



Senior Officials Meeting

In preparation of the fourth Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development

Summary of debates - 26 and 27 June 2014, Rabat, Morocco

Day 1 – 26 June 2014

SESSION 1:

PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE RABAT PROCESS SUPPORT PROJECT

Opening by the co-chairs

His Excellency Mr. Nasser Bourita, Secretary General of the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, opened the first session by recalling that eight years ago the representatives of 57 African and European countries, and around ten regional and international organisations, gathered in Rabat in the very same room to establish a close partnership in the area of migration between Africa and Europe: **a partnership built upon a regional and global approach, reconciling the needs of cooperation in the fight against clandestine migration with the priorities of codevelopment.** The partnership that was initiated, **the Rabat Process**, is innovative through its tripartite composition – countries of origin, transit and destination – and through its global and concerted approach. It progressively established itself as a **frame of reference** in the Euro-African region. The Rabat Process allowed a common understanding of migration questions at national and regional levels, as well as the implementation of concerted and coordinated policy. However, Mr. Bourita mentioned the fact that the Rabat Process could be strengthened and become an interregional framework for dialogue and consultation in which concrete and practical initiatives are implemented. In this context, **Morocco complimented the technical assistance** made available by the Support Project to the countries of the Rabat Process and which aims at implementing **operational activities** related to the cross-cutting theme. In order to implement pilot projects (such as the offices to counter documentary fraud), based upon the recommendations of the different thematic meetings, Mr. Bourita called for the strengthening of assistance on a material level. Moreover, he mentioned the necessity of **adapting to important changes concerning the scope, intensity and destinations of migration flows** during the last decade, such as flows





generated by the new hubs of economic growth in the countries of the South. Mr. Bourita recalled that **Morocco is at the heart of these transformations**. Being a country of origin, transit and destination, Morocco provides a **double effort**. Firstly, it **meets the needs of Moroccans Living Abroad**. Secondly, it **puts in place strategic, legal and institutional instruments**, consistent with international standards, to govern the stay of foreigners on its territory. Following the publication of the thematic report of the National Human Rights Council relating to the situation of migrants and refugees in Morocco (9 December 2013), King Mohammed VI reaffirmed his belief that migration issues, which are matters of legitimate concern and sometimes controversial, have to be approached in a global and humanistic manner that complies with international law, and lies within the framework of united and renewed multilateral and regional cooperation. Thus, the new Moroccan migration policy comprises a **humanistic philosophy, a global content and a responsible approach. It is in sync with the evolution of the phenomenon and leading in the region**. This new policy is equally in line with the framework of Morocco's Africa policy, encompassing active solidarity, stimulating bilateral relations and the strengthening of renewed partnership, as well as covering a multidimensional political, economic and social cooperation. Operational measures undertaken in the framework of the **inter-ministerial commissions in charge of implementation of the new Moroccan migration policy** were then presented. A first commission was responsible for the examination of cases of recognised refugees by the UNHCR in Rabat. A second commission determined the criteria for the case-by-case examination, based on the legal status of certain categories of foreigners in an irregular administrative situation in Morocco, prioritising vulnerable humanitarian cases and foreigners pursuing a regular profession. A third inter-ministerial commission, overseen by the Inter-ministerial Human Rights Delegation, was tasked with revising the legal and institutional frameworks of asylum, the fight against trafficking in human beings, and immigration respectively. Finally, an inter-ministerial commission on diplomatic efforts was made responsible for proposals on behalf of Morocco in the main forums on migration issues and for rekindling regional and international cooperation on the matter. Mr. Bourita then pleaded for an **'African Alliance for Migration and Development'**. This 'Alliance' aims at deepening a **'common African vision' on migration** based on the principles of international human rights. The 'Alliance' takes the respect of dignity and fundamental rights of migrants and refugees as basic tenets. It further aims at strengthening the coordination in combating transnational human trafficking and migrant smuggling networks. It campaigns for the dedication of a shared responsibility between countries of origin, transit and destination as well as for the recognition of the link between migration and development. Mr Bourita concluded by underlining the fact that **Morocco continues its commitment at regional level** for





a joint cooperation on migration issues. He reminded those present that the 21st century will be one of human mobility.

