



# THE RABAT PROCESS

COMMITTED PARTNERS  
CONCRETE ACTIONS



**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 dialogue with a Ministerial mandate. Since 2006, the dialogue has offered a framework for consultation and operationalisation, bringing together countries of origin, transit and destination of the migration routes linking Central, West and Northern Africa with Europe. Since 2015 and the Summit on Migration of Valletta, the Rabat Process, together with the Khartoum Process, are the two regional dialogues that form the Valletta Framework and have as their mandate the monitoring of the implementation of the Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP).

Together, the national authorities taking part in the Rabat Process pave the way for balanced and comprehensive partnerships on migration and mobility between Africa and Europe. The dialogue is further enriched by International Organisations participating as observers, and external thematic experts.

Besides academics and think tanks, civil society organisations, including diaspora organisations and more recently the private sector have not only contributed through their expertise but also through informal consultations to help shape the action priorities of the new cooperation framework of the dialogue. This has helped ensure inclusiveness and highlighted the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to migration while preserving the intergovernmental nature of the dialogue.

The Rabat Process is:

### **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:**

Formulating and implementing initiatives taking into account regional specificities.

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

Sharing information on initiatives, policies and best practices.

### **A STRUCTURE FOR MONITORING:**

Monitoring and reporting on projects and policies implemented in JVAP framework as well as in Marrakesh Action Plan.

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# WHO IS PART OF THE RABAT PROCESS?

**External observers**  
International organisations

**External technical experts**  
Civil society, diaspora organisations, academic representatives, private sector

<b>DIALOGUE</b>	<b>56 partner countries + 2 observer countries</b> National authorities represented by Focal Points	<b>2 partner regional organisations</b> The European Union (EU) & the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	
	Dotted lines with arrows connect this section to 'External observers' and 'External technical experts'.		

<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	<b>The Steering Committee</b> 5 African + 5 European partner countries, the European Commission and ECOWAS	<b>The Chair</b> Rotating between African and European Steering Committee members, mandated for one year	
	Dotted lines with arrows connect this section to 'External observers' and 'External technical experts'.		

<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>The Secretariat</b> Implemented by ICMPD and funded by the EU as part of the project „Support to Africa-EU Dialogue on Migration and Mobility“ (MMD)		
	Dotted lines with arrows connect this section to 'External observers' and 'External technical experts'.		

CoPil: Belgium, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, France, Italy, Mali, Morocco, Portugal, Senegal, Spain,

Chairmanship Burkina Faso 2018-2019 and France 2019-2020. Troika model (Belgium, Burkina Faso, France)

# A MULTI-LAYERED DIALOGUE

The dialogue partners meet regularly at political and technical level to tackle challenges and opportunities posed by migration and mobility under the principles of solidarity, partnership and shared responsibility.

In addition, the Rabat Process is cooperating and co-ordinating with other regional processes, such as with the Khartoum Process.

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES

Ministers endorse the Political Declaration and a set of detailed actions on a triannual basis

### SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETINGS

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

### THEMATIC MEETINGS

Technical experts of national/ local administrations & regional organisations as well as external observers and experts share their expertise and elaborate technical recommendations

### Follow-up of the implementation of the JVAP

The Rabat Process is one of the two regional Processes that form the Valletta Framework

### Co-ordination and engagement with the Khartoum Process

Joint meetings and activities to foster synergies & Louxor Conclusions

# ACTIVE PARTNERS, SHAPING A STATE-DRIVEN DIALOGUE



**National Focal Points** are contact points within national administrations that share their knowledge at the 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. The network of National Focal Points helps to pave the way for multilateral partnerships and increased cooperation.

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**The Steering Committee (“CoPil”)** is the strategic governing body of the dialogue. It sets strategic priorities and makes decisions for the dialogue's advancement. According to its Operating Modalities this includes stimulating cooperation between the participating States, 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 CoPil is composed of five African and five European countries, as well as the EC and ECOWAS.

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**The Chair of the Steering Committee** is a driving force, shaping the dialogue. Each CoPil member may act as a chair for the duration of one year, always alternating between Africa and Europe. The Chair's role is to provide fresh impetus to the dialogue, moderate political meetings and act as a mediator between diverging positions. The chairmanship of the dialogue is based on a tripartite / Troika model including the outgoing presidency and the future presidency.

