

## **Senior Officials Meeting**

**Rabat Process – 2 December, Porto – Portugal**

### **SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING CONCLUSIONS**

The Rabat Process partners met for a Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on 2 December 2015 in Porto in order to discuss the Valletta Summit results, including implementation of the Action Plan and the Rome Programme. The Action Plan fostered a dynamic and fast action to implement 16 initiatives down to the end of 2016. Some of these initiatives are directly related to the Rome Programme. The partners reminded everyone that the Valletta Action Plan should be implemented in coordination with the political framework of the dialogue defined by the Rome Declaration and Programme.

The Valletta Summit fully recognises that the Rabat Process is central and pertinent as a platform to implement concrete actions, thus expressing trust and recognition for the work completed within this dialogue. During the SOM, the partners reaffirmed the relevance of the Rabat Process for the monitoring of the Valletta Action Plan and the Rome Programme. This cooperation is based on trust built during the last 10 years of experience and sharing of best practices. This trust is illustrated, for example, by the existing consensus on the necessity to organise a Thematic Meeting on the topic of returns, readmission and reintegration (April 2016 presided by Belgium and awaiting Guinea Bissau's confirmation for Co-Presidency), and to put into place a working group on the topic of visa facilitation (Cabo Verde).

The partners also underlined the fact that such a dialogue platform guarantees not only flexibility to respond to emergencies and implement short-term actions, but also and especially to implement medium- and long-term actions with sustainable impact. Moreover, the partners explained that such a dialogue platform enables the maximisation of regional project impact; facilitates the reproduction of these projects in new contexts and strengthens existing projects. Networking is part of the innovative solutions and can be better implemented and monitored within a regional dialogue on migration.

The aim is to obtain concrete, coherent results and to create a framework enabling a monitoring of progress and the results of implemented actions. In this respect, the Process partners agreed to adopt the Porto Monitoring Plan (PMP) which will be piloted by the Support Project, while closely working with the Steering Committee (CoPil), in particular its Presidency and the EU. This monitoring tool's modalities, such as update mechanisms, as well as information dissemination, will be detailed later on. However, the partners agreed that the information would be shared three times a year. The PMP helps to respond to political engagements, and to commit to results and political responsibilities resulting from the Valetta Summit and the Rome Ministerial Conference.



The partners recognised the new challenge of adequate communication, as this has a growing importance for implemented actions and discussions. It is therefore essential to communicate more effectively on knowledge produced, experience acquired, and progress or achievements. The necessity to lead awareness-raising campaigns was also mentioned.

In parallel, additional *ad hoc* meetings could be organised to ensure the monitoring of the Valetta Action Plan and the Rome Programme.

In light of the political and operational challenges of the 4<sup>th</sup> phase of the dialogue, the Rabat Process partners underlined the importance of the CoPil Presidency's increasing role, of thematic meetings and of SOMs, which have the capacity to engage in an essential and dynamic dialogue (for example, by suggesting new thematic areas, such as migration and environment or migration and urban environment). It was repeated that the Support Project is therefore essential and should increase its support to the Presidency.

The European Union (EU), its Member States and the Partner Countries will use the financial instruments available in order to cooperate with African partners within their legal and financial framework to support them in implementing actions. Significant European funds are available to implement actions. The Process partners have expressed their wish to share thoughts on these tools, especially the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.



## **PORTO MONITORING PLAN**

The Rabat Process has been implemented under the policy framework of the **Rome Declaration and Programme** since November 2014. This comprehensive framework encompasses four pillars and two priority areas. In November 2015, the partners of the Rabat Process reaffirmed their political commitment and their will to implement concrete deliverables in Malta. The **Valetta Action Plan** is built around five priority domains. 16 priority initiatives will be launched before the end of 2016.

The ‘**Porto Monitoring Plan**’ (PMP) will be a **working tool** aimed at **monitoring the implementation** of the Valletta Action Plan in the framework of the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development, known as the “Rabat Process”, between 2015 and 2018. The PMP reflects those Valletta commitments included in the Rabat Process’s own Rome Programme and which could effectively be implemented in this framework. For instance, the creation/reinforcement of thematic networks is clearly stipulated as an objective that could benefit from a platform, such as a dialogue on migration. The PMP therefore does not stipulate any new objectives.

The PMP is a working tool and will be **reviewed and updated on a regular basis**. The **governance structure of the Dialogue**, CoPiL, SOMs, thematic meetings and training sessions, will offer opportunities to discuss, complete and adjust the information and data contained in the PMP. In particular, **thematic meetings** will play a key role in the monitoring work of the Rabat Process, in detailing and planning concrete actions and in creating specific indicators, as well as in suggesting additional synergies and proposals. The conclusions of the thematic meetings will be systematically included in the PMP.

**Additional meetings** can be organised on an *ad hoc* basis by the Support Project of the Rabat Process to sustain the monitoring of the Valletta Action Plan follow-up. Specific **reporting mechanisms** will also be set up, such as detailed **stocktaking and initiatives mappings**. To meet expectations with a view to a comprehensive stocktaking, the PMP could place special focus on those initiatives directly linked to and undertaken within the Rabat Process. This exercise will help to identify areas for cooperation and synergies that could be established by making full use of the existing financial instruments available.

In parallel to the various follow-up mechanisms described above, the Rabat Process partners will be **regularly informed** on the progress and achievements identified in the PMP through specific policy documents, information sessions, newsletters and other communication channels.

As agreed by the Heads of State and Governments at the Valetta Summit on Migration, the Rabat Process will be used to monitor implementation. Therefore, the main objective of this SOM is to agree on the best way for the Rabat Process to follow up and monitor the progress



made in the Valetta Action Plan implementation and make sure this follow-up is coherent with the Rome Programme. A PMP could be a good way to launch a standard support mechanism. **Following the SOM**, the Support Project of the Rabat Process, in close coordination with the CoPiL members and the EU, will further **detail** the monitoring tool.

As stipulated in the Valetta Action Plan, the EU, its Member States and associated countries will use their relevant financial instruments available for cooperation with African partners in line with their legal and financing frameworks to **support the implementation** of the actions described in the monitoring working document. Substantial EU funds are available to implement actions.

In addition to the existing instruments, the newly-established **EU Emergency Trust Fund** for stability and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa will provide substantial funding. As direct support to the Rabat Process, the EU's Pan-African Programme (2014-2020) provides the programmatic roof, and guarantees a comprehensive and coherent approach for the Rabat Process and Khartoum Process. The operationalisation of the outcomes of these processes will be supported by the so-called **Migration and Mobility Dialogue (MMD) Facility**, among others, which can support small- and medium-sized technical assistance initiatives directly linked to the activities of the Rabat Process dialogue activities.

