



Rabat Process

Euro-African Dialogue on
Migration and Development

Reference country action

Thematic Meeting

Humanised Border Management

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Introduction

Thematic meeting on humanised border management:

- Co-chaired by the Kingdom of Morocco and Spain;
- Echoing the priorities of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, and specifically its objective 11, as well as of Domain 4, objective 7 of the Cadiz Action Plan which reiterates the need to “strengthen the capacities of relevant public institutions responsible for integrated border management, prevention and combating of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings” while highlighting at the same time the need expressed in action 20 to do so in full respect for the human rights of migrants and with a protection-oriented approach.
- The meeting followed two previous thematic meetings related to border management ([technical meeting on border management](#) in July 2019 and [High level meeting on integrated border management](#) in July 2022);
- The meeting attracted a diverse audience of around 90 participants from 34 European and African countries.

Objective of the meeting:

- Strengthen the capacity of partner countries to adopt a law-based approach to integrated border management, while remaining effective and agile in the fight against human trafficking.

Expected results of the meeting:

- Identify the main challenges where cooperation could be strengthened at the regional level to facilitate the implementation of the principles and measures of humane border management;
- Share joint action strategies and good practices between partners in the field of assistance and protection as well as screening of vulnerable migrants;
- Propose initiatives to strengthen the protection of migrants' rights as a priority in the migration management of partner countries;
- Identify and disseminate concrete actions that can be envisaged in the framework of regional cooperation, including the fight against cross-border trafficking;
- Launch a debate on how the Rabat Process can add value to existing international instruments in this field.

This document provides an overview of the main **conclusions of the meeting**, as well as **good practices, challenges, and recommendations** related to humanised border management.

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony was chaired by M. Fouad Kadmiri, Director of Consular and Social Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Abroad (current Chair of the Dialogue); M. Khalid Zerouali, Wali-Director of Migration and Border Surveillance at the Ministry of Interior of the Kingdom of Morocco (co-chair of the thematic meeting and host country); Ms. Elena Garzón Otamendi, Director General for International Relations and Foreigners at the Ministry of Interior of Spain (co-chair of the thematic meeting); M. Johannes Luchner, Deputy Director General at the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission; M. Ismaila Dangou, Coordinator of ECOWAS/Spain Fund for Migration and Development, and Ms. Monica Zanette, Head of Pan-African Initiatives at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

In the course of their statements, the speakers agreed on the unique dimension provided by the Rabat Process Dialogue to build on the existing international instruments in the field of humanised border management and on the achievements reached by the partner countries on key thematic areas and assess the progress made as well as the challenges, while at the same time innovating with new solutions to ensure the implementation of the current

multi-annual strategic programme. The objective to reinforce a humanised and multidisciplinary approach to migration, particularly in the field of border management, was highlighted, and a number of initiatives were mentioned to support border agencies' services in addressing migration in a far-reaching manner with a particular emphasis on human rights.

Statement, Kingdom of Morocco – Chair of the Dialogue:

M. Kadmiri reaffirmed the Dialogue as a strong asset to capitalise on progress made and follow up on recommendations put forward in the previous thematic meetings held in 2019 and 2022 which allowed partner countries to debate and collaborate keeping in mind the principle of shared responsibility. The Dialogue and its results are cherished by the Moroccan Chairmanship as well as the necessary implementation of the Cadiz Political Declaration and Action Plan 2023-2027. In this respect, the inclusion of a humanised approach is fundamental to the National Immigration and Asylum Strategy (NIAS), which is both coherent and proactive.

Statement, Kingdom of Morocco – Co-chair of the Thematic Meeting:

M. Zerouali emphasised the ability of the Dialogue to implement a new dynamic between the North and the South which concentrates on development. A humanised and multidisciplinary approach to migration, and border management, is thus essential to the Kingdom of Morocco as demonstrated by the national strategy on migration which gives priority to the humanist and protective dimension of migrants in addition to border control and the fight against human trafficking. Consequently, the Kingdom of Morocco wishes to establish a regional Charter, as well as a drafting committee, to provide a reference document on the topic of humanised border management that would take into consideration partner countries' experiences and specific judicial characteristics.