His Excellency Mr. Michele Valensise, Secretary General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reiterated that **migration policy is at the forefront of the Italian Presidency Programme** of the European Union (EU). Italy remains convinced that the Mediterranean region, crossed by migratory routes from Africa, is and must remain a **fundamental priority** for the EU's actions in the field of migration. Mr. Valensise explained that the migration phenomenon is intrinsically linked to the political and economic framework of a world becoming more and more globalised. Behind the **migration phenomenon** lies a **complex multiplicity of factors and root causes**, namely demographic growth, political conflicts, violations of human rights, the consequences of environmental degradation, economic imbalances, poverty and unemployment. Such a range of causes can only be addressed through a **multifaceted policy, based on several pillars and capable of mobilising** national governments, and regional and international organisations. He also pointed out that sea operations, in which tens of thousands cast adrift have been saved in the last six months, only represent one of the aspects linked to the migration phenomenon. Italy remains convinced that **well-managed legal migration** can constitute a factor of economic growth for countries of origin as well as for countries of destination, and that enhancing the **link between migration and development** is a factor that facilitates development. Mr. Valensise reaffirmed that Italy remains strongly committed to combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable groups, namely minors and women. Efforts will also be focused on strengthening and enhancing **dialogue and partnership with the origin and transit countries** of migration flows, which is essential for a migration policy to be effective in the medium and long term. **European Mobility Partnerships** will be of great importance. Mr. Valensise reiterated Italy's strong commitment in the organisation of the Fourth Ministerial Conference within the framework of the Rabat Process, which constitutes both a political and operational forum for dialogue on migration and development. Almost eight years after the first Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development (Rabat, July 2006), the current nature of this initiative was commended. Highlighting the continuity of the objectives, Mr. Valensise pointed out that it was now crucial to adapt the **operational side of the Rabat Process** to the changing nature of the migration phenomenon. He concluded with the importance of maintaining a general balance between themes while focusing on two areas which are: the close links between migration and development; and the fight against irregular migration, and migrant smuggling and human trafficking.





Presentation of the context and issues to be addressed by the Senior Officials Meeting

Mr. Raul De Luzenberger, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in Morocco, presented the Rabat Process in the context of global and regional migration dialogues. Mr. De Luzenberger explained that the next ministerial meeting will open a new phase which must be even richer, more dynamic and concrete. He recalled that the Rabat Process is an example of the way in which a crisis can be transformed into a historic opportunity and cooperation. Initial conclusions are to be drawn after eight years of regional cooperation on migration issues (2006, 1st Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development (launch of the Rabat Process)). The Rabat Process was founded out of the need for a high level political dialogue. Today, the EU-Africa Partnership exists and bilateral agreements are starting to emerge. **The dialogue is therefore essential when it comes to migration. The positive outcomes of the Rabat Process** were commended and Mr. De Luzenberger recalled that this has led to a **calm and constructive dialogue, as well as mutually shared opportunities for all**. A level of intergovernmental coordination is indispensable in achieving consensus among States on current thematic priorities in the area of migration, such as synergies between migration and development. Facing differences in levels of commitment from States, the dialogue offers countries that are affected by these migration routes the ability to collaborate and to come together in a single forum, to **take shared responsibilities and to fully engage at a high political and operational level**. Mr. De Luzenberger concluded by reaffirming the EU's support for the Dialogue.

Mr. Jaâfar Debbarh, Head of the Directorate of Cooperation, Studies and Perspectives for the Ministry in Charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs, presented the Kingdom of Morocco's new policy on immigration and asylum. In the first instance, he recalled the immigration context in Morocco. In line with the changing context at global level, an evolution of migratory flows to Morocco has taken place in the last 20 years, which has led to Morocco having to take responsibility for addressing migration issues in an integrated and humanistic way. This change has specifically resulted in a **regionalisation of flows, with southern countries emerging as an attractive location and source of diversification for categories of migrants**. Morocco, at a crossroads for migratory flows due to its strategic position between Africa, Europe and the Arab world, is already a country of origin, transit, and residence. Following the conclusions of the thematic report (10 September 2013) prepared by the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) and Royal Directives in relation to the situation of migrants and refugees





