to them. In this respect, the Rabat Process Secretariat stands ready, as it has always done, to support partner countries in their respective efforts to develop and implement projects and initiatives.

Guiding questions

The following questions will guide the discussions of the Round Table:

1. Which thematic areas and provisions of the Action Plan should be prioritised over the next couple of years? Is your country willing to engage in the development and implementation of initiatives/actions within the framework of the Cadiz Action Plan?
2. Which modes of cooperation (e.g. bilateral and/or multilateral partnerships) do you deem most useful and needed?
3. What additional tools and resources should be mobilised towards the implementation of the Cadiz Action Plan?
4. What are your proposals to increase the impact, ensure a follow-up and monitor the implementation of the Cadiz Action Plan?

Project funded by the European Union



Implemented by the ICMPD



2