Statement, Kingdom of Spain - Co-chair of the Thematic Meeting:

As a co-chair of the Thematic Meeting, Ms. Garzón underlined Spain's support to the Rabat Process and its current Chair, the Kingdom of Morocco.

The Rabat Process constitutes a particularly conducive setting to approach the "humanised border management" topic. Its members share a strong concern about the increase in migrant's fundamental rights violations, which is the result of the increasing activity of human trafficking and migrant smuggling networks. In order to combat these networks, a balanced and holistic approach is needed. Lastly, Rabat Process partners are well aware that countries cannot deal unilaterally with such a complex global challenge.

Ms. Garzón also shared three essential elements of any successful humanised border management from the Spanish perspective: security forces as the main guarantee of migrants' human rights, strong mechanisms to prevent abuses, and intensive international cooperation.

Statement, European Union (EU):

M. Luchner highlighted the necessary balance between the protection of migrants' human rights and actions taking place at the border as illustrated in the European Pact on Migration and Asylum. Action plans are implemented on the Atlantic, Western, and Central Mediterranean routes with common objectives regarding efforts against human trafficking and towards a strategy of border management focusing on collaboration, including with actors such as FRONTEX and EUROPOL. These initiatives notably focus on strengthening prevention, search and rescue, and migrant and refugee protection mechanisms. Further European initiatives such as Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) were created to tackle issues such as the protection of migrants and refugees, border management, and the fight against human trafficking in the Mediterranean route. The aim of these initiatives is to commonly approach migration and its related issues.

Statement, Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS):

M. Dangou shared the ECOWAS' success in the adoption of a free movement protocol suppressing obstacles linked to borders within its geographical area. Other initiatives of ECOWAS to ensure safer and more humane experiences of borders were also presented: ECOWAS introduced a Regional Program for cross-border cooperation and revitalised border management commissions with the aim to strengthen the collaboration between actors involved in border management and in the development of Western Africa. M. Dangou also reminded the importance of Objective 7 of the Cadiz Action Plan and called for an efficient continental, regional, and national coordination to ensure an integrated version of border management taking into consideration migrants' rights.

Statement, Rabat Process Secretariat:

Ms. Zanette recalled that border management, including its broad dimension on strict application of human rights at borders, has been a key focus of the Rabat Process since its inception, and is a priority linked with Domain 4 and Objective 7 of the Cadiz Action Plan. On that basis, and for many years, ICMPD has implemented various projects in Northern and Western Africa to support border agencies' services in addressing migration in a far-reaching manner with a particular emphasis on human rights. Through its actions, ICMPD is involved in strategic and policy development, capacity building, maritime border management, and the provision of state-of-the-art equipment.

Recommended principles and guidelines on human rights at international borders

International principles of human rights can contribute to a humanised strategy of border management if those rights are implemented and their lacunas are identified and remedied:

This first panel allowed international experts to recall fundamental human rights principles, existing international instruments, and legislation related to migrants and share the challenges observed in their application.

How can border management strategies guarantee the protection of migrants' human rights? – OHCHR and UNHCR.

According to the OHCHR, around 281 million people (representing 3.6% of the world population) migrated outside of their country of origin. Among them, many individuals were forced to migrate for intertwined reasons. In this context of increasing migration, the OHCHR emphasised the necessity to apply the following principles in every situation: 1) the pre-eminence of human rights which must be at the centre of every policy, 2) the principle of non-discrimination, and 3) the obligation to protect and assist human lives, which takes precedence over laws on border management. Those three principles should inspire every law and action taken in border management strategies. In a humanised border management framework, it represents the normative imperative of every actor involved in migration.