in Morocco, a **new approach** has been designed that ought to respond to the challenges of immigration with due regard for human dignity, as well as the social, economic and cultural integration of migrants. This global policy on immigration and asylum, and its operational action plan, should lead to integrated and humanistic solutions to all of the issues raised. In light of this, **four subcommittees** were created in September 2013: a subcommittee for the regularisation of foreigners in an irregular situation (implementation of a one-off operation to regularise foreigners who are illegally staying in Morocco); a subcommittee in charge of the regularisation of refugees recognised by the UNHCR; a subcommittee in charge of updating the legislative and institutional framework related to immigration, asylum and the fight against trafficking; and a subcommittee for diplomatic action (promoting regional and international cooperation in the field of migration). For the first time, a **department in charge of Migration Affairs** has been assigned to the Ministry in Charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs. This ministry has to ensure the coordination, planning and implementation and evaluation of this policy. It is based on the following convictions: humanism; respect for human rights; a renewed and global approach; and shared responsibility. In other words: a **policy which is based on shared responsibility between all of the stakeholders** (South/North and South/South), **as well as on the close links between migration and development**. The areas of focus are **asylum; immigration; and the fight against human trafficking**. The latter is based on the following guidelines: reduce network activities; strengthen the surveillance of sea borders and forests; fight against criminal network activities; encourage the voluntary return of irregular migrants, in collaboration with the embassies of their country; promote the integration of migrants and refugees (for example, encourage awareness of the Moroccan culture and values; improve the host society's perception of immigration); and encourage codevelopment policies, partnership and a participatory approach. Mr. Jaâfar Debbarh stressed that the **absolute key to successful implementation of this policy is partnership**, whether this be institutional; academic; local, with regional councils and municipalities; private, with actors from the private sector (public-private partnerships); or social, in partnership with Civil Society Organisations (CSO).

Mr. Lukas Gehrke, Director of the Support Project for the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), then presented the outcomes of the activities of the Rabat Process Support Project. **Firstly, in the context of regional dialogues on migration, the Rabat Process was presented as being a regional dialogue, bi-continental, and both political (ministerial mandate) and technical**. The synergies with other dialogues are numerous: focal points who ensure the coordination of the Process at national level and between countries are





often the same as for other dialogues; joint ad hoc missions can be organised in order to avoid duplications; the Rabat Process is regularly presented in other forums, such as at the Istanbul conference of the Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM) on 20 November 2014; a coordination of agendas exists between dialogues; and complementary activities are in progress. Priorities are often common as in the ACP-EU Dialogue on migration and development which particularly targets issues on readmission, issuance of visas, trafficking in migrants, rights of migrants, fund transfers, etc., (ACP-EU 2015/11). Moreover, there are processes of mutual enrichment based on the different conclusions of conferences and different dialogues. Mr. Gehrke then mentioned the **development of the Rabat Process** since its creation in 2006, highlighting an increasing level of political commitment during the second and third phases, as well as a **new operational dimension**, namely through its technical assistance. The Rabat Process gives unquestionable impetus to regional cooperation. The activities from the third phase of the Rabat Process are support to the dialogue process (organisation of thematic meetings, high level and Steering Committee meetings); consolidation of the network of national focal points); coordination, and knowledge and good practice building (guides on the use of migration data; infographics); and operational measures for implementation of the Dakar Strategy (roadmap monitoring; technical assistance). Mr. Gehrke referred back to the three thematic conferences, which focused on three priorities and which took place: in September 2013 (Dakar, Senegal) on strengthening evidence-based policy making in the field of migration; in November 2013 (Madrid, Spain) on border management; and in April 2014 (Paris, France) on migrants in a crisis context. The **need for regional dialogue and the importance of the regional level in addressing changing and multidimensional migration issues**, the strengthening of regional cooperation and the exchange of good practices stood out as being key elements from the conclusions of all of the thematic meetings. The **next stages**, in addition to the Senior Officials Meeting (held in June 2014, Rabat, Morocco) are the organisation of an additional Steering Committee Meeting in September 2014, as well as the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development in November 2014 (Rome, Italy), preceded by a Senior Officials Meeting. Support for the dialogue process also means a **greater communication component** to enable countries to be informed about activities from the Process, to indicate major trends and changes in the region, to call for the active involvement of countries and key actors in migration, while also contributing to greater visibility of the Rabat Process through the website, newsletter, and range of videos on strategic topics and current events, as well as its presence on social networks (Twitter, YouTube, etc.). In terms of building knowledge and good practices, the **development of national guides** on the use of migration data, which aim to elaborate evidence-based migration policies, and to harmonise and





