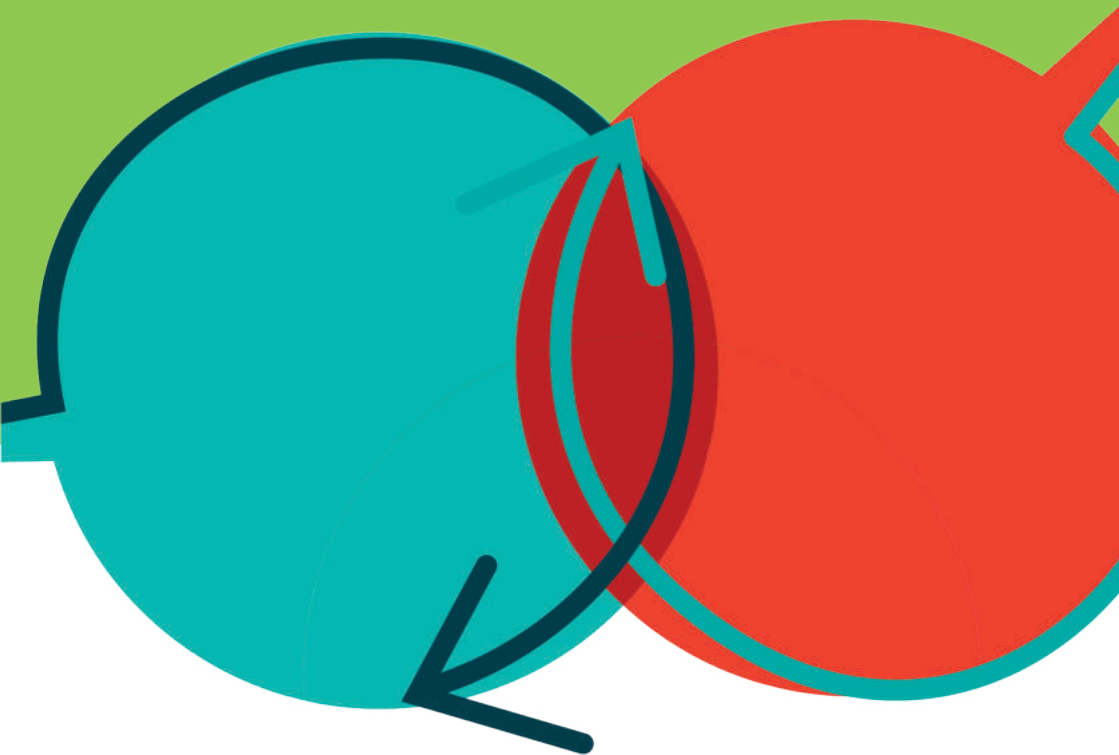


# THE RABAT PROCESS

BALANCED DIALOGUE,  
CONCRETE ACTION



**Rabat Process**

Euro-African Dialogue on  
Migration and Development

# WHAT IS THE RABAT PROCESS?



The Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process) is an intergovernmental migration dialogue, which connects countries of origin, transit, and destination along migration routes linking Central, West, and Northern Africa with Europe, to foster open exchanges on migration and development.

Established in 2006, the Dialogue aims to provide a framework for policy dialogue and cooperation, paving the way for balanced and comprehensive partnerships on migration and mobility between Africa and Europe.

The Dialogue focuses on addressing shared challenges and opportunities in migration, while facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and good practices among Rabat Process partner countries and organisations.

The Rabat Process is a State-driven Dialogue following a multi-stakeholder approach to ensure inclusiveness and facilitate exchange. International organisations, thematic experts, civil society organisations, youth and diaspora representatives and the private sector regularly contribute their expertise. The Dialogue also coordinates and seeks synergies with other regional dialogues, such as the Khartoum Process.

## **A COMPREHENSIVE DIALOGUE:**

Discussing common challenges and opportunities

## **A NETWORK:**

Building and enhancing Euro-African networks at technical and political levels

## **A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION:**

Facilitating initiatives taking into account regional specificities

## **A PLATFORM FOR KNOWLEDGE-SHARING:**

Sharing information on initiatives, policies and good practices



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2023 – 2027

Periodically, the partners revise the Dialogue's strategic framework, thereby addressing the evolving realities of migration and mobility. The Sixth Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, held on 13-14 December 2022, defined the priorities for 2023-2027 in the Cadiz Declaration and Action Plan.

## CADIZ ACTION PLAN: 5 AREAS – 10 OBJECTIVES – 29 ACTIONS

1	<b>Development benefits of migration / Root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement</b>	1. Maximise the positive impact of regular migration (+3 actions)	2. Understand the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement (+2 actions)
2	<b>Regular migration and mobility</b>	3. Promote regular migration & mobility (especially of young people and women) (+5 actions)	4. Encourage facilitation of visa issuance procedures (+2 actions)
3	<b>Protection and asylum</b>	5a. Enhance the protection of refugees and the forcibly displaced (+3 actions) 5b. Promote actions to respect the dignity and the human rights of migrants (+2 actions)	6. Promote the integration of refugees and the forcibly displaced into host communities (+2 actions)
4	<b>Irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings (THB)</b>	7. Strengthen capacities for border management and combating migrant smuggling and THB (+3 actions)	8. Improve the protection of smuggled migrants, persons in need of international protection, and victims of THB (+3 actions)
5	<b>Return, readmission and reintegration</b>	9. Strengthen capacities for identification processes & the issuance of travel documents (+2 actions)	10. Encourage programmes for the safe return and sustainable reintegration of migrants (+2 actions)