Humanised Border Management cannot be solely implemented through existing law principles. In this regard, the UNHCR put forward two additional imperatives aiming to guarantee migrants' rights. International principles need to be translated into procedures ensuring the protection of migrants (identification and referencing procedures, etc.) and their capacity to ask for asylum. Lastly, one major aspect affecting border management strategy is how we perceive the border. A solidarity imperative thus imposes a different vision of borders, a vision concentrating on routes rather than borders as limits of States' sovereignty in order to enhance the dialogue between transit and destination countries.

Challenges identified by practitioners:

- The violation of migrants' rights can take different shapes and this phenomenon is frequently connected to stereotypes, laws, and practices. To fight these violations, it is important that migrants' rights are recognised and they are able to access the justice system, which is not always the case.
- One of the main issues in the implementation of international principles and good practices is the ambiguity of legal texts creating loopholes. The latter impede States and organisations from efficiently running rescue operations. Another related challenge is the lack of ratification of international instruments, thus impeding the application of international law.
- A lack of cooperation and coordination between the different mechanisms of identification and protection at borders undermines the concrete application of international principles.

Despite these challenges, practitioners shared some **good practices**:

- Several successful initiatives in the MENA region were implemented to create alternatives to the detention of migrants, as well as to decriminalise the status assigned to migrants.
- The **Kingdom of Morocco** has put in place visits from the National Mechanism for Prevention of Torture at the border and is contributing on a regional scale to reinforcing the role of National Human Rights Institutions in sharing their competencies in the protection of migrants' rights.
- A number of good practices can be identified in European countries in age-determination-related mechanisms such as in **Malta**, in which age-evaluation committees include psychology and medical practitioners, as well as social workers, to include a broader scope of elements in age determination.
- The **African Union** works towards the increase in the ratification of international instruments and facilitates the integration of those international principles and policies into the domestic legal system of African countries, especially in African countries that do not have an office/mechanism taking care of such integration.
- **France** also implemented a program for development and asylum in partnership with **Egypt and Tunisia** on issues including rescue at sea.
- **Spain**, supported by the UNHCR, implemented a new mechanism at the Madrid airport reinforcing means of identification of human trafficking victims and vulnerable migrants and redirecting those victims towards specialised NGOs and other qualified actors.

Although significant progress has been made in overcoming those challenges, **several recommendations** were made to further improve the application of international principles:

- There is a need to reinforce the financial support allocated to international organisations/NGOs promoting migrants' human rights.
- Partner countries should aim to reinforce their cooperation in search of a workable solution to guarantee the validation and implementation of an integrated border management strategy, in accordance with their international commitments and to overcome the loopholes in international law.
- National stakeholders responsible for the identification of migrants should include a broader scope of professionals (including social staff, profilers, cultural mediators, etc.), especially in the fight against human trafficking.
- The implementation of a humanised border management strategy cannot exclude policies targeting the development of African countries as a way to address the root causes of migration.

Better communication as a prerequisite to prevent the vulnerability of migrants:

During this discussion held still under panel 1, several organisations had the opportunity to highlight the need for communication between actors in migration and the importance of sharing knowledge and information. In this regard, two forms of information-sharing need to be taken into account: 1) better information and skills-sharing

between institutions through training, and 2) better information-sharing with the migrants themselves as they remain agents in the migration and border management process.