coordinate the collecting and sharing of data, is in progress with Burkina Faso (finalisation phase), Ghana, Mali and Senegal. A second phase is planned and contacts have been initiated with Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon and Tunisia. Interministerial cooperation ensures cooperation, sustainability and appropriation of the guide at national level. The inclusion of the Rabat Process on the **Interactive Platform on Migration (i-Map)** supports coordination, information sharing and the exchange of good practices. The interactive platform includes four dialogues on migration and 84 countries. It is used by governments, the media, academics and international organisations. News alerts from its News Centre give information on migration issues in countries of the Rabat Process. The platform is becoming more and more visible and mentioned in newspapers. The Rabat Process has developed **infographics** (ten in total) as user-friendly tools helping decision-makers to convert migration data and information into public policy. Visualising data and information helps in understanding migration issues. Mr. Gehrke pointed out that three infographics are currently online (The Impact of Integrated Border Management (IBM), Cross-border cooperation between Mali and Burkina Faso, and The Evolution of the Rabat Process since 2006). As far as implementing the Dakar Strategy is concerned, it operates primarily through the **technical assistance of the Rabat Process**. The latter serves to test out ideas based on the three thematic priorities upon requests from States. It takes place in the short term, is adapted to needs and is flexible over time. Four activities are currently in progress, one being with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). A methodology has been developed to adapt EU guidelines on IBM. Additional technical assistance is in progress with Congo, training agents at airport borders. Bilateral assistance in Togo and Benin is in progress where it is intended to train administrative management staff on border management issues. Lastly, technical assistance is planned for Niger on contingency plans, and on training staff on returns and reintegration. The second part of implementation of the Dakar Strategy is the **roadmap monitoring**, adopted during the Senior Officials Meeting in Madrid in June 2012. This aims to analyse the links between national policies and the Dakar Strategy projects, and to identify good practices and initiatives (stocktaking). Two dimensions are envisaged: a macro dimension (processes and policies) and a micro dimension (projects). The preliminary findings have identified cross-cutting areas for strategic intervention which require additional effort: to further develop and support the formulation of comprehensive national migration strategies, revitalise exchanges between experts and trainers, and include the South-South dimension in national and regional policies. Finally, the local dimension is becoming more and more significant.





SESSION 2:

TOWARDS THE POLITICAL DECLARATION OF ROME

The negotiation of the text of the Rome declaration took place under the co-chairmanship of Mr. Mustapha El Bouazzaoui, Director of Consular and Social Affairs at the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and Ms. Sandra Sarti, Chef de Cabinet Adjoint for International Affairs at the Italian Ministry of Interior. The **negotiation of the text developed positively** thanks to a meaningful and active participation, and most of the text was approved by the partner countries of the Rabat Process. Only some specific points remain to be negotiated. The **discussions will continue until the Fourth Ministerial Conference** on 27 November which is preceded by a Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on 26 November.

Day 2 – 27 June 2014

SESSION 3:

IMPLEMENTATION

Session 3 Objective

Discussion on the operational part of the Rome Programme: implementation.

The aim of the working groups is to discuss means of implementation for the Rome Programme.