# WHO IS PART OF THE RABAT PROCESS?

**4 permanent observer organisations**  
ICRC, IOM, UNODC, UNHCR<sup>1</sup>

**External technical experts**  
Civil society, youth and diaspora organisations, academia, private sector

## DIALOGUE PARTNERS

**55 partner countries**  
**2 observer countries**  
represented by  
National Focal Points

**2 regional organisations**  
The European Union (EU) and the  
Economic Community of West  
African States (ECOWAS)

## GOVERNANCE

**The Steering Committee**  
EU and ECOWAS,  
7 African countries and  
7 European countries:  
**Belgium, Burkina Faso,**  
**Equatorial Guinea, France,**  
**Italy, Mali, Morocco, the**  
**Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria,**  
**Portugal, Senegal, Spain,**  
**Switzerland**

**The Chair**  
Mandated for one year,  
the Chairmanship  
alternates between  
African and European  
Steering Committee  
members

**The Reference Countries<sup>2</sup>**  
Partner countries who  
volunteered to lead  
the operationalisation  
of actions in line with  
a specific area of the  
Cadiz Action Plan

## SUPPORT

**The Secretariat**  
Provides support to the Dialogue  
Chair across all activities, including  
knowledge development and  
sharing, strategic engagement with  
partners, as well as communication  
and visibility efforts

**Implemented by the**  
International Centre for Migration  
Policy Development (ICMPD)  
and funded by the EU as part of  
the project "Support to Africa-EU  
Migration and Mobility Dialogue"  
(MMD)

<sup>1</sup>International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

<sup>2</sup>Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Togo

# ACTIVE PARTNERS, SHAPING A STATE-DRIVEN DIALOGUE



**National Focal Points (NFP)** are contact points within national administrations who share their knowledge at Dialogue meetings or identify national thematic experts to do so. They disseminate the Dialogue's results at the national level and strengthen the sense of ownership of the Dialogue. NFPs play a key role in facilitating multilateral partnerships and strengthening cooperation.



**The Steering Committee** is the strategic governing body of the Dialogue. It sets strategic priorities and makes decisions for the Dialogue's advancement. This includes stimulating cooperation between partner countries, preparing decisions on the political orientation of the Dialogue and following up on the implementation of the multi-annual cooperation programmes. To ensure balanced geographic representation, the Steering Committee is composed of seven African and seven European countries, as well as the EC and ECOWAS.



**The Chair of the Rabat Process** is a driving force, shaping the Dialogue. Each Steering Committee member may act as a chair for the duration of one year, always alternating between Africa and Europe. The Chair provides fresh impetus to the Dialogue, moderates political meetings and acts as a mediator between diverging positions.



**The Reference Countries** contribute to the operationalisation of actions in line with the multi-annual cooperation programme to ensure all priorities are adequately addressed.



**The Secretariat of the Rabat Process** facilitates all Dialogue activities and supports partners by providing expertise, key information, and access to relevant networks. Operating as a demand-driven entity, it accompanies the Dialogue as a neutral broker, offering both technical and policy input. The Secretariat also ensures effective communication and safeguards the continuity of the Dialogue by serving as its institutional memory.

# ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

The Rabat Process combines **political**, **technical** and **operational** dimensions. Activities in its framework are **state-driven** and supported by the **Secretariat**. The Dialogue also aims to provide the impetus for policies and initiatives pursued by partner countries at national, bilateral and regional levels, in line with the jointly agreed objectives.



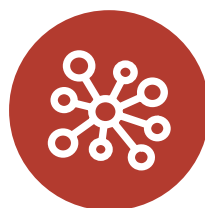
**Thematic and political Dialogue meetings** to exchange about challenges and good practices related to migration and development and set strategic objectives.



**Monitoring of the Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP)**, adopted together with Khartoum Process countries at the 2015 Valletta Summit on Migration. Monitoring enables structured data collection on African and European projects and policies.



**Knowledge-building and sharing** activities led by the Secretariat, including policy papers, studies, and reports.



**Networking and communication efforts** aim to widely disseminate results using tools such as the Rabat Process website, social media platforms, audiovisual materials, and infographics.

# A MULTI-LAYERED DIALOGUE

The Dialogue partners meet regularly at political and technical levels to tackle challenges and opportunities posed by migration and mobility guided by the principles of **solidarity**, **partnership** and **shared responsibility**.

## POLITICAL MEETINGS

### Ministerial Conferences

Ministers endorse the multi-annual cooperation programme consisting of a political declaration and a set of detailed actions.

### Senior Officials Meetings

High-level representatives of national administrations, and regional and international organisations debate strategic policy and operational objectives to prepare political decisions and adopt the Dialogue programming plan.

### Steering Committee Meetings

The 16 members of the Steering Committee discuss the strategic orientation of the Dialogue and make key decisions.

**Coordination and synergies with other regional processes**  
including joint meetings with the Khartoum Process

## TECHNICAL MEETINGS

**A variety of activities** may be organised, including thematic meetings, workshops, roundtables, webinars, and more. Leading experts from national administrations, as well as international, regional, and national organisations, contribute their knowledge and elaborate concrete recommendations.

These activities also foster greater engagement from technical experts and key stakeholders in the Dialogue, such as members of the diaspora, youth, academia, and the private sector.

# GET IN TOUCH

**Visit the Rabat Process website**

to stay informed:

[www.rabat-process.org](http://www.rabat-process.org)

**Contact the Rabat Process Secretariat**

for questions about the Dialogue:

[rabatprocess@icmpd.org](mailto:rabatprocess@icmpd.org)

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