A number of **good practices** identified by practitioners were mentioned:

- **Nigeria** and **Burkina Faso** are reinforcing the collaboration between border guards and authorities fighting against human trafficking in order to improve the identification of vulnerable migrants.
- **Angola** has developed a textbook collecting international principles and national laws relating to migrants and the UNHCR. This textbook will be used as a reference in training for border and governmental authorities.
- In the **Kingdom of Morocco**, a training framework has been created in partnership with the Ministry of Interior. Furthermore, the OHCHR has developed training for the Regional Commissions of Human Rights in the country on the human rights situation at borders.
- **France** collaborates with **Niger** on issues related to the Nigerien asylum system under the scope of the Global Compact on Refugees. A similar support mechanism can be adapted and implemented in other countries.
- The **OHCHR** developed the *Human Rights 75 Initiative* aiming at promoting human rights, creating a forum of exchanges to create peer learning experiences relating to the protection of migrants' human rights, and following the fundamental principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Despite the actions implemented delivering promising results, **several recommendations** were made to improve communication and information-sharing:

- There is a need to create learning experience-sharing platforms to introduce good practices related to human rights and migratory issues. These platforms should regroup border authorities and law enforcement officers, as well as other relevant actors.
- Border authorities and law enforcement officers need to inform migrants about all options and assistance available for them to avoid reinforcing their vulnerability due to a lack of information.

Management of migrants and vulnerable persons at the border: challenges faced and proposals for improvement and cooperation

An organised system to respond to mixed flows of migrants:

In panel 2, partner countries highlighted the need of having an organised system to respond to the arrival of diverse categories of migrants, emphasising the importance of the identification stage. Identification is all the more important considering the porosity of borders which challenges border authorities.

The following good practices were highlighted by the participants:

- The **Kingdom of Morocco** presented its new reference document in accordance with its international obligations regarding the protection of migrants and human life. The reference document is based on cooperation between actors and sets out guidelines to be applied to all irregular migrants at stages of reception, preliminary hearing, pre-identification, and constitution of reference files. Taking into consideration their rights and human dignity, the reference document aims to direct migrants to the most relevant structures in order to provide them with the relevant support and care.
- In **Ghana**, simulations of contingency plans were put in place as a way for border officers to be prepared for crises at the border. Through the conduct of those simulations, authorities identify the weaknesses of their system and are able to resolve the issue, the final outcome being the national Contingency Planning Strategy, Guidelines, and SOPs.

- **Côte d'Ivoire** elaborated a National Strategy for the Fight against Terrorism which includes operational, institutional, and legal frameworks. Within this strategy, the Integrated System of Border Control created databases that facilitate controls at borders and the identification of migrants, thus enabling a greater fight against human trafficking.

To further develop a clear and organised system of response, the following **recommendations** were made:

- National agencies involved in the identification of migrants must cooperate despite their different mandates and come up with a procedural framework for the identification and support of victims.
- There is a need to elaborate a **collective dynamic** between countries and to reinforce the collaboration of States affected by migration.

Ensuring satisfactory and efficient coordination at borders - The experience of the Spanish Guardia Civil

The diverse mandates and working habits of the agencies, organisations, and administrations involved in border management require intensified cooperation. Guardia Civil has established a clear and organised protocol that ensures both the protection of the migrants and efficient coordination with the relevant actors involved.

Upon arrival, migrants are distributed according to their needs and are guided towards 1) the Red Cross if they need medical assistance, or 2) basic care facilities under the Guardia Civil's jurisdiction where they will be provided with basic assistance and referenced to the relevant authorities according to their personal situations.

Unaccompanied minors are directly referred to minor protection services. Other migrants will be handed over to Policía Nacional.

Cooperation is far from being limited to the arrival of migrants to the Spanish borders. Guardia Civil has been effectively developing close cooperation with countries of origin and transit for almost two decades to jointly fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling networks.

A humanised perspective of border management accentuates the support that needs to be allocated to migrants and vulnerable people

For many partner countries, a **common challenge** is the **lack of resources** allocated to each step of the reception of migrants, including the support after their arrival. Yet, the panel allowed to highlight that **humanitarian assistance is primordial**. In this regard, partner countries shared the **good practices** related to the support and care allocated to migrants and vulnerable people:

- In **Spain**, Guardia Civil provides psychological assistance to the needs of migrants.
- **FRONTEX** pursues an efficient orientation of vulnerable migrants based on Regulation 2019/1896, thus aiming to provide special support for vulnerable migrants, victims of human trafficking, and migrants in distress.