Feedback from the first day and opening of the second day by the co-chairs

Working group 1:

Strengthening the synergies between migration and development

Mr. Lambert Ouedraogo, Permanent Secretary of the Superior Council for Burkinabe Abroad (CSBE) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation for Burkina Faso, presented Burkina Faso's case in terms of migration and development. In the first instance, he clarified the institutional framework for the management of Burkina Faso's diaspora through which support and management of the diaspora is carried out by the **Permanent Secretary of the Superior Council for Burkinabe Abroad**, a structure which is part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation. One of the objectives targeted by the creation of this strategic structure is to ensure the full participation of Burkinabe abroad in the economic, social and cultural





development of Burkina Faso. He also explained that this structure has representatives in different countries of destination: “CSBE delegates” who have been elected by the communities of Burkina Faso. Mr. Ouedraogo then gave an evaluation of the current state of migration in Burkina Faso, highlighting that **various factors contribute to the development of a country, one of which is its diaspora**. On an economic level, the diaspora carries out **financial transfers** using two methods: informal circulation or hand-to-hand, which takes place during visits to Burkina Faso. However, sending money through the practice of informal circulation remains difficult to quantify. Formal circulation also exists through financial institution networks. As far as property is concerned (for private residency or renting), Burkinabe abroad invest consistently. Purchases are generally made by private or public real estate companies, with whom conditions are negotiated. Lastly, as far as **private entrepreneurship** is concerned, examples of companies that have been created can be mentioned. The general trend of diaspora members moving towards investments in productive sectors was highlighted, assisted by the Business Centre (MEBF), a one-stop governmental service for assisting in formalities related to the creation of companies. Mr. Ouedraogo recalled that at the 4th General Assembly of the CSBE (Superior Council for Burkinabe Abroad) held in March 2014, the CSBE delegates adopted a recommendation strongly related to the development of a framework document on promoting investment from the diaspora. He then tackled the **question of return and reinsertion** of Burkinabe from France, stipulated in Articles 5 and 14 of the agreement on the concerted management of migration flows and co-development, signed 10 January 2009 between Burkina Faso and France. The French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) signed a strategic partnership within this framework with the Society for Studies, Advice and Multisectorial Assistance (SECAM) for help in setting up the projects for migrants. A tripartite Selection Committee (Ministries, SECAM, and OFII and the French Embassy) is responsible for approving the submitted projects. Since the first committee meeting in September 2009 and up to the fifth meeting in June 2012, 27 projects have been financed. On a **social level**, Mr. Ouedraogo confirmed that the **role of the diaspora in contributing to social development** was visible through the daily support to families, social investments, national solidarity (namely through associations) and the transfer of skills. He also mentioned the call for solidarity made by the government following the floods of 1 September 2009 and the contribution from the diaspora in offering assistance to the flood victims. On a **cultural level**, diaspora members contribute to the enhancement of Burkinabe culture abroad, namely through the organisation of cultural days. On a **political level**, the adoption by the National Assembly on 7 May 2009 of the bill pertaining to the Electoral Code now recognises the participation of Burkinabe abroad in presidential elections and referendums. Furthermore, in its recommendations, the Advisory





Council on Policy Reforms (CCRP) proposed the creation of a Senate (2nd Chamber) where Burkinabe will again be eligible to sit. Finally, on an **academic level**, the vitality of the cooperation between universities was mentioned in addition to expressing regret for the lack of a formal framework for supporting ‘academic’ diaspora. Mr. Ouedraogo concluded by referring to the MIDA-Burkina project, with implementation of the second phase being adopted by the Council of Ministers in February 2013. The first phase had constituted an inventory of diaspora skills, as well as of the needs of public and private sectors in Burkina Faso. This second phase will consist of creating a formal framework to match the available supply of diaspora skills to investment and development needs in Burkina Faso.

Mr. Louis Berthelot, Political Advisor for the Migration and Development Division of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (MAEDI), presented France’s position in terms of migration and development. Indeed, based on the conviction that migrants are actors for development, France has developed approaches in this area inspired by the proposals made by civil society during the National Conference on Development and International Solidarity, during which a workshop on this topic was organised. **The objective of the French policy is to strengthen the contribution of mobility and migration to the development of countries and territories of origin.** To this end, the actions from France are geared towards four complementary directions: **to support the potential for migrant solidarity; to support the potential for investments from migrants; to reinforce the capacity of southern partner countries in integrating mobility and migration into their development strategies; and to contribute to international dialogues and knowledge-building in terms of mobility, migration and development.** Mr. Berthelot then went on to describe **institutional arrangements** which include: a dedicated structure located within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, made up of agents with both a thematic and geographical specialisation; regular interministerial consultation; and annually revised approaches and objectives, and a regularly renewed multiannual strategic framework. Mr. Berthelot then identified certain **French projects** in the region of the Rabat Process. There are ‘bilateral’ programmes like PAISDS (Programme to Support Solidarity Initiatives for Development), a multidimensional programme for the mobilisation of Senegalese Diaspora in France, which supports local development projects of migrants, projects for the mobilisation of diaspora skills (short-term assignments) and investments from entrepreneurs (co-financing of studies, support). The example of Mali and the Mobility and Migration for Development Programme (PF3MD) was also mentioned. This programme has two main objectives in the post-crisis context, which are to strengthen the capacities of Mali and its local authorities in