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**The Secretariat of the Rabat Process** facilitates dialogue meetings and supports partner countries by providing expertise and knowledge, key information and access to networks. It is a demand-driven entity, accompanying the National Focal Points, the Steering Committee and its Chair as a “neutral-broker” by giving technical and policy input. The Secretariat also provides continuity and acts as the institutional memory of the Rabat Process.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2018 – 2020

## COMMITTED TO TARGETED ACTION, RESULTS AND MONITORING UNDER A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK

Every three to four years, the partners revise the dialogue's strategic framework, thereby addressing the evolving realities of Migration and Mobility. The Fifth Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, held on 2 May 2018, set the priorities for the period between 2018-2020 in the Marrakesh Declaration and Action Plan.

## MARRAKESH ACTION PLAN: 5 DOMAINS – 10 OBJECTIVES – 23 ACTIONS

<p><b>Development benefits of migration / Root causes of irregular migration &amp; forced displacement</b></p>	<p>1. Maximise the positive impact of regular migration for development <b>(+3 actions)</b></p>	<p>2. Understand the root causes of irregular migration &amp; forced displacement <b>(+2 actions)</b></p>	<p><b>+ 6 cross-cutting priorities:</b></p> <p>1) A human rights-based approach;</p> <p>2) Issues of gender and protection of migrants in vulnerable situations;</p> <p>3) The fight against xenophobia, racism and discrimination;</p> <p>4) A regional approach;</p> <p>5) An inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach;</p> <p>6) Data collection, analysis and sharing.</p>
<p><b>Legal migration and mobility</b></p>	<p>3. Promote regular migration &amp; mobility (especially young people, women) <b>(+3 actions)</b></p>	<p>4. Encourage facilitation of visa issuing procedures <b>(+2 actions)</b></p>	
<p><b>Protection and asylum</b></p>	<p>5. Strengthen the protection of refugees &amp; the forcibly displaced <b>(+2 actions)</b></p>	<p>6. Promote the integration of refugees &amp; the forcibly displaced into host communities <b>(+2 actions)</b></p>	
<p><b>Irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings (THB)</b></p>	<p>7. Build capacities for border management &amp; combating migrant smuggling and THB <b>(+3 actions)</b></p>	<p>8. Improve the protection of those who have been smuggled &amp; of victims of THB <b>(+2 actions)</b></p>	
<p><b>Return, readmission and reintegration</b></p>	<p>9. Build capacities for identification processes &amp; the issuing of travel documents <b>(+2 actions)</b></p>	<p>10. Encourage the safe return &amp; sustainable reintegration of migrants <b>(+2 actions)</b></p>	

# CONCRETE ACTIONS, COMMITTED PARTNERS

**The Marrakesh Action Plan** put forward a unique commitment mechanism: On a voluntary basis, each partner country of the Rabat Process can commit to making particular efforts to implement one or more of the defined actions. The Secretariat will support these commitments according to the needs identified by the partner countries.

## MONITORING THE JOINT VALLETTA ACTION PLAN

The Rabat Process has the mandate, together with the Khartoum Process, to monitor the implementation of the **Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP)**. The Rabat Process' Marrakesh Action Plan is aligned to the five domains of the JVAP to foster coherence and complementarity between the regional dialogue and the Valletta framework.

The resulting JVAP Monitoring and Reporting Database is operational since end of 2017. It enables structured and automated data collection, mapping and reporting on African and European initiatives (projects and policies) funded bilaterally, through international organisations or via EU or AU institutional funding schemes.

## COMMITMENT MECHANISM



# RABAT PROCESS

## **Learn more about the Rabat Process, the Valletta framework and its Monitoring and Reporting Tool**

Visit the Rabat Process website to stay informed about the dialogue:

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

## **Get in touch**

Contact the Rabat Process Secretariat for questions about the dialogue:

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

**Impressum:** October 2018

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In the framework of the project

“Support to Africa-EU Migration and Mobility Dialogue (MMD)”

Financed by the European Union



Implemented by ICMPD



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