To include support mechanisms for already functioning systems, **an additional recommendation** was made:

Border control authorities should receive emergency funding to better support vulnerable migrants and victims of human trafficking.

Striking the right balance between security concerns and protecting the human rights of vulnerable migrants at the border

Cooperation projects gain relevance and efficiency when they are designed in contexts of mutual trust:

In panel 3, participants stressed the need for all actors to act in a context of mutual trust as it remains one of the best ways to ensure efficient cooperation between the wide range of actors involved in border management. The creation of partnerships, and global cooperation contribute to solving the main challenge which is the lack of financing.

The reform of EU external border management in the context of new globalisation

Austria established an assessment of the EU's external border management which calls for the EU Member States to rethink the European protection system. Despite all of the actions implemented aiming at the protection of migrants, the results of those policies are not satisfactory. As reminded by Austria, about 27.000 individuals died in the Mediterranean Sea in the last 10 years. Such results reflect its inadequacy in our new globalised world. Some initiatives for a humane border management system were successful, such as the establishment of internal protection in the Schengen area. Yet, a new understanding of borders has arisen and must guide our understanding of how to implement a humanised external border management strategy, which should be based on mutual respect and partnership.

During the discussion, the participants highlighted a number of **good practices**:

Blue Shield – one of the Spanish Policía Nacional's strategies to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling networks and to protect migrant's human rights

During the last almost two decades, Policía Nacional has developed joint projects with several African partner countries that seek to dismantle human trafficking and migrant smuggling networks. These activities have allowed to save hundreds of migrants and vulnerable people's lives and to protect their human rights by preventing them to fall under the control of the aforementioned networks.

Policía Nacional currently develops Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) with Mauritania and Niger; EU-funded Common Operational Partnerships (COPs) with Mauritania, Senegal, and Gambia; and an Action against Human Trafficking and Irregular Immigration (A-TIPSON) project in Nigeria.

These joint projects have a strong operational impact (for instance, cooperation under Spanish - Nigerian Joint Investigation Teams has managed to dismantle more than 194 criminal networks since 2007).

- **Switzerland** is involved in several cross-border cooperation, notably in **Cameroun, Nigeria, and Lebanon**. Furthermore, Switzerland is actively building other bilateral partnerships and dialogues on migration focusing on the following points: 1) the prevention of irregular migration, 2) return and reintegration, 3) access to work and professional training, 4) the fight against human trafficking, and 5) migration and development.

To achieve this goal of mutual trust, several **recommendations** were made by participants:

- There is a need to work on a mutual understanding in order to establish common projects and create a sense of mutual trust between authorities but also with the local population.
- It is essential that exchanges regarding skill-sharing cooperation directly take place between the right authorities - those directly involved.

Partner countries must be able to mobilise a variety of (new) resources in response to the technical and technological advancement led by criminal networks:

During this session, discussions also focused on the **technical challenge** imposed by the **constant development of new technologies** which influences means of migration, and specifically the way human trafficking and migrant smuggling are conducted.

Those exchanges allowed participants to highlight **good practices** implemented by partner countries and organisations:

- In **Slovenia**, new technologies are gradually included in the different stages relating to border management (the surveillance of borders, the registration and identification of migrants...).
- Due to the widespread presence of online elements in the conduct of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, the European Migrant Smuggling Centre of **EUROPOL** uses intelligence-sharing to detect the trends of those criminal networks and issue an early warning as a way to fight them more efficiently. Furthermore, the organisation often activates actions against migrant smugglers who offer their services on social media.