integrating migration into its development strategy, and mobilising and supporting the potential for migrant solidarity and entrepreneurship for the development of Mali. As far as Morocco is concerned, Mr. Berthelot explained that, for the support project, the French Development Agency (AFD) has been commissioned to create small- and medium-sized companies in Morocco by Moroccans residing in France (MRF). The phase of support to the Ministry in Charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs enabled the development of a well-defined strategy and for it to be a pertinent interlocutor in terms of implementing the mobility partnership, signed between Morocco, the European Commission and several EU Member States, amongst others France. Moreover, several examples have been mentioned of 'region-wide' projects, funded by France, such as the Entrepreneurs in Africa programme. This programme, piloted by CAMPUSFRANCE, aims to support African managers and graduates from French institutes of higher education in their project to create companies with high added value. Mr. Berthelot then made **recommendations**. The first to **define targeted interventions based on analysis** (a pragmatic policy, tailored to specific requirements); the second refers to the need to **associate civil society** with the policy in order to have a participatory policy; the third is to **research leverage effects for implementing partnership policies**; and the last is to **influence international agenda** in recognising migrants as 'actors' for development who improve understanding of migration-development relationships, mobilising diaspora for development, and following-up existing 'multidimensional' programmes by looking deeper into key themes such as migrant entrepreneurship. Mr. Berthelot concluded with the **necessity to strengthen country capacities as well as organisations and regional approaches**.

Following the presentations from Burkina Faso and France, the working group identified the following **pilot initiatives** for the thematic pillar "Strengthen the synergies between migration and development":

- Support the setting up of organisations that represent citizens residing abroad in countries of origin;
- Define programmes which facilitate the mobilisation of skills;
- Encourage the implementation of financial education campaigns which will enable better financial inclusion for migrants and their families;
- Identify means to facilitate the transfer of funds between countries;
- Encourage sub-regional dialogue for migration and development (ECOWAS–CEN-SAD);
- Motivate diaspora with investment opportunities and projects in the country of origin;
- Create a mechanism for funding and supporting investment projects carried out by migrants and their families;





- Promote research to improve understanding of the role of diaspora members that reside in African countries;
- Involve diaspora in local communities; and
- Put in place a map of diaspora associations as well as their skills.

In order to do this, strategic partnerships have been identified, such as the implementation of actions which are aimed at sharing experience and know-how between counterpart institutions in the field of migration; triangular South-North-diaspora cooperation; and, in a general manner, innovative strategic partnerships with local governments, the private sector and civil society, especially diaspora associations.

Working group 2:

Improving border management and combating irregular migration

The co-chairs of group 2 opened the session by reiterating that **two key principles** for improving border management and fighting against irregular migration were the implementation of a **global approach and the sharing of responsibilities** between countries of origin, transit and destination. It was recalled that **numerous experiences in this area exist and that it is now necessary to build on this and to spread good practice**. In this sense, a broad consensus exists as far as the needs and initiatives in this area are concerned.

Mr. Jesús Fernández Caballero, Deputy Director for International Affairs and Migration Policy of the Spanish Foreign Ministry, presented the case of **Spain** in terms of border management and the fight against irregular migration. Firstly, Mr. Caballero pointed out that immigration needs to be referred to as an opportunity rather than a problem. He then recalled a few figures on illegal immigration by sea between 2001 and 2013, highlighting the positive aspects of maritime operations and the noticeable reduction in illegal immigration by sea. Mr. Caballero went on to present Spain's position on irregular immigration. This is based on 4 areas: **prevention in the country of origin; the promotion of operational and effective cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination; the fight against criminal trafficking and smuggling organisations; and the strengthening of controls and improvement in the management of land and maritime borders**. Spain's approach was supported by the Task Force Mediterranean at the 2014 EU-Africa Summit. It is founded on Spain's experience in relation to the management of migration crises for which effective cooperation and strengthening capacities





are key elements. Mr. Caballero then gave examples of actions, such as the creation of joint police investigation teams in the area of human trafficking networks.

Mr. Abdoul Wahabou Sall, Director of Air and Border Police for the Senegalese Ministry of Interior, presented the case of **Senegal**. He began by outlining the context of migration in Senegal by stating that populations have high aspirations for migration and that all social classes are involved. High levels of emigration to African countries are also noted. Mr. Sall highlighted the **problem with reliability of civil status**, which allows for falsification and the use of forged documents, worsened by Senegal's new status as a country of transit due to its strategic geographical position. He then reverted to the legal framework on irregular migration (for example, the Act of 10 March 2005, which punishes human trafficking) as well as to the **modernisation of systems** for processing passengers and travel documents. Nevertheless, although the modernisation system has partly allowed irregular migration to be addressed through document checks, Mr. Sall acknowledged limitations in the absence of its wider implementation at land borders and smaller airports. He then evoked increased **surveillance** at land and maritime borders through the creation of outposts, the introduction of joint patrols between Senegal and neighbouring countries such as Mauritania and Mali, and also the **institutionalisation of the EU partnership** through its agency FRONTEX. Mr. Sall insisted on the need to strengthen sub-regional cooperation and for the exchange of information between neighbouring States, as they constitute effective means for fighting against the phenomenon of irregular migration, taking into account security issues linked to the threat of terrorists and cross-border banditry. In light of this, Senegal is a member of the Sahel G5. He also mentioned that **consideration for the 'development' dimension in the management of migration flow** is a measure used by Senegal. As such, the youth employment component is an important part in the management of migration flows and serves to guarantee the success of various reinsertion programmes for young migrants. Mr. Sall concluded by referring to future prospects and by making some **recommendations**. He mentioned the creation of the guide for using migration data developed by the Support Project within the framework of the Rabat Process; implementation of the National Strategy for the Management of Migration Flows; the project on the creation of joint border posts between Senegal and its neighbours (Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania); the guarantee for the development of free movement of persons and of regional economic integration. Mr. Sall finally mentioned the **need to develop a formal migration policy, defined and coordinated around a joint body**. In order to do this, the sub-regional dimension is essential, and links to ECOWAS and to its request concerning the development of national migration policies.





Following the presentations from Spain and Senegal, the working group identified the following **pilot initiatives** for the thematic pillar “Improving border management and combating irregular migration”:

- Create joint investigation teams;
- Form and strengthen actions in the area of document fraud and border posts;
- Provide technical support (bilateral, regional);
- Multiply joint bilateral or triangular units;
- Implement twinnings;
- Spread good practices;
- Extend rights and international protection;
- Encourage voluntary return and measures for support and reintegration;
- Implement multidimensional actions due to the numerous connections among criminal networks (trafficking of weapons, etc.); and
- Develop early warning systems (anticipation and prevention).

The European Commission recalled that community funding can support implementation of these projects.

Mrs. Sandra Sarti, Deputy Head of Cabinet for International Affairs, Ministry of Interior of Italy, closed the Senior Officials Meeting by reminding those present that the Rabat Process would be embedded in the Italian Presidency of the EU as it is one of the Presidency’s prioritised objectives. Subsequently, Mrs. Sarti mentioned that Italy will host the Ministerial Conference of the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development on 26 and 27 November 2014 in Rome, and that in this sense the work begun by the Senior Officials Meeting will continue until that date. Italy is pleased about the smooth negotiations on the declaration text which concluded with agreement on the major part of the document.

Morocco concluded by thanking the Dialogue partners and by insisting on the importance of the next steps that lie ahead, namely the Senior Officials Meeting in Rome on 26 November as well as the 4th Ministerial Conference in Rome on 27 November, which will endorse the Rome Declaration and its Annex, the Rome Programme.