Several **recommendations** were made to improve partner countries' ability to face the changes in criminal networks violating migrants' rights due to those technical and technological developments:

- Considering the expansion of their digital dimension, it is essential to fight criminal networks, including networks of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, as early as possible.
- There is a need to be more ambitious and aim for the arrest of the main promoters and commanders of these criminal activities instead of focusing on small actors in human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

The EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling 2021-2025 and the Role of EUROPOL:

In 2021, the European Commission presented its new Action Plan against migrant smuggling. EUROPOL has a key role in the implementation of this Action Plan and its three components.

- 1) **Reinforcing intra-EU cooperation and exchange of information:** by supporting the Joint Liaison Task Force on Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings and further developing the use of the Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA).
- 2) **To grasp the emerging counter-smuggling phenomena:** through EUROPOL's European Migrant Smuggling Centre specialised services and work regarding intelligence-sharing
- 3) **Reach more targeted cooperation with countries of origin and transit:** EUROPOL developed Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnerships with third countries and regions along the migratory routes towards the EU. Operational task forces of the organisation also support joint investigations of high-value targets that have been identified, including those from partner States.

Effective multi-stakeholder cooperation as a prerequisite for humane border management

The cooperation must aim to go beyond simple border management and cover a greater scope of operations:

Panel 4 gave participants the opportunity to highlight one of the **main challenges** authorities and practitioners face on the ground: the multi-faced character of migration and root causes of migration. The varied causes of migration and the distinct forms they take render border management difficult and make migratory actors' cooperation more complex.

Several **good practices** were put forward by participants:

- **Nigeria** established the Stakeholders Forum on Border Management (SFBM) as part of the 2015 Nigerian National Migration Policy. This mechanism was created for consultation and planning on a broad scope of border management issues such as the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol, border security, human trafficking, and smuggling of migrants.
- In **Mali**, the EUCAP Sahel Mali supports the Malian government in its national strategy against complex transnational challenges which includes security concerns (terrorism, organised crime, etc.) and the fight against human trafficking. The strategy implemented by Mali also plans to promote trade and the economic and social development of communities affected by migration, especially at the borders. An action plan to ensure integrated cross-border cooperation is currently being finalised.

Several **recommendations** were made to enhance cooperating actors' capacity to cover a broader scope of operations:

- There is a need to address the root causes of irregular migration, including poverty, inequality, conflict, and environmental degradation, and thus to include a diversity of actors in the decision-making process of integrated border management. It is all the more important to include migrants in decision-making so actors are able to address their specific needs.
- Border management actors should invest in monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to critically analyse the policies and programs implemented on the ground. Through this interactive method, it is possible to respond quickly to new challenges and shifting migration dynamics, ensuring that efforts are effective and sensitive to the changing needs of migrants.
- It is important to reinforce the role of border community and civil society organisations (CSOs) in daily border management and to integrate them into the dynamic of collaboration between state agencies.

The Nigerian Legal and Policy Framework for Humanised Border Management:

As a major actor in regional and global migration, Nigeria is engaged in the development of a wide scope of policies and legal frameworks aiming to protect the rights of all vulnerable migrants' rights and improve infrastructures at borders.

In this regard, Nigeria developed a **National Border Strategy in 2019** to ensure a more humane approach to border management. Other instruments were drafted, reflecting the international commitments of Nigeria. In this regard, the **National Visa Policy issued in 2020** reflects Domain 2 of the Cadiz Action Plan relating to the promotion of regular migration and mobility. Nigeria thus demonstrates a strong will to enhance humanised perspectives of border management, notably as the support to migrants was further consolidated through the **NCFRMI Act 2022**. A **review of the National Migration Policy** is currently ongoing to better align with international best practices and the evolving demands of border communities and migrants.

Effective cooperation can only take place if authorities raise awareness among all actors of migration and promote all available instruments:

The discussion pursued under panel 4 further gave participants the opportunity to emphasise the important role of international organisations and CSOs. For instance, the latter remain closer to local and border communities thus bringing new expertise on the ground that can be beneficial to border and law enforcement authorities. Despite the few **challenges** mentioned such as the lack of resources and finances, the participants highlighted several **good practices** aiming to raise awareness among all actors involved in the migration cycle:

- In **Ghana**, the Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) collects data to assess citizens' understanding of migratory issues and conducts sensitisation and education campaigns to inform citizens and the border community about border management strategies implemented in the country. This

education campaign is broadened to reach other actors involved in border management through the publication of briefing papers and policy briefs.

- In **Nigeria**, CSOs work towards advocating for legislation changes to ensure the protection of migrants and avoid exploitation. Their role is also to raise awareness about human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants, which they do through advocacy and lobbying.

Although some actions already have been implemented, several **recommendations** were made which would further facilitate the exchanges between actors involved in migration:

- It is essential to raise awareness in regard to the dangers coming with irregular migration and to document violations of migrants' rights in order to advocate for legislative changes.
- The interaction between border community residents and security agencies needs to be strengthened and deepened, particularly in terms of information exchange to help the security services' intelligence work. In this regard, there is a need to create an interface engagement platform to facilitate ongoing community interactions for the purpose of sharing experiences and fostering cordiality among border community members and security agencies.
- There is a need to prioritise the use of new technologies in border management to reinforce its humanised aspect as technologies could enable better access to information and greater support for community-based and migrant-led organisations.

IOM's SIMEX in Banikane, Dosso Region, Niger

IOM has been conducting simulation exercises in Niger since 2017, simulating real-life circumstances in the context of crisis and mass displacement. The exercises gather regional and local authorities, as well as local communities for all actors to be prepared for all scenarios that could happen in crisis situations. Humanitarian, health, and security services also took part in the simulation. Simulations exercises notably allow actors to work on the best way to assure a humanised strategy of integrated border management by focusing on the following issues: 1) the registration of displaced people, 2) medical and psychological support, and 3) the identification of security threats.

As a result of those SIMEX, Niger and the IOM intend to develop a regional contingency plan.

Conclusions of the Thematic Meeting:

- 1) Migration governance needs to be based on the following diptych: respect for migrants' rights goes hand in hand with the preventive measures to be taken to fight against organised crime and human trafficking networks.
- 2) There are numerous international instruments and good practices in force that pursue more humanised border management. However, when it comes to protecting migrants' human rights there is always room for improvement. More should be done.
- 3) The principle of shared responsibility between partner countries regarding migration and border management is essential and calls for enhanced cooperation and coordination.
- 4) The importance of the work developed by law enforcement agencies to save migrants' lives and protect their human rights was recognized and praised. Especially in the cases of vulnerable migrants, including those at sea, victims of human trafficking, or minors, among others.
- 5) The coordination between national authorities and regional institutions such as the African Migration Observatory (Rabat) should be enlarged in order to make key data available to improve partner countries' policies in border management. The necessity to reinforce coordination between organisations from the North and the South has been emphasised.

- 6) The added value of multistakeholder cooperation (including international organisations, civil society organisations, and border communities) was highlighted and should be reinforced.

Proposal from the Kingdom of Morocco

The Kingdom of Morocco made a proposal to start reflecting on the issue of humanised border management and to establish a drafting committee with the aim to create a document (Charter or something equivalent) promoted by the Rabat Process.

Analysis of meeting attendance¹:

- The event attracted a diverse audience of around 90 participants from 34 countries.
- The thematic meeting fully met the expectations of the participants.
- Participants highlighted a number of recommendations, including the need to organise such meetings on a regular basis in order to move the dialogue forward and ensure that the good practices set out at the meeting are continuing.
- The event was widely covered on social media by The Rabat Process Secretariat, with 13 tweets and 2 LinkedIn posts which led to 1609 impressions on Twitter and 56 reactions on LinkedIn. A tweet about the meeting by the Kingdom of Morocco's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates reached a particularly wide audience and was retweeted numerous times.

¹ This analysis is based on the responses provided by participants to the evaluation forms.